July 11, 1950

The Honorable
Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Lehman:

I have your letter of July 7, 1950, referring to our recent correspondence concerning your questions with regard to S. 3504.

The expression to which you refer in your letter, "scheduled air transport aircraft", is intended to describe in the legislation operating conditions to be simulated in the testing program. It is not necessary that the testing be performed by scheduled air carriers in order to conform to the proposed testing conditions. I want to assure you that there was no intention nor is there any intention now to exclude any classification of legally operated air carriers, including scheduled, irregular, contract, or cargo carriers, from receiving the fullest consideration for participation in the testing program.

It should be pointed out that this bill provides for a testing program only. It contemplates the flight and ground testing of aircraft of advance design which are or may be provided by private aircraft manufacturers. In other words, this is not a construction program. The objectives are to obtain the best design and operating data possible prior to actual service use of these newly developed aircraft by any air carrier of whatever category.

I agree with your feeling concerning the requirement for expediting the development and production of an all cargo aircraft, taking into consideration the military and commercial air freight requirements. This Department, in administering the legislation, would give all possible emphasis to the accelerated flight testing of cargo aircraft.

We will include the Air Line Pilot's Association and other labor groups which have a primary interest in this program in an advisory capacity to assist in connection with the formulation of policies relating to the proposed legislation and will request their technical assistance in the modification and testing of the aircraft to be developed.
If you have further questions concerning the Department's position on the above matters, I will be pleased to have the opportunity to discuss them with you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Thos. W. S. Davis