

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have your letter of December 25 in answer to my previous letter regarding the reappointment of Oswald Ryan, *and I,*

Naturally, ~~I~~ agree with you to the effect that you do not have sufficient time to investigate ~~into~~ the pros and cons of this type of appointment, and I thoroughly concur in the fact that it has been your effort to get the finest men available; disinterested individuals who have no other objective than to promote the good of the country and, after ascertaining these facts, to make certain that every kind of investigation has been completed and their standing in the community is such as to reflect dignity on the office to which they are appointed.

~~Naturally,~~ I can readily understand that during ^{you} the past two years ~~I~~ have, no doubt, received criticism concerning some of the operations of CAB, and it may be that the editorial you referred to, which charges that there was a lot of shallow thinking, ^{is} ~~may~~ be correct.

realize
I ~~can~~ appreciate that this is a difficult time to make a reappointment of a man when, ^{as} you state, ~~that~~ your staff is thoroughly scattered on account of the Christmas holidays, or are trying to get some rest before the grind of the Congressional session which shortly begins.

greatly
I appreciate your statement that you view my opinion highly. Nevertheless, the way the Government must run in this kind of a case you have to be guided largely by the opinions of those ~~that~~ *whom* you must trust day in and day out in this kind of work, ^{and} who normally

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reach specific conclusions before they report to you; and again, I concur in your statement to the effect that most people who concern themselves ^{with} in this kind of appointment have some special interest to serve and, therefore, I appreciate your statement that you realize that such considerations have no bearings on my opinion. Naturally, I consider this a complimentary statement in my behalf and I only wish it were possible that the same condition could apply in all instances which, unfortunately, with all due modesty, I feel is not the case, and if this appointment could be deferred for a reasonable time I feel quite sure that I could convince you of these facts.

If so happens I know whereof I speak.

One man in particular, to a certain extent, exerts some influence with his higher superior in connection with this case which, in my way of thinking, is based on revengeful resentment ^{of} on things that ~~have~~ transpired on the Board many years ago.

Both Sid and George Allen spent a couple of hours with me last night and I transmitted these facts to them. These views are based partially on my previous personal experience with this particular individual who wrote me the nastiest, meanest letter that I have ever received, ^{out} with an iota of justification. ^{His} The same man made an effort to make a contract with our new airport in Fort Worth to supply the gasoline system and later, ~~or~~ when the committee decided to award the contract to another concern, he wrote nasty letters to all of the officers connected with the Terminal Association and threatened to sue us for damages, even going to the extent of having a lawyer spend a day in the Terminal Association's office, at the conclusion of which his own lawyer informed him that he had no justification for a law suit. ^{It} This man came to me personally recommended by a number of

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substantial citizens throughout the country who, no doubt, had some basis for his securing the position he now occupies with one of your superiors, and if I had the opportunity to talk with you personally, I feel sure that I could substantiate the above facts which, of course, are sent to you confidentially and for the eyes of no one else.

I realize this is a rather serious charge and I am not making it without justification. It is a pitiful situation which should not be permitted to continue.

I am confident that Ryan's opposition troubles have been caused by this particular individual and some of the non-scheduled operators who are resentful against certain members of the Board for not receiving recognition for various requests they have made.

I still reaffirm every statement I have made in behalf of Mr. Ryan and feel that if you could consistently reappoint him, ~~that~~ you would be doing the aviation industry as well as the C.A.B. and your Administration a constructive, beneficial turn.

As I have stated ~~previously~~, time and again, you have been generous enough to voluntarily affirm that I have no axe to grind. I have never communicated with Ryan or asked him a favor, and neither has he, in turn, with me.