Statistics Conceal Flight Safety Facts

By Steven Lipper

Flight safety and the problems it presents for the future were the topics of a talk by Mr. Jerome F. Lederer on Tuesday, December 18. Mr. Lederer's talk was the last in a series before the Flight Transportation Seminar.

Mr. Lederer pointed out that statistics may conceal facts about flight safety. For instance, although air travel is safer than all other driving, freeway driving is now more dangerous. Our present accident figures are approaching the safety of commercial driving, while air travel is safer than all other forms of transportation. For instance, although commercial accidents are due to failure of equipment, he suggested that private pilots are not as well trained or as well maintained as commercial and design accord- ingly. Speaking of the morality of safety design, Mr. Lederer pointed out that a commercial passenger expects absolute safety, the private flyer will accept certain risks. He also warned that regulations for safety must not be so rigorous as to stifle new innovations and destroy profits.

In conclusion, Mr. Lederer showed a number of films of con- victed helicopter crashes conducted by the Flight Safety Founda- tion, of which he is director. The tests were conducted for the Army to determine a way of making helicopters safer in crashes. He described these tests as typical of the work of the Foundation, which conducts research to make flying safer.

Cuban Communist Economy Scrutinized in Degeneration

Community Cuban economy has come under close scrutiny. In December 19, an article for Progressor's Dr. Filipe Pazos discussed factors acting to combat inflation.

There was no appreciable rise in the level of prices in Cuba from 1967 to 1968, despite a 30% fall in total exchange receipts and a 25% increase in wages. For utility bills, Cubans consumed their inventions and stopped in- fluencing high income groups reduced their consumption, compensating for increased consumption by lower income groups. Dr. Pazos also pointed out that the government discouraged prices increases as anti-revolutionary.

For further information is sup- cessional of the Cuban Student Di- rectorate. The Directorate, whose Boston branch is headed by MIT student Juan Carlos Pazos, is an anti- communist counter-revolutionary group opposed to the present Cuban Communist regime.

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