

AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND AERONAUTICS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brock Adams presiding (Hon. Samuel N. Friedel, chairman).

Mr. ADAMS. The subcommittee will come to order.

This is a continuation of the hearings regarding aircraft noise abatement regulations and related bills.

Our first witness this morning is our colleague from Illinois, the Honorable Roman Pucinski. Congressman Pucinski.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROMAN C. PUCINSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. PUCINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to testify on legislation which is so vital to millions and millions of Americans. I speak on behalf, not only of those millions who live in the vicinity of major airports, but of those unsuspecting Americans who do not, as yet, know what is in store for them when the gigantic supersonic transports begin breaking the sound barrier with terrible regularity over the length and breadth of this land.

As you know, my congressional district borders Chicago's O'Hare International Airport—the busiest airport in the world. O'Hare routinely handles more than 2,100 flight operations daily. On an average day, O'Hare copes with a minimum of 1,000 jet operations. During peak travel hours, this means a jet into or out of O'Hare at a rate of one every 40 seconds.

To the 23,500,000 passengers who use the facilities at O'Hare each year this usually means prompt and efficient service. To the hundreds of thousands of persons clustered in homes, hospitals, and apartment buildings within a 15-mile radius of the airport, it means far more. It means noise—unrelenting, unremitting, intolerable noise.

Students have their classroom discussions shattered. Telephone conversations cease. Television viewing is impossible. Countless thousands of my constituents spend endless nights unable to obtain a moment's respite from the unbearable noise. Patients in hospitals must endure the constant roar and scream of jet engines. Elderly people in nursing homes have nowhere to flee the boom and whine of tidal waves of sound.

I want to commend this committee for investigating this most serious problem of jet noise. With profound respect for the chairman of this