

JOINT NASA-DOT STUDIES IN AERONAUTICS

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Webb and Dr. Paine, we are happy to note that there has been no reduction in your operating plan in the aeronautics program. This is an area in which this committee has taken a great deal of interest.

I would like to place in the record three recent letters from within the executive branch pertaining to the joint DOT-NASA study that was recommended by this committee in Senate Report 957 of January 31, 1968.

(The letters referred to follow:)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, D.C., August 9, 1968.

DR. THOMAS O. PAINE,
Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. PAINE: This correspondence is with reference to the NASA-DOT study on Aeronautical research and development level of effort as recommended in the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences report dated January 31, 1968.

On May 22, 1968, at a meeting of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, Mr. Webb recommended that DOT should take the lead role in directing and coordinating this study. The Vice President requested that DOT assume the lead on the study and broaden it to involve other Government agencies as appropriate.

At a meeting on July 25, 1968, members of your staff outlined a plan for initiating the study. Their proposal would focus on providing early results of selected items. The proposed time-value analysis approach might evolve the methodology for attacking the broader more complex aspects of this study. The Federal Aviation Administration also suggested an R&D-value analysis approach, combined with a study review of the development and growth of aviation relating contributions to the welfare and economy.

I am requesting that you direct the appropriate NASA group to proceed with the time-value analysis part of the study along the lines presented. I am requesting that the FAA proceed with an historical growth related to research expenditures analysis.

In view of the importance of this study effort, I am sure that you and I will want to continue to be intimately involved in the conduct of the study effort. I believe that the above represents a constructive initial approach.

Mr. James E. Densmore will meet with Mr. Harper to develop priorities and a schedule for the initial phase of the study.

I trust that this will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK W. LEHAN,
Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR,
Washington, D.C., August 30, 1968.

HON. FRANK W. LEHAN,
Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. LEHAN: I am replying to your recent letter relating to the discussions between our staff members of plans to undertake the study recommended by the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences.

We are pleased to know that your office agrees with our proposal as to an initial approach to this difficult problem. We have informed our staff of your agreement and instructed them to proceed along the lines outlined during the recent meeting