

AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.
New York

December 2, 1952

To: The Directors

Mr. W. A. Patterson, President, United, gave a statement to the newspapers some days ago, saying that the DC 4 should be limited to 54 passengers, saying that United would so limit its airplanes, and inferring that anyone who did not agree with him was willing to operate with potential danger to the passenger.

It is my belief that Mr. Patterson has gone off half-cocked and by doing so has done considerable damage to United and to the industry. There was no discussion between United and the other members of the industry, or between United and the government agencies, before his rash statement was made.

The same problem, getting the passengers out of the airplane in event of emergency, has been investigated many times before. The existing rules of CAA were formulated after CAA had run adequate tests. I believe that United has discovered nothing new on the subject or has any justifiable reason for its action.

American has no DC 4 planes in scheduled service. For that reason his recommendations have no direct application to our service. But his general theory does, and his general theory is unsupported.

The best way to get this settled is to keep the controversy out of the press. For that reason we are making no statements. The purpose of this note is to give you a general view of the problem. If you need more detailed information please let me know.

C. R. Smith

