

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir; I really do. I feel that our duties are, as I have said earlier, focused first on the development of our own program and its publication, on the gathering of the unclassified information. This whole matter of classification.

Mr. Moss. That is our stumbling block. The minute you say unclassified—

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir; but that is what we deal in. That is the kind of information NASA has.

NASA'S ROLE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION

Mr. Moss. Without any disrespect to the Department of Defense, I would point out that under the former Secretary of Defense, Charles Wilson, a special committee was appointed, chaired by a very distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, the former Assistant Secretary of Defense, Charles Coolidge. In addition to the civilian members, there were four general officers of the four military services serving on that committee.

You know they made the same finding the Government Information Subcommittee had made about a year earlier; that about 90 percent of the material they dealt with of a classified nature was either needlessly classified or overclassified.

I am just concerned as to how much attention the Administrator of NASA, having this responsibility by statute, is paying to the nature of the classification itself, to make certain that it does bear upon the security of this Nation.

Dr. SIMPSON. Well, sir; I—

Mr. Moss. I hope he is not delegating it and having it unilaterally determined by the Department of Defense.

Dr. SIMPSON. I think you will find, sir, that both Mr. Webb, and especially Dr. Dryden, whom you know, who is out of the country today, have watched this very carefully, and that certainly in this area, as in other areas, they not not lack for energy and application.

Now whether what they do would be exactly agreeable to your thoughts is another matter, but I am sure especially Dr. Dryden is active in this, and he has a long background of declassification experience.

Mr. Moss. I want now, Mr. Archibald, to have you arrange for Mr. Webb or Dr. Dryden to appear following the appearance of Assistant Secretary of Defense Arthur Sylvester, because I think it is most important to this inquiry that we have a full understanding of the role NASA plays in determining the information it is to receive from the Department of Defense.

Mr. Hardy?

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, I was interested in the discussion that you had just a minute ago. Dr. Simpson, I understood your testimony to be that you get all the information that you need for the conduct of your duties, is that right?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir. My duties are to carry out the intent and the letter of the space act, which is to put forth—I mean this is one of my duties, the particular one under discussion—all the information, scientific and otherwise, developed in the space effort that is not classified. That is the definition of my duties.