

March 12, 1987

MEMORANDUM

To: Peter Sparber

From: Susan Stuntz *SS*

In advance of our 10:30 meeting Monday with Bob Lewis, here's an update on the airline situation...including federal and public affairs activity.

Issues for Discussion with Wendell Ford

. Overall cabin air quality/ventilation problems, and airline attempts to ignore those problems by focusing on smoking issues.

. DoT response to NAS report that supports the need to address the broader issue, and the DoT decision to conduct further study. Who is most appropriate to conduct the study?

. Make Ford aware of the tremendous help ALPA has been to us on the smoking issue.

Background on the Federal Level

The Department of Transportation has said it intends to proceed with a comprehensive study of cabin air quality, including current airline ventilation practices. DoT has offered us the opportunity to comment on which agency might conduct such a study.

The airlines continue to be silent on the issue. According to a conversation John Jarvis had with Bob Williams of United Airlines, United is concerned that Texas Air is attempting to use the nonsmoking angle as a marketing gimmick, and therefore laying low.

Background on the PR Front

Jim Savarese has spoken with the Aviation Safety and Health Assn. in Hawaii. My memo on that conversation is attached. ASHA is not capable of conducting an air quality study, however, it recommended that we consider attempting to divert any DoT study of cabin air quality to NIOSH. We probably could get AFL-CIO support there.

On the ALPA questionnaire, we have met a second time and

hammered out a survey instrument that we believe meets all needs. Cost: \$35,000 (1,000 interviews at \$35 apiece).

Paul Halasay of ALPA did us (and the nail polish remover industry) another favor when he ordered pulled from the ALPA monthly magazine an article suggesting that smokers and ETS are causing vision, concentration and fatigue problems in pilots. The article recommends a ban on smoking (and on use of nail polish remover) on all commercial aircraft.

Paul continues to remind us that he wants Wendell Ford to know of his assistance -- not only for the labor protection provisions under consideration in the Commerce Committee, but also because the committee is considering a drug testing bill for pilots (ALPA supports pre-employment and post crash testing, but not random testing). We may be able to be of greater help to him there in the House.

The Joint Council of Flight Attendants has endorsed a smoking ban on all commercial flights. As this council includes the Teamsters, we have asked Mike Forscey to advise us on the likelihood of turning that endorsement around. We also are exploring ways of reaching the Assn. of Flight Attendants.

Attachment