



AMERICAN AIRLINES INC.

CABLE ADDRESS AMAIR

100 EAST 42nd STREET · NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK · MURRAY HILL 5-3900

March 26, 1948

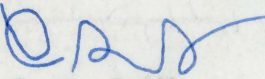
To: The Directors

We had an accident involving one of our Convair planes last week; at Ardmore Training Base.

The pilot, coming in for landing, came in fast and high. He ended up hitting a concrete runway at forward speed of 125 miles an hour and at a rate of descent of 750 feet per minute. Something had to give and the wings folded up. The airplane can and will be repaired at Tulsa. We will have to purchase a new center section and the total cost will approximate \$100,000.

I do not usually take your time with training accidents. But there are many of our competitors who would like to give the Convair a bad name and they sometimes start rumors. The fact is that no commercial airplane is stressed to take impact loads of that character; the DC3, DC4, DC6 or any other transport, would fold up somewhere under similar impact loading.

No one was injured and the airplane is repairable. It's a good tribute to the sturdy construction of the airplane. An unexpected and expensive test which I wish could have been avoided.


C. R. Smith

