

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Those have been requested before, but I am sure they will comply with that request. Some other members have requested it.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Devine.

Mr. DEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General McKee, I am not accusing you or your organization of dereliction of anything. I would join in your remarks of commendation, particularly for your air traffic controllers. I would ask you or any member on the panel right now if you wouldn't agree that in the interests of air safety, and the interests of the public, and of the public understanding, might be well served if we would have additional public hearings in which we gave the representatives of the Air Line Pilots' Association, Aircraft Owners & Pilots' Association, air traffic controllers, perhaps members of the public, an opportunity to testify and air this thing?

Do you think you could gain any information or insight by such hearings?

General McKee. Well, as you know, we certainly have no objection to any hearings the committee wants to hold. But as you know, we have frequent meetings with the Air Line Pilots' Association, and with all these associations, and I have urged, for example, the Air Traffic Controllers Association, these other associations, to give us their ideas, any ideas that they have on improving safety.

A lot of their recommendations we take, and some of them are just impracticable to take for one reason or another. They are beyond our capability.

Mr. DEVINE. Yes; but that is true of you as the Administrator and within your organization; but I am concerned with the public image of commercial and general aviation. I think there are too many misunderstandings. I think if these things are aired, that maybe the public would have more confidence.

We are told every time there is an air crash, whether it is a midair collision, or something else, there are immediate cancellations of reservations, and then these people get courage again, and 2 or 3 days later, they start flying again.

General McKee. That is true; but then they pick up next week. The thing keeps on growing. I am concerned about the rapidity with which air traffic is growing. It is fantastic.

Mr. DEVINE. Again, talking about lack of facilities, when these jumbo jets like the 747 come in, I understand that you are not as concerned with the air safety problem as you are with how you are going to handle them when they get on the ground, with parking facilities, both for the aircraft, handling the bags, and things like that.

Isn't that a great problem?

General McKee. From the air safety point of view, we can handle the jumbo jet just as easily as we can handle present airplanes. Obviously, if you happen to be so unfortunate as to have an accident, in one accident, you obviously would kill more people; but the big problem confronting the aviation community and various communities in the country is providing the facilities at the airport to handle that many people.