

determining every single missile capability that foreign countries have either. But if it didn't do it to the best of its ability, the agency would be remiss.

If NASA has the responsibility for our peaceful space effort, and it is not paying any attention to foreign activity in this area, then it is derelict in its responsibility to the American people, whether it has statutory responsibility or not.

Dr. SIMPSON. Mr. Hardy, I did not say that NASA is not paying attention. We were talking about the responsibility for assessing and publishing an estimate of how we stand with the Russians. This was a question——

Mr. HARDY. That is one phase of the question.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir; but this is the phase I was addressing myself to.

Now then, I have already stated that we publish all unclassified information. We have numerous scientific meetings.

We have people who attend meetings abroad. We go to the greatest possible effort to publish and disseminate all information that is unclassified related to the Russian effort. Yes, sir. We have that responsibility. I agree.

Mr. HARDY. Well, then I think you are going to find some inconsistencies in your testimony, either that or I misunderstood you.

Dr. SIMPSON. All I can say is we do not have the responsibility for assessing the Russian space effort, of making comparisons between it and our progress. We do have the responsibility for disseminating all information in the space field.

Mr. HARDY. You are talking about two different things. You are talking about assessing and evaluating Russian or foreign accomplishments in space, and you are talking about disseminating the information with respect to the two.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDY. I think that you have testified both ways on this business of assessing and evaluating foreign accomplishments.

Dr. SIMPSON. No, sir.

Mr. HARDY. I think you have, but anyway the record will show.

Now the matter of disseminating that information is a different matter. But obviously if you don't have it, you can't pass it out. You have just testified or most recently that you do gather such information, at least I understood you to say that.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDY. Is that right?

Dr. SIMPSON. We get all information that is relevant that we can lay our hands on to the space effort.

That is quite a different matter from NASA assuming the responsibility of coming before the American people and saying "We are here and the Russians are here." This is the way I understood your question.

Mr. REID. That was one of the implications, but there are several others.

Mr. HARDY. I don't think you need to carry it quite that far necessarily.