

# Seaplanes Compete With Jets

By **DON BEDWELL**

Herald Aviation Writer

Can an ancient flying service, operating vintage set planes, find happiness competing against jet airlines?

Chalk's International Airline announced Wednesday that it will do just that between Miami and Nassau — and it contended that its lumbering amphibians can get the passenger where he's going quicker.

Capt. Dean Franklin, the company's board chairman, said it will begin service within 45 days between Biscayne Bay and Paradise Island in Nassau's harbor.

**"WE'LL INITIATE** Miami-Nassau service with three daily roundtrip flights," Franklin said. One of those three will stop at Bimini, Cat Cay and Chub Cay en route.

Franklin, whose airline has been operating between Miami and the islands for more than 50 years, said the novel service "will reaffirm the importance of amphibious carriers to the transportation industry."

Whether it does or not, it creates a confrontation between a tiny company operating amphibious aircraft made in the 1940s and '50s and Eastern and Pan American with their all-jet service.

Chalk's newest aircraft, Grumman Mallards, carry only 17 passengers and will require 1½ hours to make the trip nonstop, against about 40 minutes for the jets.

**BUT FRANKLIN** claims that a passenger can actually get from home to destination more quickly because he can go directly from one downtown to the other, skipping those airport detours.

He promised air fares that will be close to the big airlines' rates (which range from \$38 to \$54 roundtrip) as well as a saving on taxi costs.

"We won't have miniskirted stewardesses," said a Chalk's spokesman, "but we think we can get you where you're going quicker."