

Chicago, February 28, 1966

File S-1132

Mr. William J. Quinn

With reference to my letter of December 31 and our conversation relative to the possible acquisition of the Port Townsend Railroad:

There is no barge landing at Port Angeles and I understand the feasibility of constructing one was last considered during World War II. There is a barge landing at Port Townsend owned by the Milwaukee.

I think the first step of a committee to be appointed to study the acquisition would be to inquire into the potential value of the trackage Port Angeles-Discovery Jct.-Port Townsend.

As part of its study, the committee should determine the feasibility and preliminary cost of providing a barge landing at Port Angeles and if the one at Port Townsend should be retained or abandoned. In other words, whether the traffic potential is such that it warrants retaining track between Discovery Jct. and Port Townsend. In the event of abandonment of the line between Discovery Jct. and Port Townsend, we would probably want to abandon our track between Sequim and Discovery Jct. and operate turn-around service between Port Angeles and Sequim. I can even visualize the possibility of our eventually wanting to abandon all of the track between Port Angeles and Port Townsend.

With the view of long range planning in making an appraisal of the economics of acquiring the Port Townsend Railroad, I recommend that a committee be appointed consisting of representatives of the Engineering, Operating, Traffic, and Accounting Departments to study the subject and make recommendations.

*E. J. McElroy*

cc:-Mr. L. V. Anderson