SOUND FORMATION--These odd-looking aluminum resonators stand for inspection at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company laboratories near Santa Clarita, Calif. Under a NASA contract, Lockheed engineers are studying ways to reduce the noise generated by propfans to make them tolerable to aircraft passengers. Experts believe that propfan engines could replace turbofan engines on some future aircraft because they are more fuel efficient. Here technician Bob Shoenthal checks the resonators before shipment to Lockheed facilities in Georgia for testing on an aircraft featuring an eight-blade propfan engine.

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* Lockheed photo by Eric Schulzinger