

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN W. WYDLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. WYDLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask unanimous consent, if I could, to put in some prior statements I have made on this subject that I would like included in the record, but I don't want to take the time today to read them to the committee.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Thank you very much. The items submitted will be included in the record at the conclusion of your testimony.

Mr. WYDLER. My comments today, Mr. Chairman, are simply to urge very strongly that this committee do more than hold these hearings concerning this bill, but that this committee in effect and in fact get this bill onto the floor of the House of Representatives as quickly as possible so that the Congress can vote on it and pass it. It is needed and it is needed desperately.

I have been fighting for the last 5 years in Congress trying to get some action by the Federal Government in the jet noise field. I think it is important. The most disturbing fact that most Congressmen don't appreciate is that when we talk about jet noise it is not just as some annoyance but actually a noise of an intensity that just destroys normal living. I am testifying in that sense and I have received complaints from my district from churches that they cannot conduct their religious services because of it. I have received complaints from schools in my district that they cannot hold their classes because of it.

I have had testimony from doctors in my district that it is actually destructive of the mental and physical health of the people living in my district.

So that I think the first thing to get a proper perspective of what we are talking about is not just some airplane passing thousands of feet overhead which may cause some little noise or disturbance, but something that dominates the lives of those who have to live with it to the point where it actually destroys the way in which they are living.

There was a story recently in a Washington newspaper and repeated in a New York newspaper about the President attending a ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial not long ago where the ceremony in which he was participating was interrupted constantly by the jet noise of the planes coming down the Potomac River to land at National Airport. The story went on to explain how the President called over an aide and shortly after that the planes stopped coming over and the program proceeded.

The only trouble with that story is that the people who are affected by this day after day in my district can't call over anybody and tell them to stop the planes. They keep right on coming.

I think that we in the Congress, to truly try to appreciate this problem, would have to be subjected to this kind of noise. What I would like to suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the committee, is that if you have a further hearing of this committee, and I wish you would, I would like to arrange to demonstrate to the committee through recordings the actual intensity of the noise that the people are subjected to that live in my congressional district and, of