

We do not think that the remedy for the numerous grave problems which now exist is to be found within the Agency itself, although we do support the Agency in every way. We intend to ask Congress to enact a new law, which in essence will:

(1) Take Air Traffic Controllers outside the GS rating structure, and place them in a separate group similar to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) Provide much higher compensation for front-line controllers, and at the same time limit the number of hours which they may work during any one week (as pilots are limited) and permit early retirement.

(3) Increase future qualifications for controller-applicants to include formal education and flight education.

(4) Authorize by law the participation by controllers in flight programs of all kinds, including unlimited familiarization flights with consenting carriers. It is our thesis that the more a controller knows about flight the better controller he will be. In addition, he will then be suited for some useful occupation when he is no longer sufficiently resilient to take the pressures of air traffic control.

I should like to emphasize that this Organization involves only air traffic controllers, and is not backed or financed by any larger group. We have refused offers of outside help, and will continue to do so. It is our view that the controllers of vast changes in the duties and responsibilities of air traffic control during the past few years, and similar changes forecast for the years to come, must be sharply upgraded if they are to have any chance to keep pace with demands confronting them. I hope that we may have the support of the agency in accomplishing our aims.

Agency officials are welcome at our meetings and are invited to make any suggestions they may think appropriate.

Very truly yours,

F. LEE BAILEY,
Acting Executive Director.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Bailey, when was your organization formed?

Mr. BAILEY. January 1968.

Mr. PICKLE. Then you have only been in operation a couple of months or more?

Mr. BAILEY. Yes.

Mr. PICKLE. Why did you form this organization when there were two organizations in this field?

Mr. BAILEY. It was the controllers who formed the organization and they approached me and I am simply their general counsel until they can afford an active competent executive director; we are satisfied neither of those organizations could accomplish their objectives for two reasons:

First, one was a militant union type organization operating under the Executive order which they did not feel was appropriate to their professional status and their professional aims and responsibilities.

Another factor was that a professional organization which at one point had quite a large membership but which included in addition to controllers those who are clearly in the business of management and the controllers did not feel that it represented their interests.

Second, because of a failure to support individual controllers in trouble in times past, the organization's strength had dropped and a great deal of hostility had set in in certain areas. They felt rather than working back up to a beginning in an organization in which they lost faith, they felt it was better to start with a new concept.

Mr. PICKLE. Do you say these two organizations have lost faith and have not done their job?

Mr. BAILEY. I would say because of their sharp differences in strengths in different areas and the hostility that exists in a given area that does not have strength it has tended to divide the controllers and