QUESTIONS: REFERENCE BEE ARTICLE "AIR GUARD ALLEGATIONS INVESTIGATED" (Sep. 7, 1986)

1. Sir, we all have read your letter and appereciated your stated support of this organization. If, as you stated in your letter, you really wanted "... to do what is best for the Fresno ANG...", why didn't you approach the leadership of this unit - spcifically Cols Carroll, Boone and Conway - before going forward to the Guard Bureau and the Governor with your specific allegations? Would it not have been in everyone's best interest to resolve the issue at the most basic level?

2. Our input and records show that M/Gen Shank, B/Gen Thrasher, Col Carroll and others talked to you in Washington D.C. and that Col. Benton talked with you in your Fresno office - all this before you went forward to the Guard Bureau and the Governor's office. Did you disbelieve the senior leadership within the state? Did you suspect that you had been lied to or in any way misled? Was there a lack of credibility or trust?

3. Since you personally requested an investigation of this unit and in view of the fact that the membership of this unit is in large measure a part of your constituency, why would you potentially destroy the credibility and reputation of this organization - an organization you support - before insuring that all allegations were fully understood and verified by you personally?

4. (Capt. Garwood) Congressman Pashayan, when the investigation began you personally heard statements from Maj. Sebra that were much more than in error- they were outright lies. Maj. Sebra told you and the team "...that the gear up landing at Fresno .... was made by the backseater." He went on to add further " It was not reported as such but that landing was made by the backseater ... I was very close within hearing range as to what was going on, as to how are we going to handle this thing because this individual Bill Garwood, the backseater had done it, and what are we going to say, what are we going to report, and that sort of thing and it was common knowledge within the squadron what had actually happened. "Sir, I am Bill Garwood. Not only is that a lie, that statement discredits me personally as well as professionally and potentially threatens my career with this or any other organization. While Maj. Sebra most certainly has the right to seek justice, he has no right as an officer to impeach my character or lie about a set of circumstances to prove some self-serving point. If maj. Sebra was on active duty, he could be courtmartialed. Since he wasn't, what, sir, do you intend to do to insure that my name, my reputation and my status with the ANG are not permanently damaged as a result of an investigation you initiated?

5. Congressman, you were given a call by M/Gen Osgood on 27 August regarding the final disposition of that portion of the investigation dealing with Maj. Sebra and yourself. We have been given a briefing on the substance of that conversation and wish to know your impression of the outbriefing.

6. If it is true that on 27 August you were informed by M/Gen Osgood that there was nothing wrong with the management of the 144th FIW - and for your information Royal Calkins was given the same insight by Lt. Col. Jim McKelvey on 3 Sept - why would both you and Mr. Calkins allow a news release which suggested that an investigation of the 144th was in progress to evaluate alleged impropriety? If the insight given you on 27 August was to the contrary, why would you effectively malign and degrade a unit you ostensibly support? If you knew the investigation - your portion of the investigation - was over, why imply that the investigation was "in progress" rather than "completed"?

7. Sir, in your 18 Sept. letter to Lt. Col. Conway, you state "... as you know, the investigation team should issue it's official findings and conclusions in the near future and I look forward eagerly to receiving them ...". Congressman, you were told that there was nothing wrong with the management of this organization. In truth there was to be no formal written response to the informal portion of the investigaion because of the profoundly political and emotional aspect fo the allegations submitted by Maj. Sebra. The delayed written response is due to your release of information to the Fresno Bee which implied that a written response was forthcoming. This may seem full circle; however, we get back to your 27 August conversation with M/Gen Osgood which was your outbrief. You were told that there was nothing wrong with the unit yet you still allowed a news release to the contrary thereby focusing negative public perception upon us. Why?

8. In view of the recently published results of the investigation exonerating us of any safety or managerial wrong-doing we have it on good authority that you have requested that the results not be released pubically. Why?

9. Sir, everything leads us to today, the truth and, hopefully, a mechanism to repair the damages. What do you intend to do to correct a terrible injustice and inappropriate misrepresentation?