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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BOARD OF
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS
101 COMMERCE STREET
NEWARK 2

Cabinet Member

TO: Honorable Richard J. Hughes, Governor
FROM: Board of Public Utility Commissioners
SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February 1964

I am pleased to submit the Board's monthly report which is here summarized.

A decision issued on the PRR-PATH train collision at Harrison on July 24, 1963. Concurrently, all New Jersey railroads operating "interlockings" were summoned for public hearings in March to survey the "rusty rail" problem disclosed in the case.

Pending preparation of a brief due in June, the Board and the State filed a "Statement of Position" in the PRR-New York Central merger case before the I.C.C.

A Board Order restraining an illegal bus operation was affirmed by the Appellate Division.

William F. Hyland
William F. Hyland
President

WFH/dgm

Enclosure



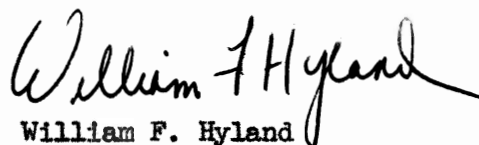
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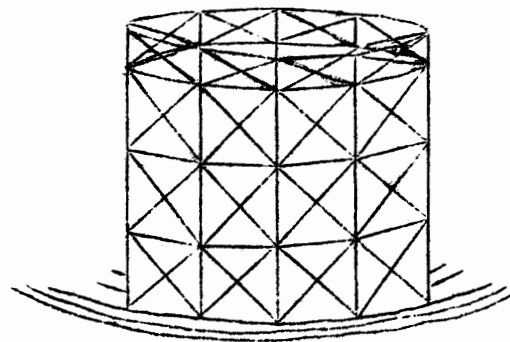
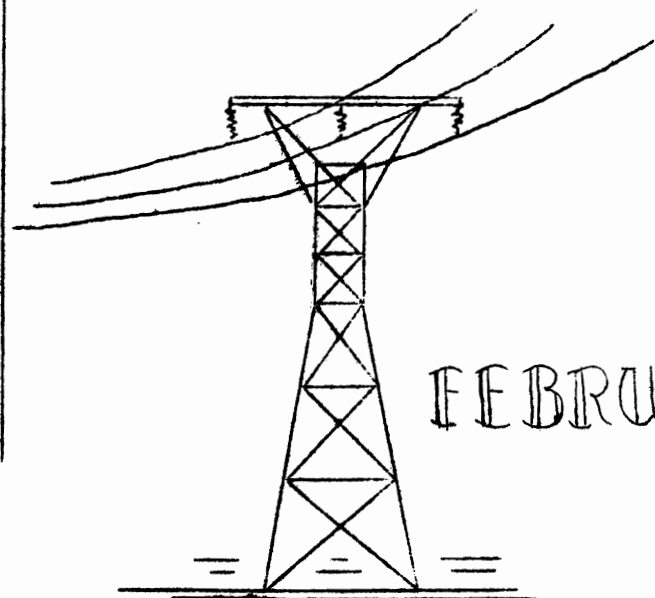
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William F. Hyland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William F. Hyland
President

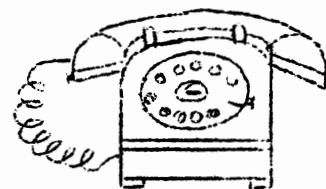
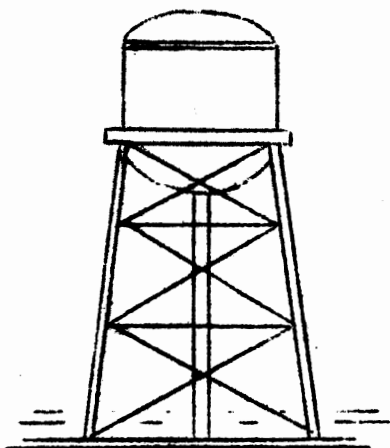
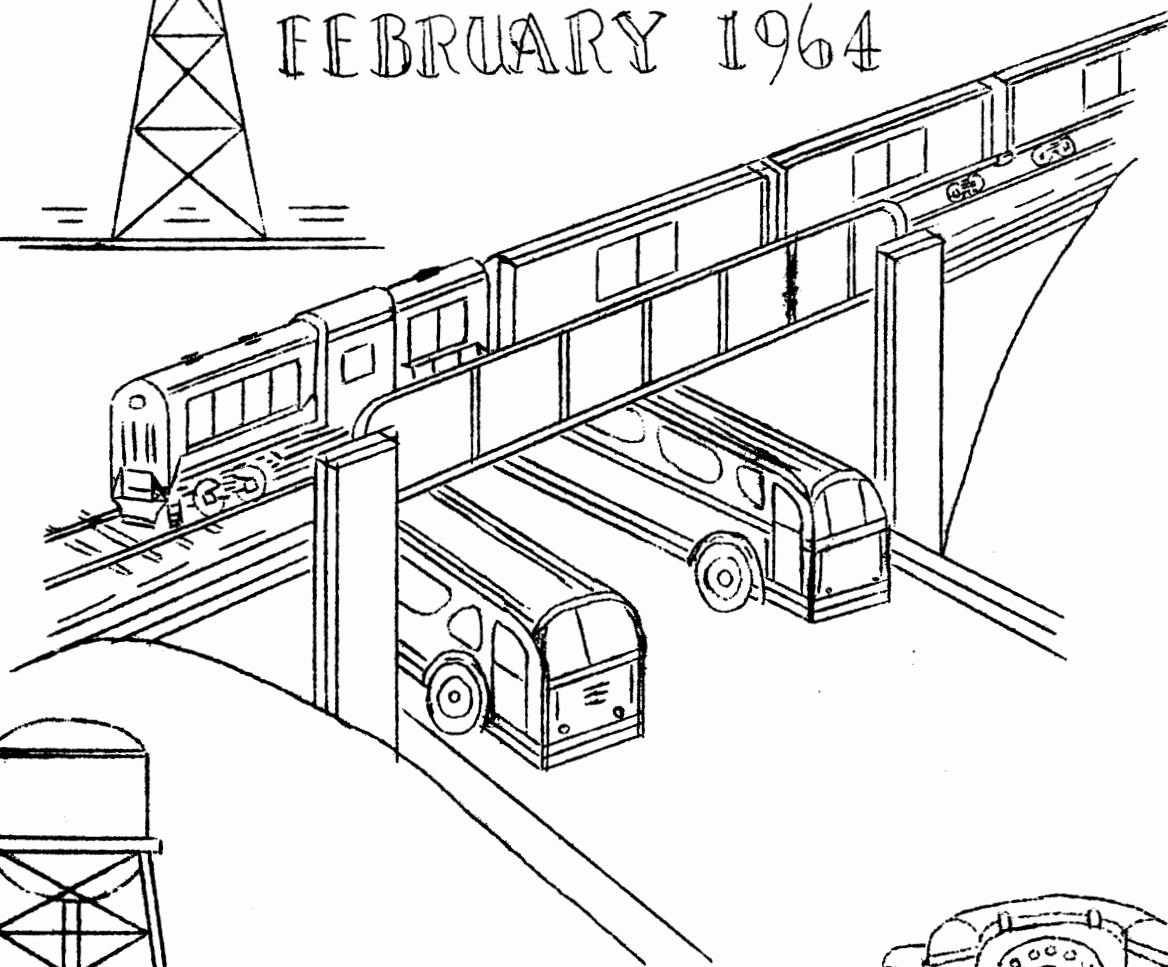
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MONTHLY REPORT



FEBRUARY 1964



NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

REPORT TO GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1964

ACTIVITIES

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Decisions Issued | 37 |
| Petitions Filed | 65 |
| Formal Hearings | 35 |
| Informal Proceedings | 2,492 |

REVENUES

| | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Filing Fees and Other Sources for the Month of February | \$9,582.82 | \$12,135.31 |
| Filing Fees and Other Sources for the Month of July-February | \$110,153.22 | \$144,424.49 |

PATH-PRR ACCIDENT

DECISION

Five public hearings by the Board followed an accident on July 24, 1963, in which a Pennsylvania R.R. Co. (PRR) work diesel collided with a Port Authority Trans. Hudson (PATH) passenger train in Harrison, Hudson County, killing 2 persons and injuring 27. By Order of February 3, 1964, the Board found that rust-laden switches in a large track complex called an "interlocking" resulted in a failure to signal an approaching train, and directed PRR (1) to revise its rules on special train movements and "interlockings", and (2) to fix responsibilities of employees, including train and engine crews during switching movements. PRR has until March 2, 1964, to comply with the Order.

"Interlocking Hearings"Expanded

It appeared in the above case that under certain conditions applying to all railroads, where tracks are covered with rust or other foreign material, signal indications of a train location to the "interlocking" plant operator may not be dependable so that he is unable to give a proper signal to control train movements. It further appeared that the respective responsibilities of the operator and the train crew may not be clear, accordingly all interested New Jersey railroads (18 in number) have been summoned for public hearings on the safe operation of "interlocking" plants. An interlocking is a system of signals and signal appliances operated by means of a machine so interconnected through mechanical and/or electric locking that trains observing its signals will succeed each other in safe sequence.

Background

"Interlockings" originally were built under mechanical and electrical specifications set by the I.C.C. Current operating procedures for switch networks are standard with New Jersey railroads with some individual variations. They have been in effect for more than 20 years, founded on a standard code issued by the Association of American Railroads.

PRR-NY CENTRAL MERGER

The State and the Board, by letter to the I.C.C. hearing examiner, issued notice of intention to file a brief (due June 1, 1964) and stated its position as not being opposed to the merger

-3-

if the full interests of all New Jersey railroads are protected, if essential passenger and freight service within the State be maintained as the end result of such consolidations and if satisfactory provision is made for railway labor. Because of the inter-relationship of this case with the proposed Norfolk and Western merger case, New Jersey urged that they be consolidated for purposes of argument and determination.

RATES

Fourteen rate petitions were received in February- 3 electric, 4 gas, 3 telephone and telegraph, and 4 water. The city of Trenton seeks a negotiated 20% rate increase, for capital to add to its facilities in sections of Ewing, Hamilton, and Lawrence Townships. Additionally, hearings will continue on the rates of Bernards Water Company, Bound Brook Water Company, and Long Beach Water Company.

COURT UPHOLDS BOARD IN SUPER SERVICE CASE

The Appellate Division on February 14, agreed with a Board Order to Super Service Bus Co. to cease and desist from continuing bus operations between Madison Township and Jersey City without municipal consents approved by the Board.

The Board had held that the service operated was not exempt from the municipal consent requirement as a "charter bus" operation because the busses made trips over the same fixed route at the same fixed time, between fixed termini, five days a week.

-4-

WATER AND SEWER WORKS

The Mt. Arlington Service Co. was formed, with Board approval, to provide water service in the Borough of Mt. Arlington, Morris County. The service area covers a 97 acre tract, in which 30 homes are currently receiving free service, with a total of 148 planned to be built by 1968.

The Board approved discontinuance of sewer service by the Delaware Township Sewerage Corporation in Cherry Hill Township due to the transfer of its disposal plant to Cherry Hill Township which will substitute as the operator of the "discontinued" service.

LAW

The deputy attorneys general prepared 15 memoranda for dispatch to the State House in Trenton concerning the Board's position on pending legislation.

In the Bordentown Sewer Company case, an action by the Board in the Chancery Division, Superior Court, Mercer County, a receiver for the utility was appointed on February 6. The Board, therefore, dropped the counts in its complaint for penalties and specific performance of a Board Order. A more responsible operation is expected.

ACCOUNTS

A draft of a amended Class "C" Bus annual report form was approved by the Accounting Division and sent to the purchasing department in Trenton for bids from printers.

-5-

The Board's Order adopting a uniform system of accounts for telephone utilities was amended to conform to changes recently made by the Federal Communications Commission. Involved are the utility income accounts and the charts of accounts. One requirement is the recording of certain revenues in a new Account 511, Wide Area Toll Service. Also, the modification of the text of Account 504, Local Private Line Services; Account 510, Message Tolls; and Account 512, Toll Private Line Service, deletes revenues allocated to the new account.