

general population. This saving, in fact, may well be illusionary, just as the saving we have gained from massive truck, bus, and automobile transportation is now beginning to be eroded by the vast sums we must spend now and in the future to combat the effects on our health due to air pollution and to control future contributions to this pollution.

There is another aspect of this overflight which I find disturbing. That is the apparent disregard of the military for the civilian population. It may be argued, and rightfully so in some cases, that these annoyances are a small price to pay for the proper defense of our country. On the other hand, there appears to be little consideration of whether or not these acts are in actuality necessary for the defense.

This same lack of concern on the part of aviation, particularly military, comes up occasionally in another more distressing form, for it involves the actual loss of civilian lives. I am referring to the abandonment of disabled aircraft by the pilot and crew. These abandoned aircraft occasionally make headlines, as when they crash into homes or schools. It seems to me that the general population should have the right to expect the pilot of a plane in trouble to make every possible effort to avoid crashing in populated areas, even if it means riding the plane to earth and sacrificing his own life. The people of this country give pilots the right to fly over their homes and lands and this is at some cost to their own comfort and convenience, as anyone who lives near an airport may testify. The people thus certainly have the right to demand the utmost regard for their rights on the part of those who are granted this privilege.

There are three major points I have tried to make in this letter. First, I find the prospect of supersonic transport overflights distressing and I fear the consequences to the general population. I furthermore question the overall desirability of such a program at the present state of the art of controlling sonic booms. Allocation of this money to other programs, such as a program to reduce poverty, to revitalize our cities and towns, and to reduce air and water pollution, might make more sense.

Second, I feel the military ought to be made more directly responsible for their actions against the general population. There should be procedures whereby the military may be called upon to justify their actions. They should be accountable, in the case of this supersonic overflight, to a civilian and should have to justify perpetrating this annoyance on the basis of defense need. From the newspaper accounts, the military presently do not have to justify their actions at all, although a civilian performing the same act is accountable.

Thirdly, I feel it is only right that one of the responsibilities of those gaining the privilege of flying is to protect the population as fully as possible. I feel the law should set severe penalties for those who do not carry out these responsibilities. I further feel that these responsibilities are as rightfully assigned to military pilots as to civilian pilots, and the law should so read.

I would be very much interested in learning your feelings on these matters and in learning what is being considered by Congress pertaining to these questions.

Very truly yours,

SHELDEN H. RADIN.

COMMUNITY PLANS, INC.,
Los Angeles, Calif., March 8, 1968.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
House of Representatives,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am taking this opportunity, on behalf of Community Plans, Inc., Westchester-Playa del Rey, to express to you our concerns about aircraft-generated noise and to comment on pending federal noise legislation.

The problem of aircraft-generated noise is reaching critical proportions at Los Angeles International Airport as it is in most areas throughout the country where major airports are located. Passage of federal legislation is a vital first step toward the resolution of this very serious problem.

Your bill H.R. 13919 incorporates items we feel are important in dealing with the overall problem of aircraft noise abatement. We support your efforts to obtain appropriate legislation in this session of congress.