

SOARING

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A PART FOR OUR GLIDER MANUFACTURERS

THESE excerpts from a paper by Assistant Secretary of Commerce William A. M. Burden, read before the December meeting of the National Aviation Trades Association, deserve consideration, for Mr. Burden presents a very laudable program.

"I think we have evolved proposals which will please not only those directly concerned from a business viewpoint but also other groups which feel that the stimulation of aviation by a limited amount of Federal aid to pilot training is a necessary part of a well balanced civil aviation program which can contribute greatly to strengthening our national economy and insuring the future security of our country."

"The training of additional numbers of civilian pilots is necessary to obtain such a result. The war has produced hundreds of thousands of military pilots, but it has not produced any continuing mechanism for the training of civilian pilots as a part of the normal activities of our nation."

"While a moderate increase in flight training can be expected with the availability of personal aircraft and the removal of restrictions, there is nothing to indicate that such normal increase in flight training will be sufficient to produce widespread utilization of personal aircraft in the immediate postwar period. The development of civilian flying is so important to our national interest, however, that we must resume our proven policy of aiding the youth of the nation to learn to fly at the *earliest possible moment* consistent with military requirements."

But does this program include consideration of gliding and soaring? Apparently not. Yet Federal aid to a gliding and soaring program will repay richly in "indoctrinating American youth with a 'bred-in-the-bone' fervor for flying," and develop pilots with instinctively correct flying habits.

A gliding and soaring program can be started now, for we have glider manufacturers with expanded plant facilities eager for the go sign. Give these manufacturers the necessary materials, and they are of a kind and quantity which would not even dent the war materials picture, and we can start our civilian flight training program at the high school level *now!*