CAB Delays Airline's Bid

WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Antilles Air Boats Inc. of Christiansted, has delayed their scheduled shuttle service between waterfront St. Thomas to King's Alley dock in St. Croix, due to delaying action of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Owner Charles F. Blair, former Brigadier General in the Air Force with over seven hundred Atlantic crossings to his credit, said the service would cost fifteen dollars round trip, using nine-passenger Grumman Goose amphibians.

Caribair has opposed his application on grounds that amphibious landings by the 8000 pound, twin-engine Goose in harbors would be uncomfortable for passengers because of the "chop" of the waves.

Antilles claim a half hour saving by harbor landings eliminating the airport trip. The 46 mile trip, according to the application, is "ideally suited" for air taxi service designed to "supplement" Caribair, who carried 65,234 persons between the two islands last year.

Originally scheduled to start operations on Jan. 6, Antilles announced that it will now begin on Jan. 20.