

[§ 1307]

tions as he deems proper and, subject to the following provisions of this subsection, may adjust and pay losses, compromise and settle claims, whether in favor of or against the United States and pay the amount of any judgment rendered against the United States in any suit, or the amount of any settlement agreed upon, in respect of any claim under insurance authorized by this title. In the case of any aircraft which is insured under the provisions of this title, (1) the policy shall specify a stated amount to be paid in the event of total loss, and such stated amount shall not exceed an amount determined by the Secretary, after consultation with the Civil Aeronautics Board, to represent the fair and reasonable value of the aircraft, and (2) the amount of any claim which is compromised, settled, adjusted, or paid shall in no event exceed such stated amount.

Forms, Policies, Amounts Insured, and Rates

(b) The Secretary may prescribe and change forms and policies, and fix, adjust, and change the amounts insured and rates of premium provided for in this title: *Provided*, That with respect to policies in effect at the time any such change is made, such change shall apply only with the consent of the insured.

Manner of Administration

(c) The Secretary, in administering this title, may exercise his powers, perform his duties and functions, and make his expenditures, in accordance with commercial practice in the aviation insurance business. Except as authorized in subsection (d) of this section, no insurance broker or other person acting in a similar intermediary capacity shall be paid any fee or other consideration by the Secretary by virtue of his participation in arranging any insurance wherein the Secretary directly insures any of the risk thereof.

Employment of Aviation Insurance Companies and Agents

(d) The Secretary may, and whenever he finds it practical to do so shall, employ companies or groups of companies authorized to do an aviation insurance business in any State of the United States, to act as his underwriting agent. The Secretary may allow such companies or groups of companies fair and reasonable compensation for servicing insurance written by such companies or groups of companies as underwriting agent for the Secretary. The services of such underwriting agents may be utilized in the adjustment of claims under insurance provided by this title, but no claim shall be paid unless and until it has been approved by the Secretary. Such compensation may include an allowance for expenses reasonably incurred by such agent, but such allowance shall not include any payment by such agent on account of solicitation for or stimulation of insurance business.

Cooperation With Other Agencies

(e) The Secretary with the consent of any executive department, independent establishment, or other agency of the Government, including any field service thereof, may avail himself of the use of information, services, facilities, officers, and employees thereof in carrying out the provisions of this title.