

Public Now Can Protest MTA Hikes in Bus Fares

By Senator Richard Richards
Beginning next month, the bus-riding public will have the opportunity to express its views in open hearings whenever an increase in fares or reduction in services is contemplated by the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

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This is a first result of the two-day meeting in Los Angeles of our subcommittee on public transportation, of which I am chairman. Since the MTA, as a public agency, is not required to obtain the consent of the Public Utilities Commission to decisions of this kind, my first request was that a procedure for public hearings be set up as soon as possible.

This has been done by an amendment to the rules and regulations of the MTA, effective after Oct. 21, when the amendment was adopted.

Hereafter the Authority will meet in executive sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to determine its agenda for the regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

One of the most frequent complaints addressed to my office has been in connection with this lack of opportunity to be heard on matters directly affecting patrons of our public transportation system. Hereafter they will have that opportunity, and I am hopeful that this will make for better relations between the public and MTA.

I might add that our committee was assured that no increase in fares was contemplated "in the foreseeable future." As I reported previously, we were also assured that the Authority is free to make its own decisions in these matters independently of the bond holders or their agents.

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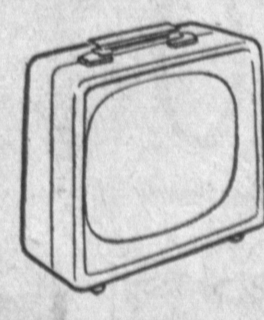
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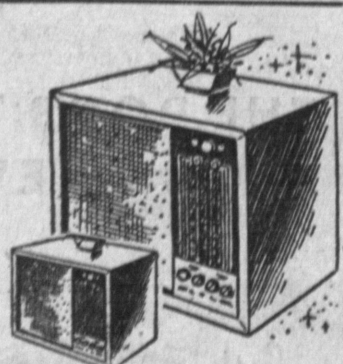
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