

# Journal of Air Law and Commerce

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Volume 3 | Issue 4

Article 4

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1932

## Editorials

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### Recommended Citation

*Editorials*, 3 J. AIR L. & COM. 627 (1932)  
<https://scholar.smu.edu/jalc/vol3/iss4/4>

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## EDITORIALS

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

The next regular meeting of the National Association of State Aviation Officials will be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on December second and third. The subjects to be discussed will be announced by the Association in the very near future.

Major Reed Landis, Chairman of the Illinois Aeronautics Commission, as Executive Vice-President of the Association, has succeeded to the duties of President following the death of Capt. Frank McKee, of Ohio. The Regional Vice-Presidents of the Association are as follows: (1) *North East*, Senator J. Griswold Webb, Chairman of the New York State Aviation Commission, Albany, New York; (2) *South East*, Hon. R. J. Boutelle, Director of the State Division of Aeronautics, Nashville, Tennessee; (3) *East Central*, Maj. Floyd E. Evans, State Director of Aeronautics, Lansing, Michigan; (4) *North Central*, Hon. Fay Harding, State Railroad Commissioner, Bismarck, North Dakota; (5) *South Central*, Hon. Ed. McDonald, Chief Air Officer, State Highway Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; (6) *North West*, Hon. Alvin Harbour, Commissioner of Public Works of the State of Idaho, Boise, Idaho; and (7) *South West*, Col. Richard B. Barnitz, Director of Airports for the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

Capt. Albert H. Stackpole, Vice-Chairman, State Aeronautics Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has served as Secretary-Treasurer, and Hon. George B. Logan, Chairman, American Bar Association Committee on Aeronautical Law, is Legal Counselor.

F. D. F.

### INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF AERIAL LEGAL EXPERTS\*

On July 13, 1932, the Department of State announced that the following experts have been appointed as permanent members of the American delegation on the Comité International Technique

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\*The following press release was furnished through the courtesy of Stephen Latchford, Technical Assistant, Treaty Division, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

D'Experts Juridiques Aériens (International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts), frequently referred to by the initials C. I. T. E. J. A.

*Members of the Committee*

Colonel Clarence M. Young,  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics.  
Mr. John C. Cooper, Jr., of  
Jacksonville, Florida.

*Alternate Member*

Mr. George B. Logan, of  
St. Louis, Missouri.

*Technical Assistant to the American Delegation*

Mr. John Jay Ide,  
Technical Assistant in Europe for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Mr. Logan is chairman of the Committee on Aeronautical Law of the American Bar Association and Mr. Cooper is also a member of that committee. Mr. Ide has attended unofficially a number of international aeronautical conferences on behalf of this Government, including sessions of the International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts and is familiar with the work of this organization.

The International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts was created as the result of a resolution adopted at the First International Conference on Private Aerial Law, which met in Paris on October 27, 1925. It was organized for the purpose of developing a comprehensive code of private air law through the adoption of international conventions on various subjects of private air law. The Department of State is informed that thirty-two countries are now represented on this Committee. The first session of the Committee was held in Paris in May, 1926, and the Committee has held annual sessions since that time. The preliminary draft conventions are prepared by four commissions, which are in effect sub-committees, established by the Committee. When the commissions were organized the following projects were assigned to them for study;

*First Commission*

1. Nationality of aircraft;
2. Aeronautical register;

3. Ownership, co-ownership, construction and transfer;
4. Vested rights, mortgages, privileges and seizure.

*Second Commission*

1. Category of transportation (commercial transportation, touring, etc.);
2. Bill of lading;
3. Liability of carrier towards consignors of goods and towards passengers;
4. Jettison of cargo and general average;
5. Renting of aircraft.

*Third Commission*

1. Damage and liability toward third parties (landing, collision and jettison);
2. Limits of liability (contractual limitation, abandonment);
3. Insurance.

*Fourth Commission*

1. Legal status of commanding officer and crew;
2. Accidents to the crew and insurance;
3. Status of passengers;
4. Law governing acts committed on board aircraft.

The Department of State is informed that the following subjects have been examined by the Committee and its commissions:

Mortgages on planes and preferential rights.  
Aeronautical register.  
Bill of lading.  
Liability of carrier.  
General average.  
Liabilities for damages caused by aircraft to third parties on the surface.  
Collision of aircraft.  
Insurance  
Damages caused at aerodromes.  
Rescue at sea.  
Guaranties to be given by the operator.  
The legal status of the commander and crew.

When draft conventions on given subjects have been adopted by the appropriate commissions they are referred to the International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts for consideration. If approved by the Committee the drafts are afterwards considered at a general international conference on private air law called for the purpose of considering the drafts. A convention for the unification of rules relating to international air transport adopted by the Committee was signed by representatives of twenty-three countries at the Second International Conference on Private Aerial Law held in Warsaw, Poland, in October, 1929, and is now in process of ratification. The Third International Conference on Private Aerial Law has not yet been held but will probably be convened sometime in 1933. Between the annual sessions of the Committee much of the work of the commissions is done through correspondence between the experts on the Committee and the reporters of the commissions. This work includes the answering of questionnaires in connection with the drawing up of draft conventions.

The Government of the United States now makes an annual contribution toward the expenses of the International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts. A contribution by this Government in a sum not in excess of \$250.00 annually was authorized by Public Resolution No. 118, 71st Congress, approved February 14, 1931. This contribution entitles the Government of the United States to representation on the Committee.

Two bills, H. J. Resolution 193 and S. J. Resolution 176, both authorizing an annual appropriation of a sum not in excess of \$5,750.00 to defray the expenses of American experts in attending sessions abroad of the International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts and its commissions are now pending in Congress. A favorable report on the House bill has been made by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives. It is contemplated that the American experts will make two trips abroad annually to attend sessions of the Committee and its commissions with a possible third trip if the meetings of these organizations should be so arranged as to make a third trip necessary.

Meetings of several of the commission of the International Technical Committee of Aerial Legal Experts will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 20 and 21, 1932. The seventh plenary session of the Committee will be held at Stockholm beginning on the afternoon of July 21, 1932, and continuing to July 23. Several draft conventions completed by the commissions are to be

considered by the Committee at its July sessions. It has not been possible to make arrangements in time for the attendance of the American experts at the July sessions. Until such time as arrangements can be completed for the attendance of the American experts at the meetings of the Committee and its commissions, the American experts will cooperate in the work of these organizations to such extent as may be feasible, through correspondence with the Committee and its commissions.