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O T T A W A
June 4, 1986

Hon. Don Mazankowski
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I have had a number of discussions with a constituent, Martin Doyle, who continues to agonize over his dismissal by [REDACTED] in 1981. He is convinced that his dismissal resulted from his readiness to challenge management decisions on the maintenance of aircraft for [REDACTED] flights, but he remains anxious about the risks to himself of fighting for aviation safety in the courts.

Mr. Doyle has written you requesting that you give consideration to supporting his struggle. This unusual request deserves favourable consideration, given the plight of aircraft maintenance engineers as well as pilots who want to assert safety considerations but have no contractual protection against demanding employers. It is not sufficient to investigate tragedies after they have occurred. We need to strengthen the means of preventing tragedies!

I would also ask your consideration of an administrative means of providing protection for aircraft maintenance engineers and pilots who may be dismissed when they seek to assert their own professional sense of safe operations. It should surely be possible to establish an appeal procedure allowing such dismissed employees to have their case adjudicated by an appeal board appointed by the Minister of Transport or created by the Canadian Aviation Safety Board. The appeal board should have the power to order reinstatement of aircraft maintenance engineers and pilots who have been dismissed because of their concern about safety.

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