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5-1-91

Ms Adrienne Bowden -

Adrienne - this letter tracks the thoughts Surgn. Williams expressed on the airport.

Steve B.

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Washington Airports Task Force

April 26, 1991

Steve Brennan
County Administrator
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway
Room 209
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Mr. Brennan:

Thank you for bringing the Task Force up-to-date on the status of the San Diego region's quest for a new airport.

Through an accident of history, the Washington region has become a prototype for the relationship between air service and the city of the future. Twenty years ago, Washington was predominantly a federal city whose suburbs barely stretched beyond the boundaries of the originial L'Enfant plan. Today, the federal government accounts for only 20 percent of employment and low density zoning has caused urban sprawl and transportation volumes which are so thin that we are condemned to the motor car.

Air service did not create the urban sprawl, nor the lack of planning among the region's new suburban jurisdictions. Air service was, however, a major determinant of the nature of the new employment which has grown up in this area and in its creation may have been as important as location to the federal government. New companies moving into the region over the last 12 months have given the availability of international air service and easy access to markets, not the federal government, as their major reason for choosing this location.

The type of industry attracted has been largely service oriented and high-tech. Such industries reach way beyond any one nation for their market base and have a 50 percent higher propensity to travel than traditional smokestack industries. As a result, in the Washington area for every job regardless of its nature, ten airline tickets are sold each year, and a growing proportion are international.

In theory, the future begins with a vision of tomorrow's city, the allocation of land use to match the vision, and the transportation which

P.O. Box 17349, Washington Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C. 20041
OFFICE: (703) 661-8040 FAX: (703) 471-4608

will be required to link the pieces internally, as well as externally to the surrounding regions and the world. The latter is the role of the airport.

Airports exist to serve the needs of the region and their policies should be dictated by the region's vision of its future. When airports think of themselves in isolation there is a tendancy to optimize profit potential rather than public service, and then the region's needs can become secondary to those of the air carriers.

When the time is right, we would be delighted to offer help in three areas.

a) As the Washington Airports Task Force, we can share this region's experiences with you on a nonprofit basis. This could take the form of a simple presentation on what has happened in Washington and its relationship to air service in the broadest sense. The Task Force became actively involved in regional ground and land planning issues as they pertain to ease of access to the airport and thus air service.

As the Airport Strategies Group, an associated for profit organization we can;

b) Develop policies, the strategy to implement those policies, and identify the resources required.

c) Develop a concensus building support group and provide guidance on the best way for your community to develop the air services it will need to meet its commercial and lifestyle requirements in the future. Every community is different, and there is no magic formula which can be applied universally.

Your concept of a binational airport quite frankly is exciting. It fits tomorrow's world. But, it's novelty likely will generate opposition and the concept will place you on the "leading edge" of Washington's and Mexico City's international aviation policy formulation. Many people are worried by anything that ventures into the unknown and disturbs the status quo! It can be lonely out in front.

In the 21st Century, a well conceived airport is likely to be the dominant feature driving a city's economic health. We should be able to learn from history and ensure that airports operate in harmony with their surroundings.

I hope you do aim for a binational airport and I wish you good luck with the project.

Yours sincerely,

Leo

Leo J. Schefer

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