

THE NATIONAL AIR COUNCIL

SUITE 625, DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING

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

May 17, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM FOR: All Managers and Governors.
The National Air Council

SUBJECT: Meeting with U. S. Air Force officials.

Recently several members of the Executive Committee of the National Air Council met with Thomas K. Finletter, Secretary of the Air Force, and General Nathan F. Twining, Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, for the purpose of discussing Council policies, especially as they relate to the Air Force program.

Those representing the Council included C. S. Jones, president; E. R. Boots, treasurer; Philip Carroll, counsel; Merrill C. Meigs and Charles D. Frazer, executive vice president.

Complete accord was reached as to the ways in which the Council may effectively advance the interests of the Air Force and the nation's air power generally. A number of points fully agreed upon were these:

The Council can best serve as an independent organization primarily concerned with national aviation policy in the public interest.

Its activities will be directed toward information and education on aviation questions, both civil and military.

The Council's relationship with the Air Force - and with Navy, Marine and Army air elements - shall be one of continuing cooperation but its aims and objectives will always be independently determined.

Since the Council's membership includes many leaders in all phases of industry, the organization will endeavor to serve as a medium for the exchange of ideas between industry and the Air Force - so as to improve wherever possible understanding of the respective problems.

The Council will perform a similar function with the officers and directors of the ten prominent aviation organizations who are now affiliate members. These groups number among their own memberships many thousands of men and women who are active

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leaders in their communities throughout the country. It is believed that strong community support for vital aviation policies may be developed by the cooperation of these groups.

The Council will direct a major part of its effort to opinion leaders - notably teachers and educators, the press, radio commentators and others whose knowledge and support of aviation policies is essential to broad public understanding.

Finally, the Council will work closely with all existing national groups - such as the Chamber of Commerce, labor, women's, veterans' and farm organizations - in the further stimulation of interest in the Air Force program and requirements, and the general advancement of aviation.

Details of this interview with Secretary Finletter and General Twining have been set forth here not only to inform you that the Air Force is thoroughly acquainted with the recent trend of Council policy but to indicate that the Council's interest in the Air Force program is welcomed on this friendly yet independent, educational basis.

The Executive Committee plans to arrange similar meetings with Navy and Army officials in the near future, as well as with administrative heads of civilian air agencies. The Committee believes that the way is open for much constructive effort in building public support for increased national air development.

C. S. (Casey) Jones
President