

(Congressman Tenzer's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. HERBERT TENZER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to appear before the members of this subcommittee in support of H.R. 3400, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the Honorable Harley O. Staggers.

I particularly want to thank the chairman of this subcommittee, the Honorable Samuel N. Friedel for scheduling these hearings despite the heavy pending legislative calendar and the vast amount of legislation handled during the first session of the 90th Congress.

Mr. Chairman, more than 20 Members of the House have sponsored legislation identical or similar to H.R. 3400. The legislation when enacted will authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish aircraft noise standards and to implement them when issuing flight certificates under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958. The Secretary will also be authorized to modify or revoke flight certificates previously issued where the flights do not conform with the standards established.

On January 10, 1967, the opening day of this session of Congress I introduced H.R. 1398. My bill not only provides certification authority but also provides federal funds to finance the modification of aircraft and airport design to reduce jet noise. H.R. 1398 also provides for Federal participation to assist local governments to acquire undeveloped land near airports as buffer zones to reduce the annoying effect of jet noise.

While I appear this morning in support of H.R. 3400 as a step in the right direction, I respectfully suggest that the members of this subcommittee take a good hard look at H.R. 1398, because much broader legislation will be needed before a comprehensive noise abatement program is developed.

As you may know, I have addressed myself to this subject on more than 20 occasions in the House during the 89th and 90th Congresses. In the 89th, the direction of my effort was to alert my colleagues to the national scope of the problem and the need for legislative action. As the Representative of the people of the 5th Congressional District and as a private citizen residing within the shadow of Kennedy International Airport, my family and I have experienced the annoying problem of jet noise.

We have personally experienced, since the flight of the first jets at Kennedy International Airport, the interference with our daily lives caused by jet noise.

We have not since that time been able to enjoy the quiet and peaceful environment of our homes. Our lawns, terraces and front porches no longer serve the purposes for restful recreation on evenings and weekends, when indoors our telephone conversations are disturbed and our television programs are interfered with.

Our children's education is disturbed at school. Our church and synagogue worship services and our outdoor community activities are marred by the frequency of low flying aircraft with their accompanying shrieks of jet noise. Who is not aware of the problems of the teacher—the minister—the priest—the rabbi—waiting with bated breath for the jet—with noise in its wake to pass overhead.

The effect of jet noise on property values; the hazard to the nation's health; the increasing volume of litigation by property owners and the disturbance of the peaceful enjoyment of our homes are some of the aspects of this problem which I have spoken about during the past two years.

At this point I take the liberty of citing for reference purposes the chronology of my efforts in behalf of jet noise abatement legislation and statements on the subject: