

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to appoint Richard Joseph O'Melia of Maryland, to be Acting Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board until he designates a new Chairman in 1975. Mr. O'Melia was appointed to a full six year term by President Ford on September 27, 1974, and his term, therefore, expires on December 31, 1980.

Since 1957, Mr. O'Melia has been a member of the staff of the Civil Aeronautics Board, serving as Special Assistant in the Office of the General Counsel, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Enforcement. From 1953 to 1955, he was a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Government Operations, serving from 1953 to 1955 as General Counsel of the Committee.

He was born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, on May 24, 1917. Mr. O'Melia received his M.A. degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1939 and his LL. B. from the Marquette University Law School in 1948, following his service as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1941 to 1946. From 1948 to 1951 he was engaged in the private practice of law with the firm of O'Melia and Kaye, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and from 1951 to 1953 he was Assistant City Attorney for the City of Milwaukee.

Mr. O'Melia is married to the former Anetta Jane O'Neil. They have five children.

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