

Chilling Report on Airport Security



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IF SAMUEL BYCK, who was foiled in his attempt to dive an airliner into the White House, had tried his home airport to Philadelphia instead of the more secure Baltimore, he might have carried off his fantastic scheme.

This is the chilling finding of Representative John Murphy, (Dem.-N.Y.), based on confidential Federal Aviation Administration documents on Philadelphia and his own clandestine visit to the Philadelphia airport.

We have also had access to a confidential, nationwide FAA security survey which shows 80 per cent of the nation's airport weapon detectors don't work and half of these cannot identify pistols concealed on a passenger.

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BYCK USED just such a .22 calibre "Saturday Night Special" to kill a security guard, a co-pilot and himself on February 22. Had the deranged Philadelphian passed quietly through a defective "magnetometer" in Philadelphia instead of staging a Wild West shootout in Baltimore, said Murphy, "ironically enough . . . he might have succeeded."

For the thick sheaf of documents show that Philadelphia was precisely the place to pull off the escapade. States the FAA bluntly:

"The history of the attempt to obtain security and compliance with Federal Aviation regulations at Philadelphia is one

of continuous and intentional delay and failure to comply . . ."

The FAA documents, substantiated by Murphy's undercover visit with an FAA inspector, reveal unknown persons drift back and forth through unlocked security gates, and vehicles enter "secure" jet areas without challenge.

"Trans World Airlines has officially complained of their inability to maintain the security of their 'sterile concourse' because of the failure of the airport to secure their doors," says the FAA report. "Aircraft are accessible (to) unauthorized people."

The nationwide FAA survey also found poor security at Albany and Buffalo, N.Y.; Fairbanks, Alaska; Lynchburg, Va.; and San Francisco.

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IN A LETTER to House Commerce Chairman Harley Staggers (Dem.-W. Va.) Murphy described a recent forced landing by a United Airlines jet caused by a passenger armed with an undetected knife.

Based on past experiences, we can anticipate more such acts," he wrote. To head off "an exorbitant man-made aircraft disaster," said Murphy, \$7.5 million should be allocated immediately to beef up major airport security equipment.

Murphy also wants to train a federal airport protection force to replace the "untrained 'rent-a-cops'" now employed for security.