

STATEMENT OF DR. BERNARD M. HOPKINS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT; ACCOMPANIED BY TED MERRILL, PRESIDENT; REPRESENTING THE CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIF., AND INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. HOPKINS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today, and I will make my remarks very brief.

I am Dr. Bernard M. Hopkins, and I represent the Inglewood Unified School District and the city of Inglewood, which is adjacent to the Los Angeles airport.

The proposed legislation under consideration today, H.R. 3400, will benefit over 50,000 students in the Centinela Valley as well as the residents in Inglewood, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Westchester, Los Angeles, Lennox, and Lawndale.

It is imperative the the Government create a commission for the study of methods for elimination of excessive noise produced by airplane traffic.

In order to illustrate the problem, I have brought along still photographs, which I will leave for you afterward, so that you can see the height of the planes as they come over.

Students attending schools in this area are severely handicapped in their educational programs, due to interruptions produced by airplane noise. Approximately 3 hours of instruction is lost each day because of this harassing problem.

I have with me a tape recording showing the ear-shattering intensity of the airplanes when they fly over our schools. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to play a short section of this tape. As you will hear for yourself, it is hardly possible for the students to hear their teachers during instruction.

Mr. FRIEDEL. You may proceed.

(At this point the tape referred to was played.)

Dr. HOPKINS. That is just the sequence which I will give.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Were the windows open?

Dr. HOPKINS. No, sir; that is not a soundproof building, and it is part brick and stucco.

They will come in on two paths. We have a north and south runway, so that many times two will be coming in simultaneously. That is only one area.

Mr. FRIEDEL. You may proceed.

Dr. HOPKINS. Yes, sir; while our local Government, city officials, and community leaders have worked very diligently to combat the irritating problem of jet noise, they have so far been largely unsuccessful. Therefore, it seems to us that it is not possible for local authorities to do this job alone.

There is no doubt that the Federal Government must step in now to set up national standards for solution to this vexing problem.

We are glad that there is now Federal recognition of this problem. Please be assured of our cooperation with you in seeking satisfactory solutions to the jet noise pollution.

Again, Mr. Chairman, let me thank you for your courtesy and patience in allowing me to appear before you.