

4 JUN 1976

Mr. Timothy H. Hunter
901 Middle Drive
Woodruff Place
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Re: MR 141 (76)

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This is in response to your letter of May 3, 1976, alleging that Pan American World Airways has committed violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act). I have reviewed your allegations and have concluded that they do not furnish reason to believe that the Act has been violated. Accordingly, upon my recommendation, the Commission has decided to close its files in this matter.

Should additional information come to your attention which you believe to be within the jurisdiction of the Commission, please contact me again. The attorney assigned to this matter was Victor Sterling (Telephone No. 302/382-4033).

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.
John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

VSterling:mpc:5/18/76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: MAY 26 1976

NO. MUR 141 (76)

REC'D: 5/11/76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.

Complainant's Name: Timothy N. Hunter (unnotarized letter)

Respondent's Name: Pan American World Airways, President Ford

Relevant Statute: 18 U.S.C. §610

Internal Reports Checked: None

Federal Agencies Checked: None

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION

The complainants allege that the respondent, Pan American Airways, staged an aircraft "christening" performed by Mrs. Gerald Ford, which amounted to a contribution for the purpose of influencing the result of the Indiana primary in favor of President Ford.

PRELIMINARY LEGAL ANALYSIS

There is no evidence that Mrs. Ford's appearance at the christening was in connection with a Federal election; in any event, it is questionable whether the actions taken by Pan AM constitute a contribution within the meaning of the definition of 2 U.S.C. §441b(b)(2).

RECOMMENDATION

Close file; send attached letters.

Date of Next Commission Review: _____



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Mr. Timothy N. Hunter
901 Middle Drive
Woodruff Place
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Re: MUR 141 (76)

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This is in response to your letter of May 5, 1976, alleging that Pan American World Airways has committed violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act). I have reviewed your allegations and have concluded that they do not furnish reason to believe that the Act has been violated. Accordingly, upon my recommendation, the Commission has decided to close its files in this matter.

Should additional information come to your attention which you believe to be within the jurisdiction of the Commission, please contact me again. The attorney assigned to this matter was Victor Sterling (Telephone No. 202/382-4055).

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel



901 Middle Drive
Woodruff Place
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

5 May 1976

Federal Election Commission
1325 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sirs:

I believe that a campaign violation took place recently in the presidential primary race in this state involving a U.S.-government regulated airline (which the press has reported is seeking cartel and monopoly subsidies from the Congress) and President Gerald Ford's wife.

On April 30th (Friday), four days before the Indiana primary election in which President Ford was a (losing) candidate, Mrs. Ford came to "christen" an airplane belonging to the Pan American Airlines Corporation. The event was questionable on several grounds: a.) its obvious timing relative to the election the following Tuesday b.) the fact that Pan American Airlines does not fly from this city c.) that there is no scheduled foreign service from this city and, d.) that the Indianapolis Weir Cook airport does not even have ranking as an "international airport." Therefore, the "media-event" staged by Pan American Airlines could have had little direct publicity benefit to that corporation.

As is known from press accounts, Pan American Airlines is seeking tariff "protection" from the competition of foreign-owned airlines. President Ford is in a position to make the arrangements for such "protection" as a consequence of his office and the regulatory bodies which have members nominated by him.

It seems to me that the event generated a lot of favorable media publicity for President Ford as a result of his wife visiting this city. This publicity was translatable into votes (but, happily, not enough) in the election. The event was, therefore, an election contribution by a corporation to a candidate's campaign--a clear violation of the law. Further, since the event featured the President's wife and obviously had the acquiescence of President Ford, he and his campaign organization should be indicted for criminal corruption, conspiracy against the people of the United States, and for favoring private interests over public.

Sincerely,

Timothy N. Hunter

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901 Middle Drive
Woodruff Place
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201



Federal Election Commission
1325 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

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