

May 2, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Mr. J. G. Jarrard

RE: Captain Ferris

This afternoon I talked with both Congressman Harrison and King from Louisiana in regard to Captain Ferris. Both Congressmen expressed their great affection and admiration for Mr. Hill and described him as one of the outstanding Louisiana citizens. They stated they merely wanted to express to Eastern their interest in the Ferris case and to explore the possibility of a compromise.

Both Congressmen stated that they were not taking any position on the merits of the case. Harrison indicated that he had told Hill that although he (Hill) felt very strongly about the case, he had to expect the other side might feel just as strongly that Captain Ferris should be discharged.

I explained to the Congressmen that Captain Ferris's case had received serious consideration by many of the top management officials of Eastern, who had felt that they had no choice but to discharge Captain Ferris. I also explained that Eastern had no vindictive feelings toward Captain Ferris and certainly did not want to put a black mark on his record if it could be avoided; and, therefore, I felt sure that if Mr. Hill wanted to compromise the case, Eastern would be willing to accept a resignation so that Captain Ferris would not have a black mark against him and would have a better opportunity to secure employment elsewhere.

I also explained to the Congressmen the procedures under the Railway Labor Act and the Pilots' Collective Bargaining Agreement whereby Captain Ferris would have an opportunity to have his case considered before the System Board of Adjustment.

The Congressmen indicated that they did not believe that Captain Ferris and Mr. Hill would be interested in a resignation as a compromise. However, Congressman Harrison asked for my full name and phone number in case he should want to contact me again on the matter, and I expressed my willingness to discuss it with him at any time.

Both Congressmen were very friendly and seemed to be merely carrying out an obligation they felt to an old friend.

GAMBELL, HARLAN, HUSKELL, MOYE & RICHARDSON

BY:

William G. Ball, Jr.

WGB:jh