NOVEMBER 1987

114 CONGRESSMEN, LED BY REP. NORMAN MINETA, D-CA, AND REP. DAN GLICKMAN, D-KA, are pushing for legislation to limit the liability of general aviation aircraft manufacturers, according to a news release of the Scripps Howard News Service. The legislation being proposed would limit the liability of general aviation aircraft manufacturers for their aircraft to 12 years and require judges to determine the percent of liability of each defendant. If an aircraft manufacturer was found to be only 10% responsible for a crash, the company would have to pay only 10% of the award. President of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association said that a decade ago the small plane industry paid out $24 million for legal judgements, settlements and defense costs. Two years ago that figure had risen to $210 million.

As a result of the huge legal liabilities and insurance costs, the price of a small plane is now out of the reach of most would-be aircraft purchasers. This has resulted in a 70% decline in employment in the light-plane industry. Unless protective legislation can be enacted, the small-plane industry is gone, according to Rep. Glickman.

THE SHORT COURSE IN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT for 1987 will be held January 13-15, at the Monterey Sheraton Hotel in Monterey, CA. This is a change from many previous years when the conference was convened at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Beach, CA. Registration for the conference this year will cost $300 which also includes 2 luncheons. Room rates at the hotel for the conference will be $62.50 (incl tax), single or double occupancy. The conference is conducted each year by the University of California at Berkeley with subject matter and speakers being selected by a committee of the CAAE/SWAAAE. Complete information will be mailed out shortly by the University. If you have not received your information packet within a few weeks, you may call or write to Teresa Bottini, ITS Extension Programs, University of California, Richmond Field Station, 1301 S. 46th St., Bldg. 452, Richmond, CA 94804, or call 415/231-9590.

THE PALM SPRINGS REGIONAL AIRPORT is the new name of the airport serving the City of Palm Springs and surrounding area. The name was changed from Palm Springs Municipal Airport in order to reflect the true nature of the airport and the service it provides to desert resort travelers.