

Dear Mr. President:

The term of Mr. Oswald Ryan, a Republican member of the Civil Aeronautics Board, terminates the end of this year. I sincerely hope that you will decide to reappoint him.

One of the sad aspects of civil aviation since the War has been the instability and vacillation in the policies of the C.A.B. For that reason, the Civil Air Policy Report by the Air Coordinating Committee as a guide for your Administration, and the basic principles set forth in that report, has been most welcome. They offer the hope that civil aviation may finally receive the kind of economical, reliable, and statesmanlike government regulation which is essential to its sound growth.

Mr. Ryan is one of the very few members of the C.A.B. who has adhered consistently to basic principle. It is not too much to say that many of the principles adopted in the recent A.C.C. report are rooted in the position which Mr. Ryan has ruggedly insisted upon even when it was most unpopular to recognize the hard realities of the laws of economics. It is to Mr. Ryan's great credit that he had the courage to stick to principle, even in the face of bitter and unscrupulous personal attacks, during many years when Washington was

plagued with officials guided only by a shallow political expediency.

For fifteen years Mr. Ryan has been the leader within the Board of the battle for a sound economic air transport system. He has consistently been a thorn in the side of the Democratic members in their efforts to triplicate and quadruplicate the air route system regardless of the cost to the taxpayer. Ryan's decisions have reflected a philosophy in favor of competition where economically justified and in favor of reduction in the subsidy bill.

On the other side of this fight, Democratic member Josh Lee has been the extreme proponent of the very costly philosophy that additional air services should be added even on presently competitive routes far beyond the point of economic prudence. If Mr. Ryan is not reappointed it will be viewed both in the government and industry circles as a victory for Democratic member Josh Lee and a defeat for Republican Oswald Ryan. Or, said another way, it will be considered as a victory for the uneconomic transport regulatory philosophy of the Democratic minority and a defeat for the sound economic principles in this field of your Administration.

Mr. Ryan has stood up for these principles of your Administration for fifteen years, most of it as a member of the minority. On many occasions on key issues his sound thinking and

leadership have persuaded a Democratic member of the majority to join with him. He not only should be reappointed -- he should be commended for his valiant fight.

It would be a bitter blow for civil aviation to lose Mr. Ryan's service on the C.A.B. at this time. If the benefit of his long experience and of his intimate acquaintance with the problems which are so fundamental to the success of civil aviation were lost, the difficulties which would be faced in implementing the recent trend toward sanity in the government's civil aviation policy would be immeasurably increased.

Although I have long been a member of the Board of Directors of a company which is regulated by the C.A.B. I have never asked Mr. Ryan a favor, and neither on this occasion nor on any other has he ever sought my assistance. My concern is solely to attempt to be of help to you and your Administration in a matter which I believe to be of greatest importance to the national interest.

Respectfully yours,