



C. R. SMITH

New York  
April 5, 1946

Dear Amon:

Thank you for the clipping.

This business is beset with two classes of people who will do the industry no good: 1. Inherent pessimists. 2. People optimistic enough to believe that the job of the future will be easily done. I hope that we have none of either class.

Air transportation can be entirely competitive with rail travel, for a very substantial proportion of the total travel volume. We are nearly there now and it should be possible to go another step or two forward.

In order to achieve the goal we are going to have to do our business in different fashion; we must operate with greater regularity and we must operate with greater economy. The present cost of production of air transportation is too high.

Some of the things which we can do are clearly marked out; they can be done if and when the airlines are willing and ready to get together and get them done. Some of them are going to do that voluntarily, others will be forced by the P&L figures to do that. In any event, in time, they will come around.

I do not know the total figure for the industry; I would estimate that 1,000 is close; some of the orders are options and not orders.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Amon G. Carter,  
Fort Worth Club,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

