

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ROLE NOT CENTRALIZED

Dr. DRYDEN. What you are asking, who has the responsibility of riding herd on the Defense Department, ourselves, the intelligence agencies, who puts the pressure in the direction of declassification?

Mr. REUSS. Exactly.

Dr. DRYDEN. I do not know of any centralized Government agency. Most large agencies like our own have a review mechanism.

Mr. REUSS. What about the provision of section 203(3) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act as amended which says the administration, the NASA administration, "In order to carry out the purposes of this act shall provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof?"

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes. That refers solely to our own activities.

Mr. REUSS. Yes.

Dr. DRYDEN. And we try to do this.

Mr. REUSS. I think we have discovered a hole in our total executive branch operation here.

It seems to me that the American public has as much right to know, within security requirements, what the Russians are up to as they have to know what we are up to. They are both equally important elements for informed citizenry.

Dr. DRYDEN. A tremendous lot of information is available, and is available about this.

Mr. REUSS. In a haphazard fashion.

Dr. DRYDEN. No. We have been getting into arguments about little specific details of Russian failures, but certainly the general purpose and intent of the Russian program and what they are able to do has been discussed repeatedly.

We have discussed the fact that they apparently can put up two weights in earth orbit, Vostok 10,000 pounds, the Venus satellite and probe 14,000 pounds.

We ourselves before this year is out will be able to put up about 20,000 pounds. So far the Russians have not shown a larger booster.

We know that they have got to have a larger booster before they can go to the moon. But all of these questions have been repeatedly discussed. The columnists write on them all the time. I suppose what you are thinking of is two things. One, some more or less systematic official publication. The other is a different matter.

I think you have put your finger on the problem of whether there should be some kind of a review agency on classification policies Government wide.

Now maybe some of my colleagues who are more familiar know whether there is such a review mechanism. I know internally within DOD and within NASA there are classification review groups and also in the AEC with the positive responsibility of declassifying everything they can. I don't know whether the CIA has any such group or not. I just don't know. But certainly I don't know of any central group.