

became effective, although before that time a person could request and receive permission to inspect individual issuances in the manual.

As to transcripts of conferences between the CAB and other persons, before the effectiveness of the Freedom of Information Act these transcripts were available only to what we called interested persons. This qualification doesn't now apply.

The Board now keeps for the public's use a single list describing all forms used in dealing with the public together with the forms themselves. While the basic information was available before, it had not been assembled in this convenient form before the Freedom of Information Act.

Before the act became effective, the Board's minutes were available only to persons properly and directly concerned with the subject thereof. This qualification doesn't now apply.

The Board now displays in its public reference room copies of opinions of its General Counsel which are contained in numerous letters prepared over the years and an index of these opinions is displayed.

The Board didn't do this before the act became effective, although response would have been given prior to that time to an inquirer as to individual matters of interest.

With the effectiveness of the Freedom of Information Act, there has been prepared and maintained for the public in our public reference room an index of all materials available to the public. In the 9 months from July of last year through March of this year, there have been 13,360 requests for inspection of the Board's records.

Our records show there have been five instances where the records were not made available in response to those requests, and in none of those five cases was an appeal taken to the Board's Executive Director or to the Board. Two of these cases involve requests for material from Board investigative files and the other three of the five involved information received from air carriers under circumstances where we felt the information was to be considered privileged.

In addition to those five cases out of 13,360 where we have not made a disclosure, there was one other instance where the staff officially denied a request but on appeal to the Board's Executive Director, the staff decision was overturned and the record was made available.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Chairman, how would a question of continuation of a route certificate arise, and has such an occasion come about?

Mr. CROOKER. If authority has been given temporarily, of course, there would be an application by the carrier for a renewal of the authority.

Mr. BROOKS. What if it was given as a regular certification? They have had a certificate for 10 years to fly from A to B. Does that have to be renewed on a regular basis, or is it a perpetual grant of that authority?

Mr. CROOKER. No, sir; I will check with Mr. Goldman, the General Counsel, or Mr. Andrews, but I apprehend that in the majority of these matters there has been no termination date fixed.

Mr. GOLDMAN. In most instances the certificates are of indefinite duration. In common parlance they are called permanent certificates subject to the provisions of the act which empower the Board to alter, amend, modify, or suspend if the public convenience and necessity require it.