

Miss Taylor's Award cited her "for heroic action in coping with an attempted armed hijacking in the cabin of National Airlines Flight No. 30 enroute from New Orleans to Miami on November 17, 1965." Although she was ordered to do so with a gun in her back, Miss Taylor refused to allow an armed passenger intent on taking over the plane to go into the cockpit, thus enabling the pilots to return to New Orleans, where the would-be hijacker was subdued and deplaned by police.

COOL UNDER FIRE

The official report submitted by Captain Dean Cooper, in command of NAL Flight No. 30 on the night of November 17, 1965, clearly reveals that even though continually threatened, Miss Taylor remained calm and in complete control of the situation, and not only showed unusual heroism in the face of danger but also safeguarded the lives of other passengers by her actions. By maintaining constant phone conversation with the plane captain, Miss Taylor was able to keep the hijacker's attention focused on her thereby removing other passengers and crew members from immediate danger. At the same time, she was able, in the process of relaying messages between the would-be hijacker and the officers in the cockpit, to give Captain Cooper the time he needed to turn the plane back to New Orleans where both police and FBI had been alerted. With Miss Taylor playing the leading role, a deliberate attempt was made to stall for time while the gunman was led to believe that every attempt was being made to complete a special phone call to a telephone number in Brownsville, Texas as he had requested.

Captain Cooper's official report points out that periodically his phone conversations with Miss Taylor were interrupted by the sound of gunfire. Through all of this, Miss Taylor remained calm, and in control of the situation. Sparked on by her determination and fearless actions, other passengers helped to subdue and disarm the would-be hijacker shortly before the plane landed at New Orleans.

Mr. DENT. Our next witness is the executive vice president of the National Employment Association and also the representative of the American Retail Federation, Mr. Frederick T. Finigan.

Gentlemen, you may go in the order you decide between yourselves.

Mr. HARMON. Mr. Finigan will go first as he has to catch a plane back to New York.

STATEMENT OF FREDERICK T. FINIGAN, AMERICAN RETAIL FEDERATION

Mr. FINIGAN. I want to thank Mr. Harmon for allowing me to go first. I will paraphrase my statement which will be formally introduced.

Mr. DENT. Without objection the whole statement will be made part of the record.

Mr. FINIGAN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Frederick T. Finigan. I am vice president of Allied Stores Corp. I appear before you today as chairman of the task force on equal employment opportunity of the American Retail Federation.

I have with me my associate, Donald F. White, employee relations counsel of the American Retail Federation.

The American Retail Federation is composed of 47 State and 26 national retail associations who, in turn, number among their membership, retailers of all types and sizes.

At the outset, it should be emphasized that our federation favors the adoption of legislation which would protect the employment opportunities of the older worker. Further, we have undertaken a careful study of the proposals before this committee, especially in light of our policy, which states as follows: