

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UPON
DELIVERY 10:45 A.M. (PDT)

OCTOBER 25, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Seattle, Wash)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF THE REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
KING CO. AIRPORT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

We must end the noise pollution around American airports and bring quiet skies back to America again. We must free aviation from arbitrary and unnecessary restrictions and regulations so that the airlines themselves can pay the cost of quieting aircraft noise.

We must create an economic climate which will stimulate lasting, private sector jobs in our aircraft industry. I know how important this is to Seattle, which has long been a leader in both military and commercial aviation. I have directed the Secretary of Transportation to instruct the Administrator of F.A.A. to extend its noise standards to all domestic U.S. commercial aircraft, to become effective January 1, 1977, and to be phased in over an eight-year period. I am also directing the Secretary of State to initiate negotiations with the International Civil Aviation Conference to reach agreement on noise standards for all international aircraft flying into the United States.

I am putting the Congress on notice that I will not accept its failure to act on aviation regulatory reforms. Congress must adopt the airline regulatory measure I proposed in 1975. Passage will mean lower air fares, a stronger aviation industry which is more able to pay for new, quieter aircraft, and jobs for our aerospace workers. I want the Members of Congress to know that aviation regulatory reform will be on their doorstep when they come back in January. Congress must act within 90 days after the new session opens on January 3, 1977. With congressional action, we can make certain that U.S. airlines will meet noise standards and at the same time continue to be a healthy and competitive industry serving 200 million Americans.

I have directed the Secretary of Transportation to schedule open public hearings before the end of this year to consider whether financing provisions may be necessary to ensure that the air carriers can meet the noise requirements. The Secretary will consider and evaluate the financial condition and needs of the airline industry, the costs of meeting the new noise standards, and alternative sources of funds to pay these costs. I am directing the Secretary to report his findings to me by March 3, 1977. Solving the airport noise problem is an environmental imperative. And in solving this problem, we will bring into service a fleet of quiet, new airplanes that will result in up to 30 percent savings of fuel, lower operating costs, lower fares, and less air pollution from older airplanes. Replacing the older planes will also strengthen our aircraft industry which is vital to our world leadership in economic trade and to our national defense. And building these new planes will create almost a quarter of a million useful, productive jobs for Americans. The best way to make sure that our aerospace workers have lasting jobs and to create new permanent jobs in the aircraft and related industries is to give the free enterprise system its best chance to operate.

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