

Mr. ARCHIBALD. Was a report recently just the other day that Col. John A. Powers resigned as the spokesman for the Mercury project because of a dispute with Mr. Scheer over the release of information?

The report was that Mr. Scheer wanted to release the flight plan for Major Cooper's MA-9 mission. Do you know anything about that situation?

Dr. SIMPSON. I don't know that this is why Mr. Powers threatened to resign. He has not threatened to resign to me.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. Was there a controversy over the release of the MA-9 flight plan?

Dr. SIMPSON. There was no controversy. There was a discussion of the matter, and the flight plan was released.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. It was released?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. Now, one other area. When you flashed the satellite situation report on the board, it listed Faith 7. If Faith 7 had not gone into orbit, would it have been listed in that report?

Dr. SIMPSON. It would have been listed as a launch—

Mr. BROCKETT. If it had not gone into orbit, it would not have been listed in the report.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. How does the American public then find out about failures from your reports about satellite shots?

Dr. SIMPSON. Well, we report the failures in other ways. We report it through press releases and announcements. It is all out in the open.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. But U.S. failures would not be included necessarily in the satellite situation report?

Dr. SIMPSON. I would not think—no, I would not think so.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. Is there any other listing of satellite situation information which would include information about failures not in the satellite situation report?

Dr. SIMPSON. I don't know of any compilation except in the open records of NASA. I mean obviously we keep records of NASA, a compilation there, and I have no reason to think these are not available or that any review of failures request would not be given.

But I do not myself know of any compilation that lists failures as such.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. What about the other document that was displayed up there? Isn't that a more regular document that is put out more often than the satellite situation report?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, it is published more often. It is not entirely regular in its frequency, but I think over a year it would be published more frequently.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. So that failures which were not included in the satellite situation report would not necessarily be in the other report either?

Dr. SIMPSON. No; I don't think so. This is in a way a new area here. I don't believe—no.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. But any information NASA has on failures would be publicly available through your routine sources?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARCHIBALD. I have nothing else.