

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
AND PUBLISHER

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

December 17, 1954.

Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

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

Frankly, as I see it, one of the sad aspects of civil aviation since the war has been caused by the instability at times 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 members of the C.A.B., who has adhered consistently to the basic principles. 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 has 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 one of the outstanding leaders within the Board of the battle for a sound economic air transportation system. Unfortunately for his own welfare, he has consistently been a thorn in the side of some of the Democratic members in their effort to triplicate and quadruplicate the air route system regardless of the cost to the tax payers. Ryan's decisions have reflected a philosophy in favor of competition where economically justified and in favor of reduction in the subsidy bill.

*To a great extent by*

On the other side of this fight, Democratic member Josh Lee has been the extreme proponent of the very costly philosophy that additional air service 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 for fifteen years, which are in reality the principles of your present Administration, most of them 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. Therefore, I not only feel that he should be reappointed, but 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 been a member of the Board of Directors of a company which has been regulated by the C.A.B. for more than 25 years, I have never asked Mr. Ryan a favor, and neither on this occasion nor 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.

Mr. President, as I recall, shortly before the inauguration when Mrs. Carter, her sister, Mrs. Brants, and the writer visited with you in your home at Columbia, I stated that I was not going to bother you with requests of any kind; but, on the contrary, made the suggestion that I hoped you would not make any appointments unless the country should become involved in war.

*one particular*

Later, when the question of the reappointment of Oswald Ryan on the C.A.B. came up, I discussed with Fred Gurley and Sid Richardson, two of our mutual friends, as to whether it would be presumptuous on my part to write you a note in his behalf. Both of them knowing Mr. Ryan, and the situation, gave their approval, whereupon I wrote you a letter setting forth my views regarding his fine qualifications, the fact that he was the original Republican member appointed to the Board at the time of its organization, and was later reappointed by a Democratic President.

I do know that Mr. Ryan is thoroughly competent, qualified in every respect, honest and trustworthy. In other words, if he had not possessed all of these fine qualities and been a little more inclined to cater to his critics or opponents, the chances are that he would have no opposition at this time. Meanwhile, it is my understanding that some opponents have indicated that Mr. Ryan, at 69 years of age, is too old. This is grossly in error, as Mr. Ryan is only 66 years old. I celebrated my 75th birthday on December 11, (not particularly a celebration; however, my five grandchildren and Ruth and Amon Junior surprised me for dinner at my home), which does not indicate that old age is a hopeless handicap. I am still the head of a publishing and newspaper business with the largest circulation in Texas, and paying the Government practically a hundred thousand dollars a month in taxes. Of course, Sid kids me about my age, and I tell him that we are usually no older than we feel.

It is rumored that Mr. Adams offered Mr. Ryan's reappointment to Senator Ferguson of Michigan, and that the Senator had turned it down and suggested that Mr. Ryan should succeed himself. It is also rumored that the position had been offered to former Senator Condon of Oregon.

Bearing in mind my statement to you at Columbia, I again discussed with both Fred and Sid whether or not you would accuse me of violating my agreement. After reading them a copy of this letter I am sending you, they have both assured me of their support and felt that the occasion was well worth the effort and should have no special bearing on my agreement with you. As stated to Fred and Sid that although I hesitated to worry you I could not resist asking if you would not feel that my judgment in this particular circumstance is not entitled to consideration.

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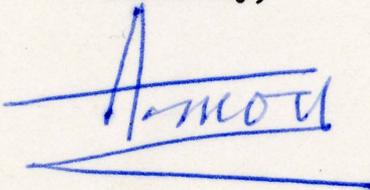
The best evidence of my sincerity and interest in the matter is the fact that I am dictating this letter at home, flat of my back with an attack of lumbago. I realize that it is imposing on your good nature to burden you with details of this kind. However, if you should feel that you would be willing to grant me what is known as a "bisque" in Golf, THIS is it. I would rather see this appointment made than anything I could imagine, other than that the public conscript you for another four years. I realize again that that would be an imposition, but on the other hand you have done such a marvelous job, irrespective of the disappointments you have had, mostly with your own Party, I still feel the public is not going to let you leave the groundwork you have started and are now carrying on until it is completed.

I know that you could not have three better friends than Sid, Fred and I, or more loyal supporters in behalf of the sound policies you have pursued during your Administration, and this statement is not intended to indicate that you are under any obligation to me in any manner, shape or form.

As an evidence of my good intentions, I have refrained from sending you the hundreds of letters and recommendations with which my office has been continuously swamped concerning positions or problems, for which they solicited your support.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



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