

I think this is something that should be of concern to all people. That is one of the reasons we should have rather broad hearings, Mr. Chairman, so that we can satisfy the public that everything is being done that should be done in this area.

Have you a comment?

General McKee. I have a comment, Mr. Devine. Occasionally, whenever we can, we try to take the tower personnel on a trip to some other place where they can see another type of operation, like going into New York. As far as I know, we haven't had anyone refuse to go yet.

Mr. Devine. I know, there are some frantic times in those towers. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for these men. I don't know why they all don't have nervous breakdowns after a while.

Mr. Thomas. A large number of them are pilots and were selected on that basis.

The Chairman. Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General McKee, I understand you said there are about 418 airports that serve commercial aviation that do not have this surveillance radar. Is that about correct?

General McKee. That figure is correct.

Mr. Rogers. How many airports are served by scheduled commercial aviation that don't even have towers?

General McKee. Without towers?

Mr. Thomas. 285, Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers. As I understand it, you have a criteria where as soon as they have enough numbers of planes coming in and out this triggers whether they would get a tower or radar.

General McKee. That is correct.

Mr. Rogers. How many airports have qualified under your criteria that do not yet have radar and do not yet have towers? Could you give me those figures?

Mr. Thomas. Under the present criteria that we read for radar, there are some six. On towers there are around 50.

Mr. Rogers. When was your criteria last changed?

Mr. Thomas. I believe it was last changed about 1960. It was last reviewed in 1965 and reevaluated. It is looked at about every other year.

Mr. Rogers. But there has been no change since 1960 in the criteria?

Mr. Thomas. No, sir; the tower one has stood the test of time very well and the radar one was changed about 6 years ago. It was looked at again last year. Correction, 1965.

Mr. Rogers. What is your budget request for radar systems in the present budget, and for towers?

Mr. Thomas. There is nothing in the budget request for radar systems or towers in the current budget.

Mr. Rogers. Nothing?

Mr. Thomas. That is correct.

Mr. Rogers. As I understand it, your agency is going to get into the SST, which is already at approximately \$700 million, if this appropriation is approved, and the House has already approved \$142 million.

Do you give greater priority to the SST than to the radar systems and towers that perhaps do something on safety now?