

(Following is a sample of letters recently sent by the President of The National Air Council to the military services and to such governmental agencies as the Civil Aeronautics Administration, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and others concerned with the national development of aviation. This letter requests the suggestions, comments and ideas of these agencies as to how the Council may best assist in the attainment of their basic objectives and these opinions will be presented at the meeting of the Executive Board of Managers on December 19, in connection with the Council's program for 1950.)

December 2, 1949

Mr. Joseph J. O'Connell, Jr., Chairman
Civil Aeronautics Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

The National Air Council has done me the honor to elect me its President for the coming year. We are now in process of formulating our program. In this connection, the Council is desirous of establishing such liaison with the Civil Aeronautics Board as will permit the Council to be helpful and to contribute to the solution of fundamental and basic problems pertaining to aviation as confront your Board.

The Council has as its major policy objectives the following:

- (1) To promote wide and continued interest in, and study of, the influence of aviation in world affairs;
- (2) To develop public comprehension of the important role of United States aviation in establishing and preserving world peace;
- (3) To foster a broad understanding of the importance to national security of adequate United States Air Power;
- (4) To emphasize and stimulate progress in all fields of importance to the maintenance of the Air Power requisite for the Nation's security and its part in the preservation of world peace; and
- (5) To encourage research, experimental and developmental activities in fields of importance to both civil and military aviation of the United States.

The direction of the affairs of the Council is vested in an Executive Board of Managers, the membership of which is shown by an attachment to this letter. The Council also includes a Board of Governors, with complete visatorial powers over the affairs of the Council. The membership

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of this Board of Governors is shown on a memorandum attached.

The purpose of the Council is to assist, by those means available to it, in the solutions of problems likely to be encountered in the attainment of its objectives as set forth, and we hope that you will make use of this Council by apprising us of those problems confronting your Board in which you would like the Council to interest itself. Your suggestions and comments in this connection will be welcomed and appreciated. The Board of Managers of the Council is to convene in the near future and the probable date is December 19, 1949. If you can find it convenient to make a response before that time, it is intended to submit that response to our Board of Managers at its meeting.

The Executive Secretary of the Council, Mr. Charles D. Frazer, will be in Washington early in December. He will write you in advance of his visit, with the hope that you will find it possible to see him and discuss with him the work of the Council.

Cordially,

Robert J. Smith
President

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The National Air Council

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

In keeping with its immediate and long-range objectives, The National Air Council has instituted a 7-point program of activity to foster public understanding of American air power and its components, civil, military, commercial and private. These activities in behalf of aviation development include:

1. Golden Anniversary -- 1953.

Three years hence, The National Air Council will sponsor a nationwide, year-round observance of the 50th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' epochal flight at Kitty Hawk. This historic achievement brought to the world new concepts, new social, economic and military problems. The National Air Council is already planning an appropriate celebration of this "Golden Anniversary Of Man's Silver Wings". The Council will cooperate with government agencies, aviation organizations, and numerous national groups to make this observance in 1953 an occasion of the greatest value in air education and interest. All Council members will be urged to take part in the planning and execution of this unique, vitally important project.

2. The National Air Review.

The Council's new publication, The National Air Review, has already won its place among aviation periodicals. Publishing as it does "articles of unusual interest from aviation writing, thought and study", the Review has found an especially strong demand from colleges and universities, libraries and other educational institutions. It will continue to be the principal publication of the Council and will further the objectives of the organization through comprehensive, authentic articles on varied phases of aviation and by occasional editorial treatment.

3. Information Service.

A primary function of the Council will be to serve as an objective source of information for newspaper editors and writers, government representatives, magazine editors, radio commentators, educators and others influential in moulding public opinion. In doing so, it will stimulate interest in matters of current consequence and, where appropriate, assist governmental and civil aviation agencies building public support for their aims.

4. Industrial Contact.

An important phase of the Council's program will be to act in a liaison capacity between government boards and industry, especially on such problems as mobilization requirements and personnel training. The Council, through the Review and occasional pamphlets, will constantly provide to its members and general industry summaries dealing with such topics.

5. Library.

The Council presently maintains a library of books, magazines and reference works for the use of its members and also conducts a film library through which aviation motion pictures are distributed to clubs, schools and civic groups. This activity will be continuously expanded as funds permit.

6. Awards.

Annually, The National Air Council makes joint awards to representatives of the Air Force and the Navy air arm who in the opinion of their own services have contributed most in the little-recognized field of aviation experiment and research. When and as additional opportunities for suitable recognition present themselves, the Council will broaden its awards program to include them -- especially achievements of an educational or research nature.

7. Community Service.

Throughout the country there exists a demand for aviation data and material on the part of community leaders, such as Chamber of Commerce members, municipal officials, local aviation representatives, teachers and others who can do much to advance the cause of American air progress. To them the Council will provide -- through their acknowledged national groups -- information on a wide variety of aviation subjects, especially those dealing with civic air development, private flying, military and reserve training problems, airway requirements and all the manifold aspects of aviation which bear on the ultimate aim -- American supremacy in the air.

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The National Air Council

OBJECTIVES

Currently, the National Air Council is engaged in the support of the broad and basic recommendations of the President's Air Policy Commission and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board. The studied reports of both these groups emphasized the need for long-range planning, procurement and development -- and, withal, the necessity for continued public understanding and support -- if aviation is to progress further.

While these recommendations are, in general, the foundation of the Council's activities, several specific objectives are herewith described. In the opinion of the Council, they represent aviation requirements which are essential to the nation's security and future economic growth.

1. True Unification Of The Armed Services Into A Joint Team of Land, Sea And Air Under A Single Department Of National Defense.

It is recognized that the problem of achieving thorough unification of the armed services will require many years of effort and constant public interest. Having originally given active support to the principles of unification, the Council will further its efficient operation by every means available, including study of any additional legislation which may be necessary.

2. Establishment Of A Peacetime Air Force Of 70 Groups Or The Equivalent.

Together with the President's Air Policy Commission and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, the National Air Council believes that an Air Force of 70 groups is the minimum required by the United States for its future security. The Council advocates that action should be taken to achieve that aim through immediate appropriations and the release of impounded funds.

3. Adequate Housing For The Air Force.

It is the Council's view that the morale of the Air Force is presently severely undermined by the totally inadequate housing provided to both the officers and enlisted men and will advocate through its publications and its members the prompt building of proper facilities.

4. Establishment Of An Air Academy.

Existing military academies are not able to train sufficient young officers for their own requirements and those of the Air Force. Moreover, modern aviation requires a type of training far more advanced than any previously known. The National Air Council believes that the future military efficiency of the Air Force will depend on the immediate establishment of an Air Academy within the Department of Defense.

5. An Adequate Radar Defense Warning Screen For The United States.

The nature of modern warfare makes it imperative that the United States build and maintain an adequate radar warning screen. Present facilities have fallen far short of the requirements and the Council advocates immediate appropriations and action in this field.

6. Maintenance Of An Efficient Air National Guard And Air Reserve Program.

To assure the maximum possible strength of our D-Day forces, the Council encourages the development of the Air National Guard and Air Reserve Program and will continue to acquaint the public with the requirements of this critical military force.

7. Development Through Government Support Of New Types Of Commercial Aircraft.

From the standpoint of national defense as well as commercial progress, the Council considers it urgent that the Government immediately facilitate the development of new airliners, especially prototypes in the turbo-prop and jet-powered categories.

8. Further Study Of The Government's General Transportation Policy.

A number of current suggestions are being made for a change in the Government policy in respect to transportation. The Council holds that some of these suggestions are potentially inimical to aviation progress and recommends further study of the problems inherent in them before such suggestions are implemented or established.

9. Recognition Of The American Achievements In Air Transport And Encouragement Of Continued Development.

A principal aim of the Council is to engender public understanding and acknowledgement of the nation's accomplishments in the field of air transport, and to encourage continued interest and support for further achievement in both the domestic and international fields.

10. Increased Use Of Air Mail Services.

A major function of the Council will be to disseminate information to the public concerning the importance to aviation of the Post Office Department's facilities, to encourage increased use of those facilities and the further expansion of the national and international air mail service.

11. Promotion Of Civil Aviation.

The National Air Council will continuously support the development of safe, efficient and expanded air travel and commerce through educational activities in behalf of: a. The Air Navigation Development Board and its projects; b. The Federal Airways program; c. An extended Federal Airport program; d. Development of executive, agricultural and personal flying.

12. Encouragement Of Research Activities.

The National Air Council will constantly encourage by all the means at hand the advancement of research activities, especially by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the many industrial and related agencies in that field of endeavor.