

Dear Mr. President:

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

One of the sad aspects of civil aviation since the War has been the instability and vacillation in the policies of the C.A.B. For that reason, the recent report of your Administration's policy by the Air Coordinating Committee and the basic principles set forth in that report have 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 very few members of the C.A.B. who has adhered consistently to basic principle. 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 and to work for reduced government subsidies. It is to Mr. Ryan's great credit that he 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.

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

page 2

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 long been a member of the Board of Directors of a company which is regulated by the C.A.B., I have never asked Mr. Ryan a favor, and neither on this occasion nor on 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 of greatest importance to the national interest.