

the seatac threat news!

February 1983

26 Jan. meeting An overview of the noise update study was given, followed by Dr. Gerald R. Smith's presentation on noise induced stress, and attorney Mary Ruth Mann's presentation of possible legal remedies The overview showed the results of the POS' most recently concluded study which shows significantly increased noise in some communities, and challenged the accuracy of parts of the study Dr. Smith provided a clear demonstration via a tape deck and a noise measuring instrument, of what a 70 dBA noise has on normal family conversations. The demonstrated message was that you cannot be heard above the 70 dBA level without SHOUTING. Dr. Smith has since indicated that noise spikes of 20 - 25 dBA per hour above the ambient noise level during specific night time periods is stressful and that a good case can be built on such evidence Ms. Mann described in some detail four legal remedies: 1. Reverse Condemnation; 2. Prove the Noise Update Study wrong; 3. Nuisance - the ability to enjoy one's own property - this would be a TORT and goes back three years and is renewable at three year intervals; and 4. Health damage - prove air and noise pollution has damaged one's health.

2 Feb., A consensus was reached that legal action is desirable to motivate the POS to address their air and noise pollution problem This was followed by another meeting on Feb. 16 with Ms. Mann and those interested persons who attended the Feb. 2, meeting ... the attorney recommended a legal suit of Reverse Condemnation and nuisance ... this suit would address the property of only those who participate in the suit ... those in attendance are still digesting the terms, conditions and worst case fees ... Ms. Mann hopes to be present at the March 2 meeting along with sample agreements ... follow on meetings will be arranged with Ms. Mann as necessary to address confidentialities between client and attorney, such as fees.

17 Feb., Don Malcolm and I attended an organization meeting of the National Association of Noise Control Officials (NANCO). This organization is comprised of several people with expertise in the noise field that will be helpful as we take legal action against the POS, and will represent another voice in the selection and election of sympathetic candidates not to mention the noise ordinances at the city, county and state levels anticipated by NANCO.

Concerns - The FAA density guidelines specified in the North Sea Tac Park Plan for safety in clear zones are in danger of being overturned ... we must not let that happen, because if safety guidelines can be down graded, so can other established SeaTac noise guidelines ... If you have any political influence, please use it to stop the overturning of density guidelines ... The basic purpose of the SeaTac Threat Group is to force the Port of Seattle to act upon the unresolved noise issue of the SeaTac Airport ... SeaTac management claims to be a good neighbor, but a good neighbor does not awaken you at all hours of the night with noise ... a good neighbor listens to your concerns and problems ... a good neighbor does not devalue your property ... SeaTac Airport is not a good neighbor.

Mark Your Calendar - The next Sea Tac Threat Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 1983, 7:30 P.M. at the Wash. State Criminal Justice Training Center, 2450 South 142nd (the former Glacier High School) in the Band Practice Room. Please be there ... James Chalupnik, Ph.D., Dept. of Mech. Eng., U. of W., has agreed to give a presentation of the difference between the LDN Noise Measuring System (used by the POS) and a single event dBA noise measuring method that was proposed to the POS during noise update study ... The press is invited ... Make use of it to air your frustrations with the lack of POS action.

Positive Thinking - Let's not be too hasty about saying no to a law suit without first considering the consequences of no such action. I believe that "no" action will result in most of us taking a huge loss if ever we have to sell our homes for what the open market will bear ... legal action appears to offer the best possible solution.

Our thanks to Guest Speaker Gerald R. Smith, M. D., Radiology Dept., Group Health Cooperative

Bill
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