

CAB to Contact Two Airlines About Freight Rates on Snow-gos

The Civil Aeronautics Board has said that it will contact two airlines in Alaska concerning their increased air freight rates on snow machines but has indicated that it can take no official action on the matter at this time.

The increase in rates has come under recent criticism from shippers and from the Alaska Native Industries Co-operative Association (ANICA), represented by Donald S. Dorsey, manager.

Dorsey wrote a letter to Sen. Gravel on Nov. 24, 1969 explaining that during the past two years, the two major airlines serving the native villages of Alaska, Wien Consolidated and Alaska Airlines, had doubled their freight rates on snow-machines.

Contending that this increase seemed to place "an additional financial strain on the already-poor villagers," he asked the senator to furnish him with any information as to why such an increase was necessary.

Gravel then wrote the director of Community and Congressional

Relations of the CAB, John W. Dregge.

In reply, Dregge wrote that "In view of the interest expressed by Mr. Dorsey as well as a number of shippers in the increase in rates on snow machines, we shall contact the carrier and advise you further on the matter."

In a subsequent letter to Dor-

sey, Gravel said that he would in turn, contact the manager of ANICA upon receiving further information from the CAB.

"Although it appears they do not have the authority in this area, the mere fact that they will write the carrier may have some effect on this tariff," Gravel wrote.

In the letter to Gravel, the

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Sno-go Freight

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CAB spokesman explained that both Alaska Airlines and Wien Consolidated were permitted to increase their rates after proving to the board that it was necessary for them to do so.

"No complaints were received from Alaskan shippers protesting any of the foregoing increases at the time they were filed," the letter stated.

On this matter, Dorsey contended in a letter to the Tundra Times, that "the average villager does not have available to him a traffic man well versed in how to read tariffs."

"Neither," he added, "do I know of any media going to the villages which would carry proposed rate changes."

The ANICA manager also wrote letters to Senator Ted Stevens and Representative Howard W. Pollock asking for information on the rate increase but did not indicate that he had received a response from them.