

Dr. DRYDEN. That is right.

Mr. REUSS. And that—check me on this point particularly—NASA is not really the focal point within the executive branch for the dissemination of information that we gather about the Russians.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. And I note that you have spent I think 45 years in the Federal Government service.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REUSS. So that you certainly know how things operate there. I then come to my question, which is: Where in the executive branch is the responsibility lodged for seeing that the American public is promptly told everything that is can be about Russian space activities?

Dr. DRYDEN. I think it lies with almost every agency of Government with respect to the particular information which they themselves originate and are responsible for.

Mr. REUSS. Isn't this then a matter of what is everybody's business is nobody's business? CIA acquires most of this information, whether by paying 1960 Mata Hari's, whether by U-2's, or other gee whiz methods that we find out about later.

CIA I am sure doesn't conceive of itself as the medium for letting the American public doesn't know what the other side is up to, and God help us if they ever do so conceive of themselves. NASA doesn't.

You have in effect said, "Look, we are the people who apply science to our American space program." Whose job is it to keep the public informed?

You have said congressional committees occasionally stumble across some of this stuff and release it. You did not say stumble, but occasionally come across some of this stuff.

Dr. DRYDEN. I don't know that committees have ever released any intelligence.

Mr. REUSS. I did not mean that, but I refer to that part of your testimony where you have said that frequently NASA will voluntarily disclose information of this sort in the course of a congressional hearing.

Dr. DRYDEN. This is public testimony. We do this in speeches. Almost every reporter who comes in wants to know how we stand with the Russians, discusses what weight can we put in space, what weight can they put in space, how is space science going. We engage in that kind of discussion all the time. We just don't have a journal that appears every month or anything of that kind.

Mr. REUSS. Yes. I have the impression though that the release of this information is rather accidental. It depends whether a congressional committee asks. It depends whether a reporter asks. It depends whether a NASA official has a speech coming up some place and wants to put something topical and interesting in it.

I don't gather, however, that NASA concedes it as its task to keep the public currently informed as an affirmative duty, and when I ask who in the executive branch does have that function, I am not sure that you are able to give me an answer. Again I am taking you outside your NASA function.