

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES H. WILSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. WILSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen. I think this a very commendable job that you are doing in conducting public hearings on this extremely important subject.

I have two gentlemen with me from the city of Inglewood. Inglewood is part of the 31st Congressional District, and is the city that is adjacent to the Los Angeles International Airport.

Before introducing them, however, I would just like to make a very brief statement.

Mr. FRIEDEL. You may proceed.

Mr. WILSON. We have to start someplace, and I think H.R. 3400 and the companion bills that are attempting to do the same thing is an absolute must. It is important that we establish a responsibility in a reputable agency of the Government to establish standards. This is the purpose of this particular legislation.

I am not one of those who feels that nothing is being done, or that the Federal agencies are turning their backs on this very serious problem. I feel that they are making every effort possible to try and find some answer to the noise condition that we have at our airports, but apparently we do need some legislation to give them a little more help in this important job they are doing.

I would just like to mention that the Los Angeles International Airport has done an outstanding job in trying to approach this problem. The city of Los Angeles recently adopted a \$1 per head tax on all persons coming in to Los Angeles International Airport, with this money earmarked for research and programs to try and solve the noise problem around the Los Angeles airport.

They have made an offer to the school districts, and this is what our major problem is, the noise affecting the children who are trying to study, and we have some 50 schools under the flight pattern in the Los Angeles airport, where the planes come in in the approach pattern.

The city of Los Angeles, through the airport commission, has offered a matching amount to soundproof the schools that are under the flight pattern. If the school districts can come up with an equal amount of money, they will give 50 percent of the money necessary.

I think this is a very commendable effort by the Los Angeles International Airport, and I think that they are taking the lead in trying to assist in the solving of this problem.

I would like to introduce Mr. Ted Merrill, who is the president of the Inglewood Unified School District, one of our fine citizens of Inglewood, and Dr. Bernard Hopkins, who is the assistant superintendent of the Inglewood Unified School District.

Dr. Hopkins will make the statement. It is a brief one.

They do have a tape recorder with some planes going overhead. We have all heard them, but they have brought them with them, so get the cotton in your ears.

I would like to introduce Dr. Hopkins at this time.

Mr. FRIEDEL. You may proceed, and, if you want to play the tape, go ahead.