

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

Civil Air Surgeon

October 9, 1959

Chief, Medical Standards Division

Review of Pilot Aging Charts by the Staff of the General Counsel's Office

For approximately three hours on October 7, 1959, the originally prepared chart dealing with the subject of pilot aging were shown to, and discussed with, members of the staff of the General Counsel's Office. Those in attendance at this discussion were Mr. Howard, Mr. Goodrich, Mr. White, Mr. Schneider, Dr. Bruyere and I.

In general, it appeared to be the consensus of the lawyers present that a presentation of this sort would be extremely vulnerable to attack by persons opposed to an age limitation for airline transport pilots. It was felt that this was an attempt to provide scientific or factual justification in a subject area in which such justification is not possible. It was believed also that this would not be an appropriate time from a tactical point of view for this to be used in any manner outside the Agency. Although there were some specific comments with respect to the manner of presentation of specific subject material, most comments had to do with reasons why the subject material itself was inappropriate and indefensible.

It appeared that the legal staff had two basic recommendations. First, they would recommend that no presentation be made. Second, they would recommend that if a presentation is made it consist of the presentation of such medical data as is available concerning deteriorations in specific functions such as a reaction time, glare tolerance, night visual acuity, learning times, accuracy of learning, etc.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Howard agreed that, since Mr. Quesada had already seen and approved in principle the approach presented by the existing charts, it would be reasonable to revise the charts and limitations in accordance with the suggestions obtained from Mr. Quesada, Dr. Coddard, and the members of the staff of the General Counsel's Office and to have these available for the Administrator's meeting on the subject of pilot aging. It is expected that Mr. Howard will present the views of the General Counsel's Office at that meeting.

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