

Dr. DRYDEN. I am saying that the * * * information which we get through intelligence sources cannot even be communicated to members of NASA. There are a few people who are cleared to receive this information. They are briefed securitywise. They sign a statement that they will not communicate this information to any other person, and will not discuss it, except with those within the intelligence community who are cleared.

I am saying that instead of asking me to pass on such information to the committee, the committee should get it directly from the source.

Mr. HARDY. Don't misunderstand me. I have no hesitation in asking anybody in Government for any information that I think I would like to have, and so I certainly would not hesitate to go to the CIA or to any other agency on something that seems to be important to what I am doing.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. HARDY. And don't misunderstand me to ask you to divulge information which is of an intelligence nature which has been furnished you by the CIA and somebody else's classification is on that.

Dr. DRYDEN. I hope you are not.

Mr. HARDY. Well, I am not going to do that.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. HARDY. I don't need to go through anybody, through any intermediary, I don't think.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

NASA'S DUTIES UNDER STATUTE

Mr. HARDY. But I am concerned about the action of NASA itself in carrying out its statutory responsibility. How does the statute read? What is NASA's responsibility?

Dr. DRYDEN. There are two exceptions there, sir.

Mr. HARDY. I am not talking about the dissemination of information. I am not talking about what you are supposed to do. As far as making the information available is concerned, I recognize the limitation insofar as somebody else's classifications are concerned.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. HARDY. But I am talking about information which NASA develops, and I would think that you have a responsibility for developing some information yourself.

Dr. DRYDEN. We do have classified information, and are responsible for our own classification policies.

I think all of you would agree that Project Mercury has been a pretty open project, and yet there are classified aspects of Project Mercury which are necessary. For example, the frequency used in communication with the astronauts. This is a simple matter of protecting from interference with the operation.

We do not want to give the Russians complete details of all of our technology, and so we would not like to publish exactly what the performance of the little thrust-control rockets or the retro-rockets is.

We talk about nominal performance, but as far as the detailed performance, that is classified information. I think in the Mercury