

# Anti Hijacking Act of 1973 Approved

The Senate Commerce Committee approved the "Anti Hijacking Act of 1973," the Office of Sen. Ted Stevens announced.

A similar act passed the Senate and the House of Representatives in the 92nd Congress but failed to get joint conference committee approval.

Early hearings were held in the 93rd Congress to speed the enactment of effective anti-hijacking measures. The senate bill which will soon be reported for senate consideration, provides for an air transportation security force within the Federal Aviation Administration to provide law enforcement assistance throughout the pre-boarding process at all certified airports.

The bill authorized \$35 million to be appropriated to establish, administer, and maintain the security force. This will relieve local airport operators from the requirement to arrange for the presence of law enforcement officers recently ordered by the FAA.

While generally the bill prohibits carrying weapons, explosives, and other destructive substances aboard aircraft, the committee agreed to a provision submitted by Senator Stevens to allow transporting weapons for hunting or other sporting activities provided such weapons are declared prior to boarding, checked as baggage, and not carried in the passenger compartment.

The bill provides that hijackers shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 20 years or for more than life.