



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

*Valenti
to answer
W. J. ...
Jan 20*

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
Washington 25, D.C.

PERSONAL

January 13, 1964

Eno

Center for
Transportation

Dear Mr. President:

First, may I thank you from the heart for the inspiration of the visit to the ranch, the State of the Union Message and your loving kindness to my little boy in your reply to his thank you note. You took us to the top of the mountain!

Second, you have wisely set me to thinking anew how to produce a President Johnson program for the supersonic transport. It must provide for a more realistic, flexible and cooperative participation by industry, a maximum practicable contribution and execution of powerplant development by Secretary McNamara and more protection for you from Congressional and public controversy and criticism. I believe there is a better formula than any of those yet presented to you and I am working it out with C. R. Smith and Juan Trippe (whom I have already seen) and with Bob McNamara, Gene Black and Kermit Gordon who I will see in the next few days. Meanwhile, we have organized and put to work a 200-man DOD, NASA, FAA group to evaluate the six proposals due day after tomorrow. Messrs. McNamara and Webb have assigned experts to this group. The evaluators are, in fact, the same kind of people who would appraise a military airplane for DOD. We will assure your freedom of action in revising the program.

Third, I am submitting to Larry O'Brien, as you suggested, a list of about 30 FAA facilities whose closing and consolidation at an ultimate annual savings of over \$1,300,000 and 125 personnel. This list may be announced this Spring with repercussions which FAA can probably absorb. At the same time, we can state that the consolidation of an equal number of politically more difficult locations is being studied at your direction.

Finally, we have reshaped our public relations program in line with your gentle but firm chiding in Judge Moursounds living room the other afternoon. With so many over-active and eager

aviation press reporters and self-appointed "FAA spokesmen" in Washington it is not easy to keep the spectacular aspects of aviation out of the papers, but we will try to limit FAA news to routine technical releases and to periodic, on-the-record news conferences. This also means that even though rumors of my resignation and/or dismissal and press demands for comments thereon will continue to arise in the future, FAA will make every effort to avoid comment.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,


N. E. HALABY
Administrator

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.