

Washington area are two sections of the Nation where relief is most urgently required.

At present, the Federal Government has no authority to impose regulations concerning aircraft noise abatement. Certification of the noise level of jet engines, coupled with high-priority research programs, seems to be the most feasible means of reducing jet noise in the near future.

I have introduced two bills which I believe will give the Federal Aviation Agency the authority to prescribe and amend standards for the measurement and control of aircraft noise which General McKee said 2 years ago were "needed to assist us in alleviating a most serious problem."

My first bill, H.R. 92, empowers the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, consistent with the primacy of air safety, "to prescribe and amend standards for the measurement of aircraft noise and to prescribe and amend such rules and regulations as he may find necessary for the control and abatement of aircraft noise, including the application of such standards, rules, and regulations in the issuance, amendment, modification, suspension, or revocation of any certificates authorized by this title."

In addition, the second bill, H.R. 91, authorizes the Administrator to reimburse domestic air carriers and the owners and operators of any airport for up to 30 percent of the cost of modifying their equipment to comply with such regulations and to reimburse the States or municipalities for up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring necessary land and making other adjustments to comply with such regulations.

In my judgment, legislation along these lines would give the Federal Government the authority that Secretary Boyd told this committee earlier in these hearings is necessary if we are to deal effectively with the problem of aircraft noise.

However, the application of regulations will fulfill only a portion of the need. Research to develop and perfect a quieter jet engine is the ultimate answer. Eight different research panels in two different executive agencies have been studying the problems of jet noise and related air travel questions but none has yet arrived at conclusions or presented a coherent proposal for what must be done.

A third bill that I have introduced, while not pending before this committee, would authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct research and investigations, including the investigation of complaints, cooperate with local civic organizations and municipalities, and coordinate and consolidate current research projects with regard to aircraft noise abatement. Among the specific duties that would be assigned to NASA are the measurement of noise as it relates to the distress of people on the ground; the development of quieter aircraft through research in airframe and powerplant designs; and the development of a comprehensive body of knowledge of methods and devices for noise abatement. I would hope that your committee would be able to work with the Committee on Science and Astronautics to expedite research in this area and the related problem of the emission of pollutants from jet engines into the atmosphere.