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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

April 1, 1965

Mr. Rodney F. Stich
1860 Applewood Drive
Denver 15, Colorado

Dear Mr. Stich:

I have examined carefully the material you sent me and have given much thought to the allegations you make against the Federal Aviation Agency. I have also given careful consideration to your request for a Congressional investigation of alleged irregularities and bad management in the agency.

Your charges are directed primarily to conditions alleged to exist in the Western Region with respect to the DC-8 program of a certain carrier and what you consider to be an improper attitude toward deficiencies in this program by certain FAA personnel who, I gather, are your immediate superiors. Whether or not deficiencies exist in the DC-8 program is a determination I am not competent to make. Furthermore, I have heard only your side of the case. If you are being unfairly and unjustly treated by the FAA personnel supervising your work, I would be happy to assist in any way I can to remedy the situation. However, this would not be a proper subject for Congressional investigation.

I do not doubt your honesty or your sincerity. However, I would not feel justified in launching an investigation, which would involve the time of many Senators other than myself, until I had heard the other side of the story from the persons whom you have charged with such gross misconduct.


I have held your letters and the information you furnished in strictest confidence. I believe that this is a problem which could be resolved if I brought it to the attention of Mr. Halaby, the Administrator. I have found him to be a fair man and impartial in resolving intra-agency problems. I would make it clear to Mr. Halaby that you should not be the subject of recriminations merely because you had the courage to speak out on matters affecting the safety of airline passengers.

Page - 2 -

I am glad that you have also taken your problem to Senator Dominick, as he is your Senator. If you concur in the approach I have suggested, please let me know so that I can take the matter up with Mr. Halaby personally.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "L. H. ...", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

MM:jt