

BY UA'S DR. McDONALD

SST Branded 'Socially Insane'

A University of Arizona scientist looks upon American development of a Super sonic Transport plane as "socially insane."

Weigh the \$1.3 billion needed to make the SST operational against the fact that poor people can't even find a bus to get them across town, he suggested. Viewed in that context, he said he fails to see the importance of a billion-dollar effort to get a small, select segment of the population from New York to Paris in less than three hours.

These views came from Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist for the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics, in a campus seminar yesterday.

The comments followed more than an hour's exploration of the potential ecological consequences of introducing the SST into the 65,000-foot altitudes of world travel.

The presentation was primarily a blackboard adventure in molecular chess of highly technical emissions from an SST.

McDonald's summation of his opinion of ecological hazards of the SST: "I wouldn't say I've got them pinned down yet."

He explained that government and industry are revising some of their original statistics and other pertinent details; that it is difficult to obtain information from them quickly and that the

predictable physical and chemical aspects of in-flight technology aren't in firm focus yet.

As new information is sifted, he said, some things that looked quite bad ecologically once are beginning to look less bad but there are still a lot of factors that "need far greater attention than they've been given."

HEARING OCT.

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