ON TRANSIT COMMISSION

Beckett Losing County Post

"Mr. Transportation," John C. "Jack" Beckett of Palo Alto, chairman of Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), will not be reappointed to the Santa Clara County Transportation Commission when his term expires this summer.

This was the word Tuesday from Fifth District Supervisor Gerry Steinberg, whose chore it is to name a replacement.

She said it was by "mutual agreement" that Beckett would spend more time with the board as MTC liaison, and that relieving him of local Transportation Commission duties would allow him that free time.

However, supervisors have been publicly critical of Beckett in recent weeks, particularly Supervisor Rod Diridon and Chairman Dan McCorquodale.

Referring to Beckett's position as government relations manager for Hewlett-Packard Co., McCorquodale said Tuesday, "I feel San Jose and Hewlett-Packard Co. have good representatives, but Santa Clara County doesn't."

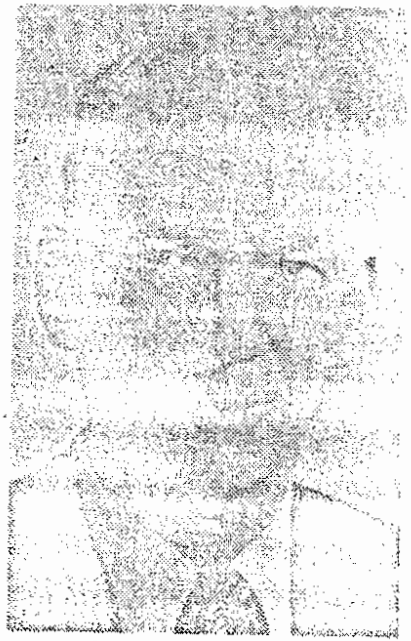
Diridon added that, "The problem is not so much a reflection on John, but is a problem of not having a supervisor sitting on MTC. The next time there is an appointment to represent this county we should keep that in mind."

Mrs. Steinberg said Beckett has agreed to meet with the board twice a month. The board also announced a joint progress report on light rail studies at a special meeting with the Transportation Commission at 8 p.m. May 26.

The 58-year-old Beckett has been a key transportation figure in the Bay Area for many years. He has been on MTC since 1971, and has been its chairman since 1973.

A graduate of Stanford University, he formerly lived in Marin County and was active in planning the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge under an appointment by the late Earl Warren, then governor.

He is completing his second two-year term on the county Transportation Commission.



JOHN C. BECKETT

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