

DEFENSE SPACE INTERESTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1961

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 10 a.m., Hon. Overton Brooks (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The hearing will be in order.

We are sorry we had to have this Saturday morning committee meeting, but it appeared there was no alternative.

The purpose of the hearings that were opened yesterday was defined as that of establishing under the new orders from the Pentagon the lines of demarcation between military space effort and the civilian, or the NASA space effort.

There is no attempt on the part of the committee, I want to explain, to interfere with the internal operation of the Pentagon; and the orders put out by the Secretary with regard to the assignment of missions and roles in space and the space effort, I don't believe will be questioned by this committee. But we want to clear up certain points that have arisen in reference to the extent of the orders insofar as the NASA program is concerned.

Now, this morning, to accommodate these two gentlemen who I know are very busy men, and have a full schedule, we have agreed to hear General White and General Schriever in their testimony. We asked them to come down only yesterday afternoon, so we don't expect them to have any prepared statement—am I wrong in that respect?

General WHITE. I do not have one, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Consequently, we will ask each of them to make a short general verbal statement as to their reaction on the orders in the Pentagon, and then to clear up any doubt as to the present or the future of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

I want to say this beforehand, that the Air Force has had a good many Chiefs of Staff, and I have known every one of them. I have been in Congress ever since the Air Force was organized, but we have had no greater Chief of Staff of the Air Force than we have at this time.

I told General White after he finishes he may leave. He tells me he works every Saturday. He is probably on Congressional hours and, therefore, as soon as we finish you may go back to your work.

Could you give the committee briefly your idea, or your reaction, as to the orders from the Secretary of Defense assigning most of space to the Air Force?

I will assume in advance that your reaction is favorable.