

AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.  
NEW YORK MUNICIPAL AIRPORT  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 15, 1941

To: The Directors of the Company

Mr. Ralph S. Damon, Vice President for Operations for American, was for many years before joining the service of the company, engaged in the business of manufacturing aircraft, being last associated with the operation of the St. Louis and Buffalo plants of Curtis and being an officer in the companies which conducted those operations. He was considered by all who knew him in the manufacturing business to be a capable executive and an outstanding production man.

There has been, as you know, tremendous acceleration in the volume of aircraft manufacture during the past several years. During these years Mr. Damon has been offered several positions of responsibility in the manufacturing industry, several of the offers involving compensation beyond the reasonable capacity of air transportation to meet. In each of those cases Mr. Damon has expressed a preference to remain with American and he has been willing to make financial sacrifices in order to permit that.

The question of accelerated aircraft production has now become a matter of national import. We have received from Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, a letter expressing in strong terms the need for the services of Mr. Damon in the aircraft production program and asking that we make his services available for aid of that program. We have had several conversations with representatives of our military forces and we are impressed with the urgency of their requirements. There is no doubt that Mr. Damon can perform a national service by participating in the aircraft production program and that the company can aid the attainment of a national objective by making his services available.

There will be involved a substantial sacrifice, both on the part of the organization and on the part of Mr. Damon. He is willing, and we must be, to make that sacrifice and we have informed the Secretary of War of our sincere spirit of cooperation.

It is proposed that Mr. Damon will leave the service of the company on May 1 - for a period of from six months to a year. The question of extending leave to Mr. Damon which will permit him to serve elsewhere will be discussed at the ensuing meeting of the Directors.

Sincerely yours,



C. R. Smith

