

BUCK & KNAPP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS
TRINITY BUILDING
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Feb. 21, 1941.

Mr. Jack Love, Representative
Capitol Building
Austin, Texas.

Dear Mr. Love:

Due to the fact that the gasoline tax is primarily and fundamentally a charge for the use of the highways which are constructed and maintained from that source of revenue, the Legislature in its wisdom has provided for a refund of the tax on gasoline used by airplanes (which do not use the highways), and that is undoubtedly a reasonable and proper provision.

House Bill 319 now proposes to collect the full tax on aviation gasoline sold on municipal or governmental airports, and give the part formerly refunded to the municipality or governmental agency selling the gasoline. This, in my humble opinion, would be a dangerous step in the direction of government violation of private rights. Moreover, it would furnish an indirect means whereby charges that have already been fixed by contract between municipalities and users of airports would be increased. To that extent the law would undoubtedly be unconstitutional, as well as unfair. In my view, and I believe in yours, cities should honor their contractual obligations, which have been in good faith entered into and respected by private industry and individuals.

County delegation, in the hope that you may find, upon further investigation, that this bill would fix an unreasonable and improper hardship upon an industry and enterprise which has contributed much to our state and city, and which should not, and cannot, stand additional tax burdens.

Yours very truly,

1-MM.

Raymond E. Burr

The same letter was sent to

O. B. McAllister
Jack Love
Lester Boone
Marvin B. Simpson Jr

Senator Jesse Martin

Flortorial Rep. V.E. Goodman.

cc: Mr. C.R. Smith
Mr. R.S. Pruitt
Mr. O. M. Mosier
Mr. Amon Carter
Mr. Robert Smith
Mr. Hollis Thompson.

The airlines have done much to build Texas, especially Fort Worth and the surrounding territory which you represent. American has made Fort Worth southwestern headquarters, and has brought here several hundred families who make a substantial contribution to the City's progress. Braniff and Delta likewise have contributed their share. Each of these airlines, and most of the other users of municipal airports, have paid and are paying a substantial consideration for the facilities furnished them.

At the urgent solicitation of the City, American abandoned its airport a mile North of Meacham Field; in 1932, and became an occupant of Meacham Field, in order to bring development, prestige and recognition to the City's field. If American had improved and continued to use its own airport which was purchased from Tarrant County citizens, at a cost of \$93,000.00, other operators would have done likewise, and the popularity and success of Meacham Field would not have developed as it has. Because of American's patronage of Meacham Field, its \$93,000.00 property has laid idle for eight years, without producing any return whatsoever, except a farm crop rental barely sufficient to pay taxes.

The passage of this bill would increase the cost of training to those young men who are seeking, at their own expense, to train themselves as pilots for the defense of this Nation, and in some cases would penalize those who have already made contracts with these cadets in the contemplation of a continuation of the refund. It would not produce a great deal of additional revenue to cities, because operators who could do so would fill their aircraft tanks at other locations and in other states.

I was in Austin last Thursday and sought to confer with you about this legislation, but did not reach you, therefore, I am taking the liberty of writing you this personal letter which will also be sent to other members of the Tarrant