

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1971

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 14, 1979

Investigation of WHITE HOUSE)
SIGHTSEEING CORPORATION, et al.,)
to Determine Compliance with)
WMATC Safety Regulations and)
to Evaluate Common Control and)
Corporate Status)

Case No. MP-79-7

On December 27, 1978, the Commission received certain documents from the Public Service Commission of Maryland (PSC) indicating that motor vehicles operated by White House Sightseeing Corporation (White House) may not be maintained in accordance with the safety regulations adopted by this Commission in General Order No. 8, served September 20, 1963, and effective November 1, 1963. Recent PSC inspections of some of these vehicles indicate serious violations such as shattered glass doors and windows, non-working exterior and interior lights, worn-out or loose flooring, cracked windshields, no light or buzzer on an emergency door, missing sheet metal paneling, air leaks in the braking system, broken or missing seat backs, missing first aid kits, fire extinguishers, flags and flares, defective hand brakes, oil leaks, excessive play in an accelerator linkage and non-operational turn signals. Unless corrected, such defects present a serious threat to the traveling public and call in to question the fitness of White House to continue as a certificated carrier in the Metropolitan District.

The above-referenced vehicle inspection reports show the carrier's name as Baltimore-Solomons (Bus Lines, Inc.), trading as White House. However, a comparison of the data in the inspection reports with those contained in White House's last annual report filed with this Commission indicates that all vehicles about which complaints are made are owned by White House and are operated in service subject to this Commission's jurisdiction. Moreover, reference to the annual report of Baltimore-Solomons (filed with the PSC) reveals that company's statement that it owns no equipment and performs service with vehicles and personnel obtained from White House.

Comparison of the two annual reports also reveals the following similarities in corporate management:

OFFICERS	WHITE HOUSE	BALT.-SOL.
Vinard L. Paris	President	Vice President & Director
John W. Paris	Vice President	President & Director
Robert Paris	Vice President	not shown
Ollie Paris	Secretary-Treasurer	Secretary & Director

In addition, the records of the PSC show Vinard L. Paris as the owner of all 326 shares of common stock issued by Baltimore-Solomons.

In an effort to obtain information regarding the stock ownership of White House the staff of the Commission, on January 16, 1978, sought to review the records of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia. The staff was informed by that office that it had no record of White House Sightseeing Corporation. The staff also made a request to the office of the Recorder of Deeds on January 16, 1978, by telephone, for the name of the registered agent of White House Sightseeing Corporation and was again informed that there was no record of said corporation. Finally, on January 24, 1979, the Commission received a certificate from the Recorder of Deeds attesting that White House is not now, nor has it ever been, of record as either a domestic corporation or a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in the District of Columbia.

Accordingly, while there appears to be some pattern of common control involving White House, Baltimore-Solomons, Vinard L. Paris, John W. Paris, Robert Paris and Ollie Paris, the exact nature of the relationship cannot be ascertained without further investigation. Moreover, the strong suggestion that White House is not a corporate entity raises the issue of whether the carrier's certificate of public convenience and necessity was obtained or has been maintained, on the basis of material misrepresentations. While the Commission shall not attempt to prejudge this issued and will consider White House as a corporation for the purposes of this order, such action should not be construed to constitute any waiver of our jurisdiction to suspend the carrier's certificate of public convenience and necessity or to take such other action as may be warranted as this investigation progresses.

A formal investigation shall be instituted pursuant to the provisions of Title II, Article XII, Sections 4(g) and 13(b) of the Compact to ascertain (a) the extent of the carrier's compliance with the safety regulations of the Commission as promulgated in General Order No. 8, (b) whether there exists a situation of common control between or among the parties named above which violates the provisions of Title II, Article XII, Section 12 of the Compact, and (c) whether White House's certificate of public convenience and necessity was obtained, or has been maintained, by fraud or material misrepresentation of the carrier's corporate status. The respondents will

be directed to take certain acts and effect certain filings with the Commission as set forth below. A public hearing on this matter will be scheduled, and White House will be assessed a sum preliminarily estimated to cover the costs which Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact require a carrier under investigation to bear.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the above-captioned investigation is hereby instituted for the above-stated purposes and, with respect to White House Sightseeing Corporation, to determine whether certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 1, issued to said carrier on June 18, 1962, should be suspended or revoked.
2. That White House Sightseeing Corporation, Baltimore-Solomon's Bus Lines, Inc., Vinard L. Paris, John W. Paris, Robert Paris and Ollie Paris are hereby made parties respondent in the above-captioned investigation.
3. That each above-named individual respondent is hereby directed to file with the Commission a statement setting forth in detail the respondent's interest as a stockholder, director, officer, manager, employee, agent, creditor or debtor of respondents. White House Sightseeing Corporation or Baltimore-Solomons Bus Line, Inc., including a description of any services performed by the individual respondent for, or on behalf of the corporate respondents and the individual respondent's participation in the management and policy decisions of the corporate respondents.
4. That each respondent is hereby directed to file with the Commission a schedule of for-hire motor vehicle equipment owned by said respondent showing the make, model, year, serial number, seating capacity (including driver), security holder or lien holder, if any, jurisdiction in which registered and tag number for each vehicle, or, if any respondent owns no for-hire motor vehicle equipment, said respondent shall file such a statement in lieu of filing the above-prescribed schedule.
5. That each corporate respondent is hereby directed to file with the Commission a copy of its articles of incorporation and a current certificate of good standing to do business in its jurisdiction of incorporation.
6. That each statement, schedule, certificate or other document directed to be filed herein shall be in writing, shall be subscribed and sworn to before a duly commissioned notary public, and shall be filed at the offices of the Commission, Suite 316, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006 no later than 15 days from the date of service of this order.
7. That respondents, severally or jointly as they may elect, are hereby advised that any answer to be filed in response to this order shall

comply with the provisions of Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

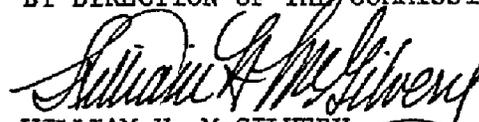
8. That respondents are hereby directed, jointly and severally, to make available for physical inspection any and all motor vehicles owned or operated by them, or each of them, in service subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission, at such time and place, and in such manner, as may be directed by the Maryland Public Service Commission which is hereby requested and authorized to conduct said inspections for, and on behalf of, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission; provided, however, that all such inspections are to be made within 25 days of the date of service of this order, and that an original and 10 copies of each inspection report shall be filed with this Commission no later than 30 days from the date of service of this order.

9. That a public hearing on this matter is hereby scheduled to commence on Tuesday, April 24, 1979, at 9:30 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Suite 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

10. That respondent White House Sightseeing Corporation is hereby assessed \$500, an amount preliminarily estimated to cover the expenses of this investigation which a carrier is required to bear, and is directed to deliver said amount to the offices of the Commission no later than Friday, April 13, 1979, at 12 noon.

11. That White House Sightseeing Corporation is hereby cautioned that failure fully and promptly to comply with the terms and directives of this order may result in the suspension or revocation of its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 1.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director