

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING

RE: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF SENIOR CITIZEN FARES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1972

10:05 A.M.

TAKEN AT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' HEARING ROOM
HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: THOMAS G. NEUSOM, VICE-PRESIDENT

CHARLES E. COMPTON HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LEONARD S. GLECKMAN DON C. MC MILLAN

DAVID K. HAYWARD DOUGLAS A. NEWCOMB

JAY B. PRICE

REPORTED BY
LAURA CROWELL, CSR (4062)

OUR FILE NO. 3941-72

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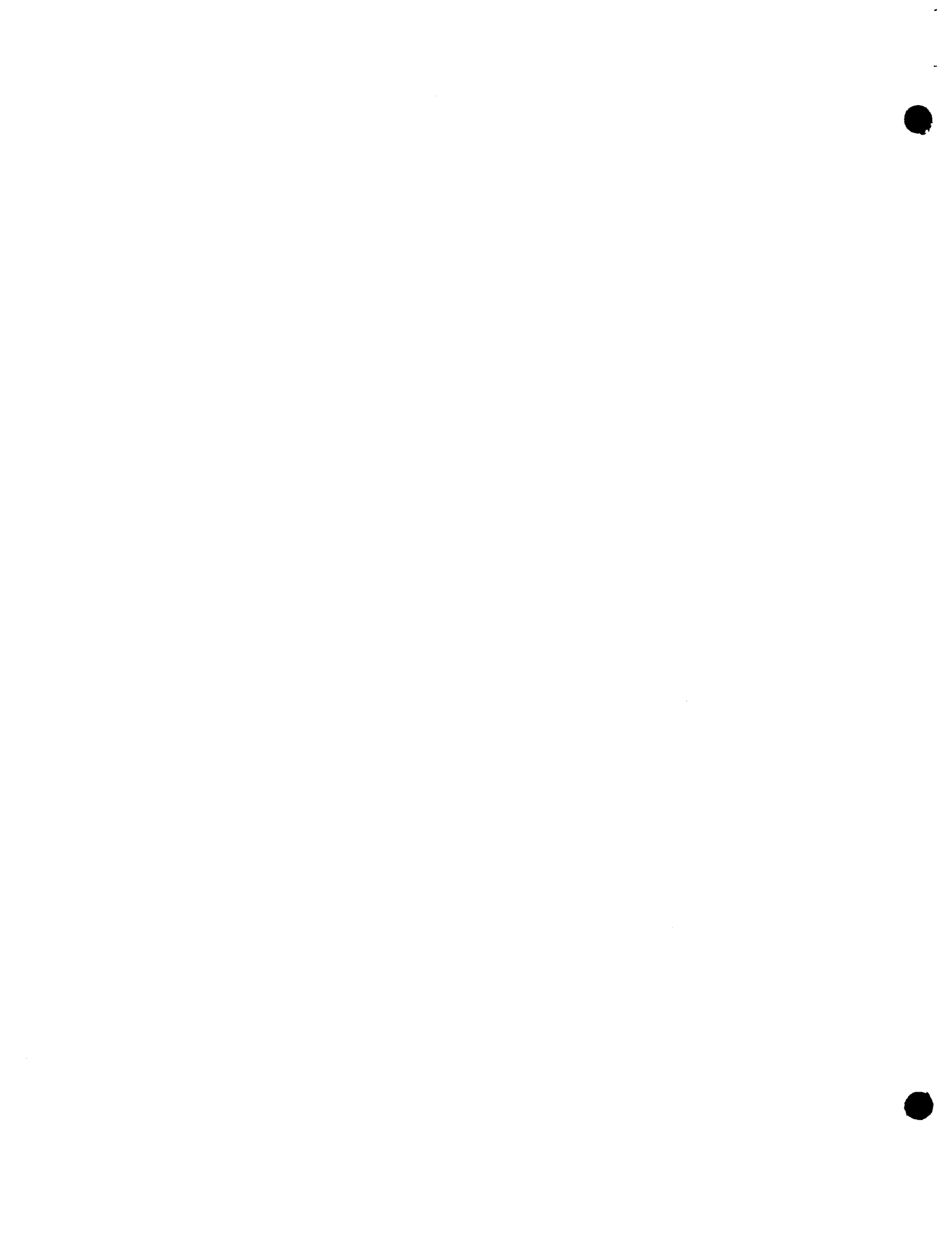
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1972, 10:05 A.M.

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CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THE MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE THE ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.

SECRETARY VIRGINIA REES: NORMAN TOPPING?

(NO RESPONSE)

SECRETARY REES: THOMAS G. NEUSOM?

CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: PRESENT.

SECRETARY REES: CHARLES E. COMPTON?

MR. COMPTON: HERE.

SECRETARY REES: A. J. ERAUD?

(NO RESPONSE)

SECRETARY REES: LEONARD S. GLECKMAN?

MR. GLECKMAN: HERE.

SECRETARY REES: DAVID K. HAYWARD?

MR. HAYWARD: PRESENT.

SECRETARY REES: HERBERT H. KRAUCH?

MR. KRAUCH: HERE.

SECRETARY REES: MICHAEL E. MACKE?

(NO RESPONSE)

SECRETARY REES: DON C. MC MILLAN?

MR. MC MILLAN: HERE.

SECRETARY REES: DOUGLAS A. NEWCOMB?

MR. NEWCOMB: HERE.

SECRETARY REES: JAY B. PRICE?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: WE WILL STAND AND HAVE A PLEDGE OF

1 ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

2 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

3 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THIS MEETING IS A SPECIAL CALLED MEET-
4 ING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
5 RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT, AND IS A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE THE
6 OPINIONS OF INTERESTED PERSONS ON THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE
7 MODIFICATIONS OF SENIOR CITIZENS FARES.

8 BEFORE WE PROCEED TO COMMENTS FROM THOSE OF YOU
9 PRESENT WHO HAVE STATEMENTS TO MAKE, WE WILL HAVE A STATEMENT
10 BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, INDICATING OR GIVING THE PRESENT
11 STRUCTURE AND SOME HISTORY CONCERNING THE SENIOR CITIZENS FARES.

12 MR. JACK R. GILSTRAP: THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN AND
13 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

14 THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
15 HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TWO IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE STATE
16 LEGISLATURE. THEY ARE TO OPERATE SUFFICIENT BUS TRANSPORTATION
17 AND TO PLAN, CONSTRUCT, AND OPERATE A TRUE MASS RAPID TRANSIT
18 SYSTEM.

19 A KEY ELEMENT IN BOTH OF THESE VITAL PROGRAMS
20 IS THE RESPONSIBLE ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. WITH THIS IN
21 MIND, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT REVENUES FROM THE FARE BOX
22 REPRESENT THE SINGLE LARGEST SOURCE OF INCOME TO THE DISTRICT
23 AND, IN TURN, SENIOR CITIZEN FARES ARE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT
24 TO CONSIDER WITH RESPECT TO THE TASKS AT HAND.

25 I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF HISTORY OF
26 SENIOR CITIZEN REDUCED FARES IN OUR AREA. THE LOS ANGELES
27 METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY, OUR PREDECESSOR, WAS ONE OF
28 THE FRONT-RUNNERS IN THE NATION TO RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC TRANSIT
NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS. REDUCED FARES WERE OFFERED BY THE

1 MTA BEGINNING IN JUNE OF 1961, AND I MIGHT SAY THAT THAT ACTION
2 WAS TAKEN WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT AND URGING OF YOUR BOARD
3 OF SUPERVISORS.

4 IN JULY OF 1967 THE BASIC FARE FOR ALL DISTRICT
5 PASSENGERS WAS RAISED FROM 25 CENTS TO 30 CENTS, WHERE IT
6 REMAINS TODAY. HOWEVER, THE SENIOR CITIZEN FARE AT THAT TIME
7 WAS NOT INCREASED BUT REMAINED AT 20 CENTS. THIS MEANS THAT
8 SENIOR CITIZENS TODAY ARE OFFERED MORE THAN A 30 PERCENT
9 REDUCTION OFF TODAY'S REGULAR FARE.

10 IN JULY OF 1967 THE DISTRICT INTRODUCED MONTHLY
11 PASSES FOR ALL PASSENGERS. A REGULAR PASS SELLS FOR \$12 AND
12 A SENIOR CITIZEN PASS FOR \$9. THE MONTHLY PASS IS GOOD FOR
13 UNRESTRICTED HOURS OF RIDING, WHEREAS THE REDUCED CASH FARE IS
14 GOOD BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. AND AFTER 7:00 P.M.
15 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY. THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON SUNDAYS
16 AND HOLIDAYS.

17 OF THE 16 MAJOR TRANSIT AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY
18 OFFERING REDUCED FARES, THE RATE OFFERED BY YOUR RAPID TRANSIT
19 DISTRICT PLACES US ROUGHLY IN THE CENTER OF THAT GROUP. THE
20 SENIOR CITIZEN FARES IN LOS ANGELES ARE AVAILABLE TO A
21 PASSENGER WHO SHOWS A LOS ANGELES COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN ID
22 CARD WHEN BOARDING. THE SENIOR CITIZEN ID CARD IS ISSUED BY
23 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS. IT IS ISSUED
24 AT NO CHARGE TO WOMEN 61 OR OLDER AND MEN 65 OR OLDER. THE
25 ONLY OTHER REQUIREMENT IS THAT EARNINGS DO NOT EXCEED THE
26 AMOUNT ALLOWED BY SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS. THIS IS THE
27 AMOUNT EARNED OVER AND ABOVE YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME AND IS
28 CURRENTLY SET AT \$1,680 FOR SINGLE PERSONS AND \$3,360 FOR

1 A MARRIED COUPLE PER YEAR.

2 IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PRIOR TO THIS
3 YEAR THE ID CARD HAD TO HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE USER ATTACHED,
4 AND WITH THAT REQUIREMENT BETWEEN 400 AND 500 CARDS WERE
5 ISSUED EACH MONTH. SINCE THE ELIMINATION OF THE PHOTO REQUIRE-
6 MENT, THE COUNTY HAS BEEN ISSUING AN AVERAGE OF 1300 ID CARDS
7 PER MONTH. WE BELIEVE THE REASON FOR THE INCREASE IS THAT
8 IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR COUNTY WE HAVE MADE IT EASIER TO GET
9 AN ID CARD, AND THE QUALIFICATIONS ARE MORE CLEARLY STATED.
10 WE HAVE ALSO MADE IT EASIER TO GET A SENIOR CITIZEN'S MONTHLY
11 PASS. WE NOW SELL BETTER THAN 5,000 SENIOR CITIZEN PASSES
12 PER MONTH AND THE COUNTY TELLS US THAT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR
13 THE 90,000 SENIOR CITIZEN ID CARDS IN USE TODAY IS THE REDUCED
14 RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION OFFERED BY THE RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT.

15 WITH THIS BRIEF HISTORY, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
16 TODAY I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ANXIOUS AND WE ARE, TOO, TO OBTAIN
17 CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS FROM THE
18 COMMUNITY WE SERVE CONCERNING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER OF SENIOR
19 CITIZEN FARES.

20 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THANK YOU, MR. GILSTRAP.

21 NEXT WE'LL HAVE A STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY,
22 WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THIS MEETING IS PROPERLY CONVENED.

23 SECRETARY REES: I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION AFFIDAVITS
24 OF PUBLICATION FROM LA OPINION, LOS ANGELES HERALD, AND LOS
25 ANGELES TIMES SHOWING PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OF THIS
26 MEETING ON APRIL 3RD AND ALSO THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SHOWING
27 PUBLICATION ON APRIL 6TH.

28 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

1 THE TRANSIT DISTRICT IS THE GUEST TODAY OF THE
2 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN THAT WE ARE MEETING IN THESE RATHER
3 SPACIOUS QUARTERS AND COMPARED TO OUR NORMAL MEETING ROOM,
4 THIS IS LIKE BEING IN THE WALDORF, I GUESS.

5 BUT A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IS HERE.
6 HE HAS INDICATED THAT BEFORE HE MAKES ANY REMARKS CONCERNING
7 THE ISSUE WHICH WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH TODAY, HE WOULD LIKE
8 TO WELCOME YOU TO THE BOARD CHAMBERS.

9 MR. HAHN, SUPERVISOR OF THE 2ND SUPERVISORIAL
10 DISTRICT.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN: MR. VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE
13 DISTRICT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHERN
14 CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT, WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU
15 ARE HERE TODAY AND WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE USING THIS
16 ROOM.

17 WE HAVE HAD MANY KINDS OF HEARINGS HERE FROM
18 TAXES TO AIR POLLUTION TO RAPID TRANSIT TO HEALTH PROBLEMS,
19 BUT I THINK THIS COULD BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT MEETING AND I AM
20 VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE LARGE GATHERING HERE.

21 WELCOME. THANK YOU.

22 SHOULD I GIVE YOU MY FEELINGS OF THIS PROBLEM
23 NOW OR LATER?

24 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: YES. I THINK BEFORE WE START I
25 MIGHT INDICATE THAT WE WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO HEAR EVERYONE
26 WHO HAS SOMETHING TO SAY CONCERNING THE ISSUE BEFORE US. ON
27 THE SHEET ON WHICH THOSE OF YOU WHO DESIRE TO SPEAK INDICATED
28 THAT YOU WANTED TO SPEAK, WE DIDN'T ASK IF THERE WAS ANYONE

1 IN OPPOSITION AND WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OPPOSITION. AT
2 SOME POINT I WILL DETERMINE THOSE WHO WANT TO SPEAK IN FAVOR
3 AND THOSE - IF THERE ARE ANY HERE - WHO WOULD WANT TO SPEAK
4 AGAINST THE PROPOSITION, AND WE WILL HAVE SOME LIMITATION ON
5 TIME. IT WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE. WE HAVE HAD
6 A PROPER CANVASS OF ALL OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO SPEAK. AS SOON
7 AS I HAVE THAT INFORMATION WE WILL BE ABLE TO INDICATE THE
8 APPROXIMATE TIME THAT EACH PERSON WOULD HAVE, IF THEY DESIRE.

9 AND WITH THAT, WE'LL START OFF WITH MR. HAHN.

10 YOU WILL GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS.

11 SUPERVISOR HAHN: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

12 FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO PRESENT FOR THE RECORD
13 A PETITION THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME THIS MORNING IN MY OFFICE,
14 EITHER SENT IN OR BROUGHT IN, OF 403 SIGNATURES URGING A
15 REDUCED FARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. AND AS I JUST LOOK THROUGH
16 THIS PETITION, THERE IS EVERY SECTION OF THE COUNTY AND EVERY
17 SECTION OF THE CITY, THE ADDRESSES ON IT. I DON'T SEE ONE
18 OF THEM FROM MY DISTRICT, SO THERE ARE NO VOTES FOR ME ON
19 THIS ONE. (LAUGHTER)

20 BUT IT'S A PETITION.

21 MISS VIRGINIA REES, WOULD YOU ACCEPT THIS AS
22 PART OF THE RECORD.

23 (THE DOCUMENT WAS HANDED TO SECRETARY REES AND
24 BECAME A PART OF THE RECORD.)

25 SUPERVISOR HAHN: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
26 AND MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS MY BELIEF, AND I BELIEVE I'VE INTRO-
27 DUCED FOUR RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS REQUESTING
28 THE RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT TO REDUCE THE FARES FOR SENIOR

1 CITIZENS MAINLY BECAUSE I THINK IT'S RIGHT AND FAIR. THAT'S
2 HOW SIMPLE THE REQUEST IS. I THINK IT WILL INCREASE REVENUES
3 FOR THE DISTRICT. I DO NOT BUY THE ARGUMENT THAT IT'S GOING
4 TO COST \$512,000 AND OTHER PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO RAISE THEIR
5 RATES BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO GIVE REDUCED FARES TO SENIOR
6 CITIZENS. I THINK IT WILL INCREASE REVENUES FOR THE DISTRICT.
7 I HAVE SEEN SO MANY TIMES THE RAPID TRANSIT BUSES OPERATING
8 HALF EMPTY, IN SOME CASES THREE-QUARTERS EMPTY AND SOMETIMES
9 ON SUNDAY 95 PERCENT EMPTY, AND IF YOU HAD A DIME THERE THAT
10 WOULD BE ALL NEW REVENUE.

11 SO I LOOK AT IT AS A REVENUE MEASURE. I DON'T
12 THINK IT WILL COST THE DISTRICT ANYTHING. IT'LL ADD TO THE
13 DISTRICT. IT WILL ALSO GIVE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS GOOD PUBLIC
14 SERVICE, IT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY, AND IT WILL GIVE
15 THE SENIOR CITIZENS A FEELING TO TRAVEL WHEREVER THEY WANT TO
16 FOR A DIME WITH NO TRANSFER FARE (APPLAUSE), AND FEEL THAT
17 "THIS IS MY SYSTEM. I OWN IT. I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. I'VE
18 LIVED HERE A LONG TIME. I HAVE BUILT THIS COUNTY. I HAVE
19 BUILT THE SYSTEM." IN FACT, THEY PROBABLY ARE SAYING, "I
20 WISH YOU'D LEAVE THE RED CAR LINES ON, THAT WE USED TO RIDE
21 ON FOR A DIME." THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE PROBABLY SAYING (APPLAUSE),
22 AND I'D LIKE TO JUST ASK THE AUDIENCE HOW MANY OF THEM REMEMBER
23 THE OLD RED CAR LINE? WELL, SAY NO MORE. I USED TO RIDE THEM
24 MYSELF. I REMEMBER WHEN YOU COULD RIDE THE OLD YELLOW CARS
25 FOR A NICKEL AND THEN SEVEN CENTS, THEN FOUR TOKENS FOR A
26 QUARTER. DO ANY OF YOU REMEMBER THOSE FOUR -- OH, WELL, I
27 WAS BORN HERE. I USED TO JUMP ON THEM FREE, TOO. THAT WAS
28 ILLEGAL, BUT I DID IT.

1 NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
2 DIRECTORS, SOME OF YOU ARE OLD-TIMERS HERE, SOME OF YOU HAVE
3 BEEN HERE AS LONG AS I HAVE, MAYBE LONGER (LAUGHTER), AND
4 YOU REMEMBER THESE SYSTEMS. YOU REMEMBER THE RED CAR LINES AND
5 THE STREETCAR TRACKS, AND ONE BY ONE THEY WERE ABANDONED, AND
6 THEN THE SYSTEM DEVELOPED HERE, I GUESS IN EVERY PUBLIC
7 COMMUNITY, WHERE, AS THE FARES WENT UP, THE PATRONS WENT DOWN,
8 AND IT BECAME A MONSTER. AND THEN LINES WERE ELIMINATED, AND
9 THE FIRST THING YOU KNOW, WE HAVE CHAOS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTA-
10 TION.

11 I THINK THAT 10-CENT FARE, FRANKLY, I DON'T --
12 SOME CITIES ARE GIVING FREE FARES. (APPLAUSE) I UNDERSTAND
13 LONG BEACH HAS PASSED SOME KIND OF MOTION, MR. NEWCOMB, TO
14 SAY THAT THEY ARE STARTING TO GIVE SENIOR CITIZENS FREE FARE
15 IN LONG BEACH. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE OR NOT, BUT I WAS
16 TOLD THAT.

17 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: WE MAY HAVE TO CALL MR. NEWCOMB AS
18 A WITNESS.

19 SUPERVISOR HAHN: IS THAT TRUE, MR. NEWCOMB? HAVE YOU
20 HEARD THAT --

21 MR. NEWCOMB: BEG PARDON.

22 SUPERVISOR HAHN: HAVE YOU HEARD THAT, THAT --

23 MR. NEWCOMB: NO, I HAVEN'T.

24 SUPERVISOR HAHN: -- LONG BEACH IS STARTING TO? I HEARD
25 THAT THIS MORNING.

26 I FEEL THIS, THAT MANY OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS
27 COULD VISIT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN, AND IF FOR NOTHING MORE THAN
28 JUST BE BABY--SITTERS FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN WHILE THEIR

1 CHILDREN, THEIR OWN CHILDREN, GO SHOPPING OR VISITING.

2 I SAY THAT MANY OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS GO FROM
3 ONE END OF THE COUNTY TO THE OTHER, TO THEIR OWN DOCTOR, TO
4 THEIR OWN HOSPITALS. I THINK THEY GO TO THEIR OWN MEETING
5 PLACES. THEY COULD ENJOY LIFE MORE. AND I DON'T SEE WHY
6 THIS SYSTEM OF A 10-CENT FARE NEEDS TO HAVE ALL THE PROCLAMA-
7 TIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TO URGE THE DISTRICT TO DO IT.

8 I CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE HERE - AND I'M ABOUT
9 THROUGH - HOW QUICKLY, HOW QUICKLY THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSMEN
10 THROUGH THE CENTRAL DISTRICT GOT \$750,000, OR \$725,000, FOR
11 THE MINIBUSES DOWNTOWN TO SERVE THE MUSIC CENTER AND THE
12 CENTRAL DISTRICT. AND THAT'S ONLY 10 CENTS. THEY BOUGHT
13 BRAND NEW EQUIPMENT, PUT ON NEW ROUTES FOR 10 CENTS FOR THE
14 MERCHANTS DOWNTOWN TO HAVE THEM TRAVEL DOWNTOWN. BUT THE
15 PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, THEY WERE PRETTY WELL
16 FORGOTTEN ON A 10-CENT FARE, AND I THINK A 10-CENT FARE WILL
17 STIMULATE BUSINESS AND TRADE AND FRIENDSHIP AND PROMOTE
18 GOODWILL, AND IT'S THE BEST PUBLIC RELATIONS THAT I KNOW OF
19 FOR THE TRANSIT DISTRICT. I DON'T KNOW OF A BETTER ONE THAN
20 TO SAY, "LISTEN, THIS IS YOUR SYSTEM. WE WANT YOU TO USE IT
21 WHEN IT'S NOT BUSY. WE'RE NOT GOING ON A DOG-IN-THE-MANGER
22 ATTITUDE; THE BUSES ARE RUNNING EMPTY, THEY'RE RUNNING HALF.
23 LET'S USE THEM. LET'S MAKE THE PEOPLE HAPPY AND LET'S DO IT
24 AS QUICK AS WE CAN."

25 (APPLAUSE)

26 ANY QUESTIONS?

27 MR. MC MILLAN: KENNY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU --

28 SUPERVISOR HAHN: MR. MC MILLAN HERE.

1 MR. MC MILLAN: -- WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE 2 1/2-CENT
2 FARE WAS ON FOR BOYS TO RIDE?

3 SUPERVISOR HAHN: 2 1/2-CENT FARE?

4 MR. MC MILLAN: 2 1/2-CENT FARE.

5 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I WAS BORN IN 1920, SO I DON'T
6 REMEMBER THAT. (LAUGHTER)

7 DID YOU RIDE FOR 2 CENTS?

8 MR. MC MILLAN: 2 1/2.

9 SUPERVISOR HAHN: A PRESIDENT OF THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS
10 WHO IS SITTING HERE ON THE FRONT ROW TOLD ME THIS MORNING -
11 SHE CAME FROM LONG BEACH, A GROUP OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS HERE -
12 BUT SHE'S NOT GOING TO SPEAK, SHE SAID; SHE'S JUST HERE TO
13 WATCH. SHE SAID THAT SHE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE UP IN PORTLAND
14 OR SAN FRANCISCO OR SOMEWHERE WHERE THEY --

15 MRS. OLIVE HESSLING: SAN FRANCISCO, AND IT WAS 5 CENTS
16 ON FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY IT'S NOTHING.

17 SUPERVISOR HAHN: SHE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS 5 CENTS IN
18 SAN FRANCISCO ON FRIDAY. AND SATURDAY --

19 MRS. HESSLING: 5 CENTS ON FRIDAY. AND SACRAMENTO ON
20 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IT'S FREE.

21 SUPERVISOR HAHN: FREE.

22 SO YOU SEE YOU ARE HAVING PEOPLE FROM --

23 MRS. HESSLING: I JUST WAS UP THERE AT THE NATIONAL
24 CONVENTION. I WAS JUST UP THERE AND KNOW THAT IT WAS THE
25 TRUTH.

26 SUPERVISOR HAHN: SHE SAID SHE WASN'T GOING TO TESTIFY,
27 BUT SHE'S DONE A GOOD JOB OF IT ALREADY.

28 (APPLAUSE)

1 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: ALL RIGHT.

2 SUPERVISOR HAHN: THEY CAME UP HERE AND SAID THEY'RE
3 ONLY FOR A NICKEL OR A PENNY, AND I THINK THEY ARE FROM
4 LONG BEACH, THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS. THEY HAVE A LARGE HOME
5 DOWN THERE.

6 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SUPERVISOR.
7 IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU APPEARING.

8 SUPERVISOR HAHN: AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE DISTRICT
9 ON ONE SIDE NOW ON YOUR VISION - NOTHING TO DO WITH THE
10 10-CENT FARE NOW - ON YOUR VISION TO GO AHEAD ON RAPID TRANSIT.
11 I LIKE YOUR BOLD ACTION. I THINK YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE FORWARD
12 ON THAT, THE TIMING IS NOW. I HOPE YOU DON'T USE ANY METHOD
13 TO DELAY OUR BUILDING THIS RAPID TRANSIT BY MORE STUDIES.
14 I THINK WE'VE HAD STUDIES ENOUGH, BUT I LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING
15 FOR GOING AHEAD. NOW'S THE TIME FOR ACTION.

16 THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: NEXT I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON
19 MR. JOHN CARL BROGDON, WHO IS MAYOR PRO TEM OF THE CITY OF
20 CULVER CITY.

21 MR. JOHN CARL BROGDON: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND
22 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

23 I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I AM NO LATE CONVERT
24 TO THE PLIGHT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS NOR AM I A LATE CONVERT
25 AS AN EXPONENT OF SENIOR POWER.

26 WHILE I AM THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CULVER
27 CITY COUNCIL, I AM THE MOST VOCIFEROUS EXPONENT THERE OF THE
28 NEEDS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS. WE RECENTLY BUILT A NEW SENIOR

1 CITIZENS CENTER AND ON MY MOTION WE EXEMPTED THE SENIOR CITIZENS
2 OF OUR COMMUNITY FROM THE IMPOSITION OF THE UTILITY USER'S TAX,
3 WHICH IS A SURCHARGE ON UTILITY BILLS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
4 THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. WE WERE
5 THE FIRST CHARTER CITY TO TAKE THIS STEP. SINCE THAT TIME A
6 NUMBER OF OTHER CHARTER CITIES HAVE EMULATED US.

7 I WOULD SUPPORT SUPERVISOR HAHN'S MOTION -
8 PROPOSAL, RATHER, FOR A 10-CENT FARE, EXCEPT THAT I WOULD MUCH
9 RATHER SEE IT A FREE FARE.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 I WOULD RESPECTIVELY SUBMIT THAT IT IS PENNYWISE
12 AND POUND FOOLISH TO EXPECT SENIOR CITIZENS TO PAY AT THE FARE
13 BOX FOR THE COST OF THEIR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

14 I SUBMIT THAT THERE ARE INVISIBLE ITEMS OF
15 COMPENSATION. THE MORE SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE MORE CITIZENS
16 GENERAL THAT USE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, THE FEWER ROADWAYS,
17 THE FEWER CARS ON THE ROAD, THE FEWER FUMES IN OUR ATMOSPHERE.

18 I WOULD URGE, THEN, THAT YOU SUPPORT THE CONCEPT
19 OF FREE BUS FARES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS THROUGH NONPEAK HOURS.
20 I WOULD MAKE ONE POINT. AS COMMISSICNER HAYWARD KNOWS AND
21 PERHAPS SOME OF THE OTHERS, CULVER CITY IS ONE OF THE FEW
22 CHARTER CITIES IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA THAT HAS ITS
23 OWN BUS LINE. SINCE I URGE YOU TO ADOPT FREE FARES, IT'S
24 APPROPRIATE TO ASK ME WHAT CULVER CITY HAS DONE IN THIS AREA.
25 I REGRET TO SAY THAT AT THIS POINT I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
26 PERSUADE MY COLLEAGUES TO ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IT
27 IS UNDER STUDY, AND I WOULD SUBMIT THAT IF YOU ADOPT IT, WITHIN
28 A FORTNIGHT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE CULVER CITY MUNICIPAL

1 BUS LINE WILL ALSO HAVE A LIKE POLICY. YOU ARE THE GIANT.
2 YOU ARE THE PACE-SETTER. INEVITABLY WHEN SUCH A PROPOSAL IS
3 MADE, THE QUESTION IS, WHAT IS RTD DOING OR WHAT IS L.A.
4 DOING? I URGE YOU THEN TO MOVE FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY IN THIS
5 MATTER SO THAT THOSE OF US IN THE SMALLER CITIES WHO NEED
6 YOUR SUPPORT CAN ACCOMPLISH THE FREE FARES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

7 THANK YOU.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: MR. KOJIMA, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
10 REPRESENTING TOM BRADLEY, COUNCILMAN, 10TH DISTRICT.

11 MR. MASAMORI KOJIMA: MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE
12 BOARD, THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. MR. BRADLEY IS BUSY
13 IN COUNCIL, BUT HE ASKED ME TO READ THIS SHORT STATEMENT TO
14 YOU.

15 COUNCILMAN BRADLEY SAYS THAT WE OWE OUR SENIOR
16 CITIZENS FULL RESPECT, DIGNITY, AND COMFORT. THAT GOES
17 WITHOUT SAYING, OF COURSE. BUT IN SO MANY WAYS, SENIOR
18 CITIZENS FEEL THAT THEY ARE OVERLOOKED BY SOCIETY - INDEED,
19 NEGLECTED AND CAST ASIDE.

20 NOW, I THINK WE HAVE A WAY TO DO SOMETHING FOR
21 THEM IN THE MATTER OF BUS RIDES.

22 THE BUSES RUN TO SCHEDULE, AND IN THE OFF HOURS,
23 THERE MUST LITERALLY BE THOUSANDS OF EMPTY SEATS.

24 WHY NOT GIVE THESE TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS FREE.

25 (APPLAUSE)

26 OTHER CITIES ARE ALREADY DOING SOMETHING FOR
27 SENIOR CITIZENS IN BUS FARES. THEY HAVE REDUCED THEM.

28 BUT WHY DON'T WE FOLLOW THE LOGIC OF UNUSED

1 SEATS IN THE OFF HOURS. PUT THESE TO USE BY GIVING THEM TO
2 OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.

3 FOR ALL THAT SENIOR CITIZENS HAVE GIVEN OF THEIR
4 LIVES ENRICHING THIS SOCIETY, THIS IS A SMALL MEASURE OF OUR
5 APPRECIATION. THEY DESERVE THIS.

6 I SAY: FREE RIDES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.

7 THANK YOU.

8 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THANK YOU.

9 NEXT, MR. JOE VELNA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO LOS
10 ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GILBERT W. LINDSAY, 9TH DISTRICT.

11 MR. JOE VELNA: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AUDIENCE MEMBERS,
12 COUNCILMAN LINDSAY HAD HOPED TO APPEAR HERE THIS MORNING, BUT
13 UNFORTUNATELY COULDN'T." HE ASKED ME TO COME HERE AND MAKE
14 A PERSONAL APPEAL IN HIS BEHALF THAT YOU EXTEND ANY COURTESIES
15 POSSIBLE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE LOS ANGELES BASIN AND
16 ALSO HE ASKED THAT YOU MIGHT CONSIDER EXTENDING SOME COURTESY
17 TO THE GREAT MANY UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE
18 WELFARE RECIPIENTS WHO ARE ALSO ON LIMITED INCOME AND MUST
19 SEEK JOBS ON THE FEW PENNIES THEY HAVE.

20 THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

21 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THANK YOU.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 MR. ROBERT G. MEDINA, DIRECTOR, COUNTY OF LOS
24 ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS.

25 (APPLAUSE)

26 MR. ROBERT G. MEDINA: MR. NEUSOM, CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS
27 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

28 A MAJOR CONDITION THAT AFFECTS THE ELDERLY IN

1 OUR COMMUNITY IS THEIR ISOLATION FROM SOCIETY'S MAINSTREAM.

2 THIS ISOLATION IMPINGES ON THEIR LIFE STYLE TO A
3 DEGREE WHERE NORMAL NEEDS, SUCH AS SHOPPING FOR FOOD AND OTHER
4 NECESSITIES; A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR; INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL,
5 CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, BECOME DIFFICULT AND
6 OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE.

7 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, ALONG WITH OTHER MAJOR
8 CONCERNS FACING OUR ELDERLY, IS A KEY ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE
9 WORKED ON IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THIS ISOLATION.

10 THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING IN DECEMBER
11 1971 IDENTIFIED TRANSPORTATION AS ONE OF THE MAJOR AREAS OF
12 CONCERN FOR THE NATION'S ELDERLY, AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE
13 NATION GIVE THIS AREA A HIGH PRIORITY.

14 THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
15 HAS GONE ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING MODIFICATION OF SENIOR
16 CITIZENS' FARES ON THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT SYS-
17 TEM. AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY AGENCY UNDER THE
18 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS,
19 WHICH HAS AS ONE OF ITS MAIN FUNCTIONS TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR
20 THE ELDERLY OF OUR COUNTY, I, AS A DIRECTOR OF THAT AGENCY,
21 STRONGLY URGE THAT THIS LEADERSHIP TAKEN BY THE BOARD RECEIVE
22 THE UTMOST SUPPORT IN SUPPORTING THIS REDUCED FARES FOR OUR
23 SENIOR CITIZENS.

24 THIS KIND OF ACTION ON THE PART OF OUR LEADERS
25 OF OUR COMMUNITY WILL ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR OLDEST
26 CITIZENS WHO HAVE GIVEN MANY YEARS OF THEIR LABOR, SERVICE,
27 AND TAXES TO THIS COUNTY.

28 THANK YOU.

1 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: THANK YOU.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 MR. JAMES CARBRAY, CHAIRMAN, SENIOR CITIZENS
4 ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, L.A. COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. JAMES CARBRAY: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

7 MY NAME IS JIM CARBRAY, 10766 HOMELAND AVENUE,
8 WHITTIER.

9 I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I AM WEARING TWO HATS,
10 REPRESENTING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR AS
11 CHAIRMAN OF ITS SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, AND
12 SECONDLY, AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE 3,000,000--
13 MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

14 MAY I EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THOSE SENIORS
15 WHO PRESENTLY ENJOY THE PREVAILING REDUCTION IN RATES WITHIN
16 ITS RESTRICTED LIMITS, BUT I MUST ADD IF WE COMPARE THESE
17 MODIFIED RATES WITH THOSE IN OTHER METROPOLITAN AREAS, WE
18 MUST ADMIT THERE IS PRECEDENT, JUSTIFICATION, AND A SIGNIFICANT
19 MORAL OBLIGATION FOR US TO EFFECTUATE A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL
20 OF FARES FOR THE ELDERLY.

21 NOW LET'S CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF
22 FARES FOR SENIORS NOW PREVALENT IN SOME MAJOR AREAS.

23 SAN FRANCISCO: THE PREVAILING RATE FOR REGULAR
24 SCHEDULES ARE 25 CENTS AND FOR EXPRESS SCHEDULES 30 CENTS.

25 THE RATES FOR SENIORS FOR REGULAR SCHEDULES IS
26 5 CENTS AND 10 CENTS FOR THE EXPRESS RUN DURING THE FOLLOWING
27 HOURS UPON THE MERE PRESENTATION OF THEIR MEDICARE CARD.

28 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9:30 TO 3:30 P.M. 7:00

1 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT ANY NIGHT. ALL DAY SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND
2 HOLIDAYS.

3 IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE REDUCED FARES APPLY
4 TO ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION; TROLLEY, BUS, AND CABLE CAR.

5 TRANSFER PRIVILEGES ARE ALLOWED ON ALL REGULARLY
6 SCHEDULED TRANSPORTATION. HOWEVER, WHEN TRANSFERRING FROM A
7 REGULARLY SCHEDULED UNIT TO AN EXPRESS UNIT, THE SENIOR WOULD
8 PAY AN ADDITIONAL 5 CENTS. THIS IS TO MAINTAIN THE EXPRESS
9 RATE OF 10. WHEN BOARDING THE EXPRESS, HE WILL PRESENT HIS
10 MEDICARE CARD.

11 NOW RECENTLY, THE BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT,
12 BETTER KNOWN AS BART TO YOU GENTLEMEN WHO ARE ACQUAINTED WITH
13 THE RELATIONSHIP OF INITIALS, RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A 75 PERCENT
14 REDUCTION IN FARE FOR SENIORS FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS WITH
15 THE BAY AREA SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION. THIS
16 IS TO COVER THE NEW 75-MILE ROUTE VIA THE RECENTLY DEVELOPED
17 RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT.

18 NEW YORK CITY: THE REGULAR FARES ON SURFACE
19 LINES ARE 30 CENTS, SENIOR FARES ARE 15. MONDAY THROUGH
20 FRIDAY, 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

21 7:00 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT AND SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
22 THE REGULAR FARE ON THE SUBWAY IS 30 CENTS. NOW THE SENIOR
23 ALSO PAYS 30 CENTS, BUT IN RETURN FOR THAT, HIS TICKET INCLUDES
24 A ROUND-TRIP PASS DURING THE SAME HOURS.

25 DETROIT: THE REGULAR FARE 40 CENTS. SENIOR
26 CITIZENS' FARE 15 CENTS, 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. SENIOR CITI-
27 ZENS' TRANSFERS 5 CENTS.

28 I THINK THE FOREGOING CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THE
NEED FOR A TOTAL REEVALUATION OF RTD'S PRESENT POLICY ON SENIOR

1 CITIZENS' FARES. AND I THINK WE OUGHT TO LOOK FORWARD TO
2 JULY 1972, AT WHICH TIME A 5-CENT SALES TAX WILL BE APPLIED
3 TO ALL PURCHASES OF GASOLINE IN THIS STATE. THIS BILL WAS
4 ENACTED FOR THE ALLEGED PURPOSE, AND I'D LIKE TO UNDERSCORE
5 THE WORD "ALLEGE", OF FINANCING A RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR
6 THIS STATE EXCLUDING ONLY THE JURISDICTION OF THE BAY AREA
7 RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT. AND IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED, ACCORDING
8 TO RECENT PRESS, THAT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WILL RECEIVE
9 SOME 35 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FROM THIS TAX. NOW, IF
10 THAT BE THE CASE, THE LOGICAL INQUIRY WOULD BE, WILL ALL OF
11 THIS MONEY BE USED FOR THE FINANCING OF A MASS TRANSPORTATION
12 SYSTEM? WILL ADDITIONAL FINANCING BE NECESSARY FOR SUCH AN
13 UNDERTAKING, AND HOW MUCH MORE WILL BE NECESSARY? BUT
14 REGARDLESS OF THE RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS, THE SENIOR
15 CITIZENS OF THIS AREA HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT A BETTER BREAK
16 ON TRANSIT FARES. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE REDUCTION OF
17 FARES ENCOURAGES THE USE OF TRANSIT FACILITIES DURING THE
18 HOURS OF LEAST UTILIZATION, THIS IN TURN ACTUALLY ENHANCES THE
19 INCOME OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM.

20 I WOULD RESPECTFULLY URGE, GENTLEMEN, THAT YOU
21 CONSIDER THE PLIGHT OF THE ELDERLY WHO HAVE TO RELY ON
22 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND WHO ARE LIVING ON FIXED, FROZEN
23 INCOME. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO DO LESS FOR OUR SENIORS THAN
24 SAN FRANCISCO IS DOING FOR THEIRS, OR CAN YOU?

25 (APPLAUSE)

26 IF YOU DO - IF YOU DO - AND MONETARY MATTERS ARE
27 OF A CONSIDERATION, HOPEFULLY, YOUR SHARE OF THE NEW 5-CENT
28 SALES TAX "BONANZA" WILL PROVIDE A BIT OF A CUSHION AND SOME

1 CONSOLATION FOR YOUR EFFORTS. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, TOO, IN
2 CLOSING, THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE TREND THROUGHOUT AMERICA TO
3 PROVIDE FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. IN OUR OWN BACK YARD
4 THE CITY OF COMMERCE HAS SUCH A SYSTEM. THE CITY OF
5 MINNEAPOLIS RECENTLY ADOPTED IT.

6 FOR MORE REASONS THAN ONE, NOT ONLY OUT OF
7 RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY, BUT AS A MEANS OF REDUCING THE NUMBER
8 OF AUTOMOBILES IN A HIGHLY CONGESTED, METROPOLITAN, URBAN
9 CENTER.

10 WHEN I LISTENED TO THE CAR RADIO THIS MORNING,
11 I SEE THEY'VE DONE THE SAME THING IN ROME. SO IF YOU GENTLEMEN
12 WANT TO LIVE BY THE OLD ADAGE OF "DO AS ROME DOES," MAY I
13 SUGGEST YOU TRY THAT.

14 THANK YOU.

15 (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE)

16 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: MR. CARBRAY - MR. CARBRAY --

17 (CONTINUED APPLAUSE)

18 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: MR. CARBRAY, I JUST WANTED TO INDICATE
19 AND YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR REMARKS THE FUNDS THAT ARE BEING MADE
20 AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT UNDER SENATE BILL 325, AND I JUST AM
21 WONDERING IF YOU ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS AN ATTACK ON THAT
22 WHICH THE TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD TOOK ACTION AT LEAST
23 YESTERDAY AND WENT ON RECORD AS IN OPPOSITION TO IT, BUT THE
24 PROPOSED WATSON AMENDMENT WOULD, IN EFFECT, ELIMINATE THAT
25 AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US, EVEN IF WE ENACTED REDUCED
26 FARES, TO CONTINUE IT.

27 SO I THINK THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT YOU
28 SHOULD BE AWARE OF IS THE FACT THAT THIS IS A VERY DEFINITE

1 THREAT TO OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF REDUCED FARES THAT
2 YOU ARE ASKING US FOR.

3 MR. CARBRAY: MR. CHAIRMAN, I WASN'T AWARE OF YOUR
4 ACTION, BUT I WAS AWARE OF THE THREAT, AND I WOULD SAY THAT
5 YOU HAVE A MULTIPLE PROBLEM, AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL THE
6 CONSOLATION I CAN GIVE YOU ON IT. THANK YOU.

7 (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE)

8 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: OH, YES, ONE FINAL REQUEST, MR. CARBRAY.
9 I'VE BEEN ASKED, ANYONE WHO HAS A PREPARED STATEMENT, WOULD YOU
10 PLEASE LEAVE A COPY WITH THE REPORTER.

11 MR. LAWRENCE CHRISCO, PRESIDENT, ALLIED SENIOR
12 CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA.

13 MR. LAWRENCE E. CHRISCO: MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE
14 BOARD --

15 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: WOULD YOU SPEAK INTO ONE OF THE
16 MICROPHONES.

17 MR. CHRISCO: I AM NOT A SINGER, MR. CHAIRMAN, SO MY
18 NAME IS NOT CARUSO.

19 CHAIRMAN NEUSOM: I AM SORRY.

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 WOULD YOU PRONOUNCE IT.

22 MR. CHRISCO: MY NAME IS LARRY CHRISCO, C-H-R-I-S-C-O,
23 AND I LIVE AT 4302 ALBURY AVENUE IN LAKEWOOD. BESIDES BEING
24 THE HEAD AT THE PRESENT TIME OF ALLIED SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS OF
25 CALIFORNIA, I AM VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION ON
26 AGING, AND I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPRESENT THE MAYOR'S
27 COMMITTEE, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
28 AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORTATION OVER THERE.

