

## INTENT OF SPACE ACT DISCUSSED

Mr. REUSS. Would it not be worth considering that the section of the National Aeronautics and Space Act that I have been referring to, be amended? As it now reads, section 203(a)(3) requires NASA to—

Provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof.

Suppose there were added to that sentence the following:

, and concerning the activities in aeronautics and space of other countries.

Under that amendment, while you could not disseminate what you don't know, in practice I think the American public would be well informed if they knew as much about it as you did.

Dr. DRYDEN. I think it is covered in the other section of the act that you quoted before. It says any information we get shall be made available.

We have made available information on programs in foreign countries, what is going on. Here again we have done this repeatedly. What I am saying, I don't think it is necessary to—

Mr. Moss. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REUSS. Yes.

Mr. Moss. I think it is quite clear in section 303.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes; I think it is covered in 303.

Mr. Moss. And I had intended to explore this more fully with Dr. Dryden. Information obtained or developed by the Administrator is the type of information we are discussing.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. Moss. And we have had careful questioning as to the responsibility of NASA itself in determining whether the limitations on information made available to it by other agencies of Government goes beyond the mere acceptance of their classification of whether it should question or determine whether there is justification for the classification.

Mr. REUSS. And what is the answer on that? Does it?

Dr. DRYDEN. We do not take that responsibility.

Mr. Moss. They do not assume the responsibility. Now, of course, reading the statute on its face we have two exceptions: First information authorized or required by Federal statute, which is a very limited field. Second, information to protect national security. This is the bulk of the type they are dealing with.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is right.

Mr. Moss. But we go on here with a proviso which does not deal with either of the exceptions, but rather with the information obtained or developed.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes; that is my interpretation of it.

Mr. Moss. Your response to Mr. Reid, which I think, sir, was erroneous—

Dr. DRYDEN. This publication we have includes foreign documents.

Mr. Moss. But where the Congress itself is concerned, the exceptions do not apply, nor were they so intended to apply.