

Mr. Carter -

Gen. Ramley told me to ignore this
- and all other copies were withdrawn

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Public Information Office
Carswell Air Force Base
Fort Worth, Texas
17 March 1949

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Mr. Robert Wear
Aviation Editor
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Bob:

Just a note to pass on some information that originated in Washington. Colonel Alfred Kalberer, Strategic Air Command, PIO, relayed it to me. In general terms it amounts to the following:

High ranking officials in Washington are pleased with the Public Information activities in Fort Worth. They believe that the Star-Telegram has done a swell job in telling the public the Air Force story. Of particular note was the B-50 press conference which, and I quote from an unnamed source "tickled them pink." However, they feel that the task of selling air power to the nation has been pretty well fulfilled up to a certain point ... especially where it concerns the B-36.

It is a consensus of opinion since Mr. Johnson took over the Secretary's office that the AF budget requirements have just about reached a definite fix and anymore frosting on the cake would be highly injurious to Air Force policy and planning.

Consequently they want us to concentrate on internal and community relations rather than build up the B-36 flights to circus proportions. It seems that, editorially at least, some eastern papers have tended to accuse the Air Force of warmongering due to the play-up, all out of proportion to their intended purpose, of these routine, long-range B-36 flights. We are to bend over backwards or whatever other contortions are necessary to de-emphasize any future attempts of our bombers to reach the 10,000 mile mark.

Colonel Kalberer would like us to reach a definite working agreement re the B-36 based on the above situation. I'm sure you realize it is not an attempt to censor news of this particular activity rather we are merely following a policy sent down by those who are in a position to have a clear-cut overall picture of the national scene.

I can get together with you anytime that's convenient. Let's see if an SOP can be worked out before Col. Kalberer arrives this week end. If either of us have any questions he would be the one to clear them up for us.

I would appreciate any comments in writing you may have on the subject.

Regards,

/s/ BILL
William S. Waltman, Captain, USAF
Public Information Officer