By ARTIE DEE **Transportation Editor** 

My mail over the past year has been challenging and interesting to say the least. It has become increasingly clear the RTD continues to be an enigma in the minds of many people. What is it/ Who owns it? Is it subsidized by the state? These and other confusing questions continually beset those who don't understand the District. Many of you good folks have lived in this part of the state for years. You rode and enjoyed the big Red Cars, the short line, and years. You rode and enjoyed the big Red Cars, the short line, and others. What you may or may not have been aware of was a gradual decline in passengers while more and more cars clogged our streets. This led to a need for improved local transportation — a sort of merger of portation - a sort of merger of the bus and streetcar companies under one banner. The state leg-islature established the MTA to buy and operate the three exist-ing bus companies. Bonds were sold to accomplish this, with payment underwritten by the state of California. When those bonds are paid for, the RTD (which began as the MTA) will be owned by the citizens of Los Angeles County.

The RTD is required, at present, to pay all operating costs plus make annual payments on its bond endebtedness out of fare box revenue. No sub-sidy of any kind is available to the RTD from city, county or

The southern California Rapid Transit District is a large and complex operation, employing some 4,400 people with an annual gross income of \$55,000,000. To effectively run an organization of this size and scope, the legislature created an 11-man local Board of Directors. cal Board of Directors.

The RTD Board is made up of the following representatives: five men appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Super-visors (one from each district). two from the mayor's office and four from the City Selection

Next week we'll look behind the scenes of RTD — one of the world's largest surface trans-portation companies.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY -The two most difficult careers are entrusted to amateurs —

Q. I go to Westchester High School and for a paper I'm doing which is on the Los Angeles City Council, I will need to go and visit the council in session. Can you tell me how to get there by bus from Westchester? Mrs. T.R.

A. The 54 line on Manchester will take you to Inglewood, where you can change to the 5 line to the Civic Center in Los

Q. What bus line serves Ft. McArthur? I live in Harbor City and would like to go to the Fort by bus. Mr. M.D.

A. Check with the Highland Transit Lines, Inc. for informa-tion. Their phone number is 832-

Q. I know how to get from Wilmington to Los Angeles, but is there a way I can go from Los Angeles to El Sereno? My sister is now living there and I want to visit her. Mrs. A.G.

A. As you know, take the 37 he from Wilmington to Los Andles, get off at Seventh and oring and catch the 70 or 71 or

Q. How late does the 54 bus run from the Westchester area to the Forum? Can I attend an

A. The 54 line cuts back at In-lewood along about 9:30 on reekday evenings and 6:30 on reekends. Sorry about that.

Send your questions to Artie Dee, Transportation Editor, care of this newspaper. All ques-tions will be answered in the colson writing. NO STAMPS OR STAMPED ENVELOPES ARE

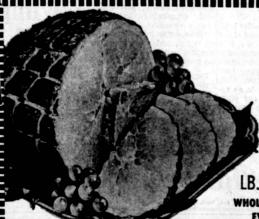
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