

## THE NATIONAL AIR COUNCIL

SUITE 625, DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING

1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

December 20, 1951

Special Memorandum For: All Members,  
The National Air Council

Subject: Suspension of Program

At a meeting held on Friday, December 14, in the Wings Club, New York City, the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of Managers of The National Air Council unanimously resolved to suspend current operations of the organization.

This action was taken on the recommendation of the President, following many meetings with leaders of the industry and after strong efforts on the part of the officers and managers to obtain adequate funds with which to carry on an effective program.

Since it does not appear that the necessary funds are available for a broad, constructive effort---especially in the education field, the primary interest of the Council---it is the opinion of the Board that the proper course is to suspend operations as of December 31, 1951, so that further obligations will not be incurred.

The Council will remain a legal entity for the time being, since the possibility exists that new need for its services may develop. The Council is solvent and is being placed on a stand-by basis for six months or until such time as the aircraft industry and other supporters of the Council may consider it advisable that activities be renewed. The title and interest of the Council in its publication, The National Air Review, will be retained. The President, Treasurer and managers will continue to serve without compensation until a final decision is reached as to the role to be played by the Council.

An audit will be made of the books of the Council after the end of the year 1951 and will be filed with the Council records. The limited funds remaining after existing commitments are disposed of will be deposited with the American Security and Trust Co., Washington, D. C. and will be administered by the President and Treasurer subject to the direction of the Executive Board of Managers. No further funds will be solicited for the time being.

The officers and members of the Board express to all members the sincerest appreciation for their past support of the Council program, many phases of which have been successfully carried on to the general benefit of aviation. A brief report on some recent activities of the Council is attached.

C. S. (Casey) Jones  
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES  
OF THE NATIONAL AIR COUNCIL

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National Aviation Policy. During the past several months, the Council has directed its efforts primarily toward serving as a clearinghouse for the ideas and opinions of national aviation organizations representing all phases of the industry---a non-profit, non-trade, educational organization having for its principal objective the development and support of national aviation policy in the public interest.

Eleven national air organizations have become affiliate members of the Council on this basis. One apparent value of this type of organization is that its opinions and aims carry considerable weight with non-aviation national groups whose knowledge of aviation problems is desired. These include the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the labor, womens and farm groups, among many others, and much of the Council's work has consisted of contact with such groups.

In the spring of this year, the Council, in cooperation with its affiliate member organizations, formulated a program of eleven broad, long-range objectives covering all phases of aviation, military and civil. These policies were publicized to members of the Congress, to administrative agencies of the government and to many of the national associations referred to above. Information about the objectives and requirements were given wide public circulation in many instances by means of pamphlets and other data. Some examples of this aspect of the Council program are described below.

ROTC Program. The Council cooperated with the Air Force for several months in a campaign to make known, especially to high school students, the facts about the expanding Air Force reserve officers training program. Several thousand bulletins were sent to high schools throughout the country and additional thousands of posters likewise distributed. The Council also sought local community support of this program by means of letters and other material to the 3200 chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the United States, many of which gave their active help.

Small Business. A similar effort was made in behalf of the "small business" program, in which the needs and requirements of the military as well as those of the aviation industry were widely publicized by pamphlets and other means. In this the Council worked closely with the National Small Business Mens Association, the Small Business Association of New England, and many others.

Air Mail Rates. When the recent readjustment of postage rates was under consideration in the recent session of Congress, the Council reaffirmed the position it had taken earlier in this matter by vigorously opposing, from a legislative standpoint, the suggested increase in air mail postage rates as not being in the public interest. Similar action was taken in other regulatory instances, such as a suggested change in CAA regulations which would have worked a hardship on industrial, executive and agricultural flying.

Awards. Recently the Council gave its annual Air Force-Navy awards for aviation research and development to Captain Walter S. Diehl, USN (Ret) and Major John P. Stapp, USAF, with Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett presiding at the award ceremony.

Education. A few months ago, the Council---with the strongest support from the Air Force, Navy and Department of Commerce---developed a plan for an extensive education program in schools of all grade levels, and presented it to the industry for consideration. This was to be a separate division of the Council, with its own director and budget. This plan did not receive favorable action and thus could not be carried out but the Council made numerous efforts in other ways to assist existing aviation education groups in the planning and achievement of their programs. These include the University Aviation Association and the National Aviation Education Council.

CNAO. The Council, through its executive vice-president, has served as the secretariat for the Conference of National Aviation Organizations, an off-the-record discussion group in which fourteen leading air associations take part in occasional sessions to consider questions of current interest.

The National Air Review. No doubt the Council's most important single activity has been the publication of its magazine, The National Air Review, which has continued steadily to gain in acceptance and interest. This publication has occasionally contained original material but its primary aim always has been to present "articles of unusual interest from aviation writing, thought and study." The Review has found a particularly strong response from educators and students and is presently being used by some 27 colleges and universities in connection with their aeronautics courses, as well as in many high school, college or community libraries. The Review has acquired a high degree of prestige and while the Council's current limitation of funds will prevent its publication in the present form, efforts will be made to retain all rights to it on the possibility of future financing.

C. S. (Casey) Jones  
President