

February 14, 1953

Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
P. O. Box 786
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington 4, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Sid and I made a solemn promise to ourselves we would not bother you with personal details, therefore I trust you will accept my apology in advance for violating, at least on my part, that pledge of not bothering you.

On January 8 I received a letter from Barak T. Mattingly regarding the Civil Aeronautics Board and asking particularly for an evaluation of the present members of the Board, also asking for a suggestion for the vacancy created by the resignation of Don Nyrop, formerly chairman.

I wired Mr. Mattingly concerning my evaluation of the members of the board and in addition as per the enclosed copy regarding Oswald Ryan who has been on the board since its inception in 1938. When Don Nyrop resigned President Truman appointed Oswald Ryan, a republican member, as chairman; stating therein that I considered him the best qualified man on the board; that he is thoroughly honest and I sincerely hoped he would be retained as chairman; further that I had no business association or connection with him in any shape or form; however I had known him ever since he had been on the board.

I now notice from press reports that H. D. Denny, Jr., 67 year old ex-Congressman, from Pittsburgh has been recommended to fill the place of Nyrop, backed by Senator Duff and Congressman Hugh Scott; that if this appointment is made it will give the Republicans majority for the first time since the Roosevelt regime in 1938. The other two members as indicated on the enclosed American Aviation Daily bulletin of February 13 being Ryan and former Senator Chan Gurney of South Dakota. This bulletin further states that the chairmanship would be between Ryan and Gurney.

Mr. President, as stated above, I realize this is a matter I should not burden you with; however, after talking with Fred Gurley and Sid and asking them if it would be presumptuous on my part by making this recommendation, both of whom concur in my viewpoint on the matter, both have recommended and suggested that I go ahead and do so. If you can consistently permit Ryan to continue as chairman of the board it will be greatly appreciated by all three of us.

Oswald Ryan has done a fine job on the board for the past fifteen years. Although I have not agreed with all of his decisions we do consider him thoroughly honest and competent. The only ones who could possibly be against his appointment would be someone who wanted the job for themselves or one of their good friends, or someone Ryan's rulings may not have pleased altogether. I do have a fairly good knowledge of Ryan's standing in the industry as a whole and without mentioning names I know a good many of your good friends feel that Ryan has done a good job and should be permitted to continue as chairman. As stated above, if you can consistently go along on this viewpoint we will be delighted and if you cannot, we will be for you just the same.

Of course, it goes without saying, that this letter is confidential and to you alone.

I am leaving Monday morning for New York by plane and will be at the Carlton House for about a week before returning home.

As I recall on my last visit with you I made only two requests: One, that you do not appoint one of my friends in connection with activities in Washington unless America should become involved in war and it became necessary. This was merely a selfish business suggestion.

The other was something close to my heart. We are now completing the Fort Worth Greater International Airport which is considered by top authorities to be one of the finest in the world. It will officially be opened May 1. The City has been generous enough to name the Administration Building and the field after me. I realize your time is more than occupied; however, if you could fly down and dedicate this field it would be the

high light in my life. While the airport has been set up to officially open May 1, if this date does not fit your pistol we could re-arrange the schedule to suit your convenience. We are making great preparations for the opening and will have a lot of your good friends from all over the country present for the occasion. You can land your ship on the 6400 foot runways, 200 feet wide, officially dedicate the field and the opening and be on your way back to Washington in double quick time. Of course we would be delighted to have you break bread with us if that is possible. If you should come, we hope you will bring Mamie with you.

Incidentally, only two other people know of this official invitation (Fred and Sid). Sid is vice-chairman, while I am president of the Terminal Company that will operate the airport for thirty-six years. We would naturally expect to have Ruth and Fred Gurley present for this occasion also.

I am sorry you could not have been with us for the Southwestern Exposition and Pet Stock Show and exercised the badge sent you. Naturally, we realized it would be impossible, however I did buy the grand champion steer and you will have some blue ribbon meat that will help supplement the disappearance of food in your household "like dew before the bright sun" as referred to in your letter. I hope you will not consider the steaks in any way as an inducement for opening the airport, as you will receive the steaks any way.

In conclusion, my congratulations on the great job you are doing and the fine way you are absorbing your difficulties. The country as a whole has taken on new life, having been rejuvenated as the result of your election.

Amos Junior and George Ann got a great kick out of your telegram. They are returning from Sun Valley Monday from their honeymoon.

Again, my apologies for this long rambling letter and my affectionate regards to you and Mamie in which Minnie joins me.

Sincerely,