

Notes on PeopleAir Force Reinstates C-5A Cost Analyst

The Air Force has complied with a Federal Civil Service Commission ruling yesterday and announced it would not contest the reinstatement of A. Ernest Fitzgerald, the controversial civilian cost analyst it fired after he exposed cost overruns on the C5A cargo plane in 1970.

"Action is under way to restore him to appropriate position with back pay retroactive to Jan. 5, 1970," an Air Force statement said.

"I'm ready to go back to work," Mr. Fitzgerald said. "I'm ready to do that tomorrow morning."

Dismissed in a so-called "economy move" after he revealed to Congress huge cost overruns on construction of the military transport plane, Mr. Fitzgerald fought the Air Force's action with the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union. The Civil Service Commission ordered his reinstatement Sept. 18.

With a Civil Service rating of GS-17, paying \$36,000 a year, he is now due, in back pay, some \$125,000, less his earnings since he was dismissed.

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A. Ernest Fitzgerald