

Transportation

SC Transit Plan Fouled

By Don Righetti
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The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was legally formed only Thursday.

That's when the secretary of state received a resolution by the board of supervisors certifying the new body.

And since the certification didn't make the State Board of Equalization's January 1 deadline, the district can't collect taxes during fiscal 1969-70 and might not be in business for another year.

Assistant County Counsel James Rankin was at this morning's meeting of the transit district board to explain the mixup.

Rankin said his office had assumed the secretary of state required only a minute order recording the district's formation in order to make the action legal. He said the minute order was forwarded prior to the deadline, but the state sent back word it required the resolution. Rankin said it was then thought the office of the county clerk had forwarded the resolution, but it was discovered only recently that it had not.

Since the district is without funds, Rankin explained it is faced with a number of alternatives for operation. Among them is the submittal of an urgency bill allowing it to borrow against future income.

Another is that the district could remain inactive for another year, with the existing Santa Cruz Transit company continuing to operate on subsidies.

District Secretary Joe Ringrose didn't lighten the picture any. He reported it was very questionable whether the district could qualify for a federal grant while it operates on borrowed funds.

Chairman Eugene Fleming pointed out there even was no guarantee the district could get a loan at this time from a state agency.

And most of the board seemed reluctant to start the district in the red, anyway.

Member Dan Forbus said if the district started borrowing now it would find itself "boxed in" in the future.

Fleming wanted to know if there was any time limitation for putting the district into operation, in case it decides not to borrow.

Rankin said there were none.

Board member Frank Mayer of Capitola thought the dis-

trict should get in gear as soon as possible to keep faith with the voters who approved it.

But board members Ernest Wicklund and Richard Werner were anxious to avoid mistakes by rushing things. Wicklund said the district could not measurably improve services immediately if it did go into business now. He thought it might be best to prepare for operation during the coming year and be ready to go when the district has the money to do so.

Fleming appointed a finance committee which will attempt to arrive at the market value of the existing Santa Cruz Transit company and determine possible money arrangements with owner Chester Smith for its acquisition by the district.

If it is determined the district can take over without making a large initial loan, that may yet be the course taken by the board.

Fleming asked the committee to report back to the board as soon as possible.

Pakistan Leader To Quit

Karachi, Pakistan (AP). — President Mohammed Ayub Khan, who has ruled Pakistan with an iron hand for 10 years, announced to a startled nation Friday he will not seek re-election next January.

Crowds surged into the streets of Karachi and other cities dancing and joyously acclaiming the president's decision, which came after nearly four months of bloody rioting against his regime.

"At all times and in all difficulties I have sought guidance from God Almighty," the 62-year-old president said in a nationwide radio broadcast. "It is in light of my Moslem faith that I have decided to announce that I shall not be a candidate in the next elections. My decision is final and irrevocable."

The man who has been reviled by his political opponents spoke in a calm voice during the 12-minute broadcast.

While he startled his countrymen, Ayub's decision came as no surprise to informed observers in Karachi. They had specu-

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