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NAPERVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT?

“He’s made it to Sydney Australia. And he’s trapped there. He can’t quite make it to Bali because the two Australian Airlines, Ansett and Qantas, are on strike. He won’t fly on the Balinese airline, Garuda, because he won’t fly on any airline where the pilots believe in reincarnation.”

- The American writer, actor, Spalding Gray

Ever since I broke the big story that Naperville was being seriously considered as the site of the third area airport, I’ve been inundated with mail. You’ve certainly let me know where you stand on this matter. Here is just a small sample of the mail I’ve been getting:

“It’s a great idea as long as the runways are located on the south side of Naperville and as far away from us as possible. I mean I wouldn’t want my home value to decrease to \$800,000.”

A.K. Oak Brook

“I hadn’t heard about the new international airport until I read it in the Sun. I thought the new airport was going to be built in Gary or that other place near the Missouri border. I think it’s a lousy idea.”

B.R. Batavia

I would like to bring you up-to-date on the plans for a new airport, slightly bigger than O’Hare, to be located within the Naperville city limits. I’ve talked with lots of people about this and there are clearly two sides to the story. In fact, most of my friends say they’re dead set against the new airport locating in Naperville.

“We already have an hour-long drive from the south part of town to the north”, my friend Bill, the State Farm agent, told me.

“This is going to going to cost us a lot of money in infrastructure” says Bruce, the broker out at Dean Witter. “We’d be better off spending the money on education”.

On the other hand, my friend Ray, who owns a restaurant in Glen Ellyn says the new “Evian International, or whatever it’s going to be called” will be real convenient.

There seems to be real support for the project in Romeoville and Joliet as well. In fact, each of the seven people from Joliet who have flown on airplanes are in favor of the proposal.

Mayor George Practical of Naperville is caught right in the middle. He would like to please both sides but those in favor of the airport and those opposed to it are becoming increasingly strident. Tee-shirts are popping up all over the western suburbs with sayings like:

“Plop it down in Naperville”

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“Peotone who?”

and

“Keep the Concorde away from Catigny”.

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