

240L-W

MIDWAY 3-2 HX

(WH)

NIGHT LD

Larry -
see p. 2

CHICAGO (UPI) -- ICING CONDITIONS NEAR MIDWAY AIRPORT COULD HAVE CAUSED AN ACCUMULATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF ICE ON THE TAIL OF THE UNITED AIRLINES JET THAT CRASHED DEC. 8 KILLING 45 PERSONS, AN AERONAUTICS EXPERT SAID FRIDAY.

VERNON H. GRAY, A MECHANICAL ENGINEER WITH THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, SAID HE BASED HIS FINDINGS ON THE TAIL ICING ON HIS STUDY OF ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

GRAY TESTIFIED AT THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD'S PROBE INTO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH.

HE SAID IF SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF ICE COLLECTED ON THE TAIL, THE NOSE OF THE PLANE WOULD LIFT ABNORMALLY HIGH AND FORCE THE TAIL DOWN.

ICING CONDITIONS DISTORT THE CONFIGURATION OF A PLANE'S WING AND TAIL SURFACES AND INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF STALLING BECAUSE OF

THEY WERE NOT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF STALLING BECAUSE OF INCREASED DRAG AND DECREASED LIFT, HE SAID.

WHEN THE JETLINER CRASHED, THE TAIL OF THE PLANE HIT GROUND FIRST, EYEWITNESSES SAID.

IN OTHER ACTION, SHERMAN SKOLNICK, A LEGAL RESEARCHER, CLAIMED IN A CIRCUIT COURT SUIT FILED FRIDAY THAT THE CRASH WAS CAUSED BY SABOTAGE.

SKOLNICK SEEKS \$2 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR NOT BEING ALLOWED TO TESTIFY AT THE NSB HEARING. SKOLNICK CLAIMED THE SABOTAGE WAS TO COVER UP EVIDENCE CONCERNING A GAS COMPANY PIPE LINE BRIBERY SCHEME.

SKOLNICK SAID IN THE SUIT HE LEARNED THE FLIGHT WAS SABOTAGED IN ORDER TO COVER UP EVIDENCE CONCERNING A GAS COMPANY PIPE LINE SCHEME ALLEGEDLY RELATED TO THE BUGGING OF DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. LAST YEAR.

HE SAID SHORTLY AFTER THE CRASH A SOURCE IN THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TOLD HIS CITIZENS' COMMITTEE THAT THE JET "WAS SABOTAGED BY MANIPULATION OF THE ALTIMETER AND FLIGHT RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MURDERING AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE ON BOARD."

ONE OF THE FOUR PEOPLE SKOLNICK CLAIMS WAS A VICTIM OF THE PLOT WAS MRS. E. HOWARD HUNT, WHOSE HUSBAND PLEADED GUILTY IN THE WATERGATE CASE.

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