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COMMENTARY - JOHN CHANCELLOR, NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

### Wayports

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One million passengers a week pass through O'Hare airport in Chicago. But you probably knew that, anyway, or sensed it, if you've been at O'Hare recently. There's been a 65% increase in air travel in the last ten years, and there'll be a 65% increase in the next ten years. Welcome to a crowded future.

But it won't have to be that way if the proponents of the "wayport" concept are successful. Wayports would be large airports, located far from big cities, used for transferring from one plane to another. As things stand today, more than half of the passengers at big-city airports are on their way somewhere else. More than half the people at O'Hare aren't going to Chicago. So why not build an airport somewhere in an uncrowded part of Illinois that would be used for transferring? It could serve passengers who are going to Minneapolis or Kansas City or Dallas.

A chain of wayports across the country would make life easier for millions of passengers and ease congestion at the big-city airports. A wayport would be simple and relatively cheap. Just a transfer point. Obsolete Air Force bases would be even cheaper.

The airlines might grumble about rearranging their schedules, but they know the airports they use now won't be able to handle the load in a few years. The system is bursting at the seams right now. Wayports are the solution. It's one of those ideas that restores your faith in human ingenuity.