

### Crash Laid To Stresses From Storm

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The flight recorder of the Northwest Orient Airlines jet which crashed in the Florida Everglades last Tuesday indicates the plane was subjected to violent stresses severe enough to cause structural failure, it was learned today.

The stresses may have been the result of storm turbulence, although this still is in the realm of speculation.

Sources close to the investigation of the crash, in which all 43 aboard were killed, said a preliminary recorder reading showed this picture:

—The Boeing 720B jet reached a maximum altitude of about 19,400 feet when it encountered what appeared to be extreme turbulence.

—The indicated air speed at this point was about 250 or 255 knots (around 300 miles per hour), which is standard penetration speed for entering turbulence in a jet.

—At this speed, the recorder showed a reading of negative "G" forces 3.5 times that of gravity. Negative G forces put a downward strain on the wings, and 3.5 far exceeds the design limits of the airplane.

—The high G forces indicating probable turbulence was followed by a minute of smooth flight, then slightly choppy air for another 30 seconds, and suddenly a nose pitch-over into a dive.

—The speed in the dive built up to as high as 620 miles per hour and possibly higher; the speed tracing went off the recorder's graph at about 10,000 feet, an altitude at which 620 m.p.h. far surpasses the "never exceed" speed of a jet.

Investigators emphasized the recorder readings thus far are preliminary and subject to continued analysis. They also cautioned against any premature interpretation.

"At this point," one official said, "all we have is evidence of severe turbulence, abnormal stress forces and a high-speed dive. It's too soon to tell whether turbulence caused a structural break-up, whether other factors might have been involved, whether the dive caused structural failure or merely followed it."

Airmen and engineers alike would be stunned if it is determined that the Northwest jet was wrecked by storm turbulence. Airliners like the Boeing 720 are regarded as the strongest ever built.

### JFK Asks Water Study

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Kennedy has sent Congress a study of the nation's water problems and asked for a full attack on them before some regions are parched.

Kennedy asked specifically for new legislation "to strengthen substantially the contributions that the universities can make to research and graduate education in water resources."

The President sent Congress a 302-page report Monday that took a task force from the Federal Council for Science and Technology five months to compile.

It noted that three dozen bureaus in eight departments and agencies were engaged in water resource research.

The report recommended development of water research centers in each of the 50 states and federal grants to universities to conduct independent research.

Although about 5 billion acre-feet of water per year falls on the continental United States, large areas of the country are thirsty, the report said. If this water were uniformly distributed it would cover the nation to a depth of 2.5 feet. But despite this tremendous fall, the report said, the volume of water "required to dilute sewage approaches, and in some places already exceeds, the amount of water in the rivers during times of low flow."

"Requirements for controllable water may exceed average river and underground flows by the year 2,000 in Southern California and the Great Basin, in the Delaware-Hudson, upper Arkansas-Red River, Great Lakes, and western Gulf regions, and in the upper Missouri, Rio Grande-Pecos, and Colorado River basins."

"The total deficit in dry years may be something like 100 million acre-feet per year. Unless significant improvements can be brought about in the efficiency of water use, or other adjustments can be made, expensive water transportation system will be necessary to meet the needs of these regions."

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