

Mr. Moss. I feel that I have the responsibility under those terms to be illogical, because you are not contending to this committee that knowledge of failures would enhance the prestige of the United States, diminish that of the Soviet Union, and add to the general store of knowledge of the American people, permitting a better evaluation of the whole space effort, are you?

Dr. DRYDEN. I think the American people have been told repeatedly through many voices of the Government that there have been failures.

Mr. Moss. They have been told very recently that Russia had a number of manned failures.

Dr. DRYDEN. Not by any official of the Government.

Mr. Moss. That is right, not by any official of the Government.

Dr. DRYDEN. And to the best of my knowledge I might say there have been no such failures.

Mr. Moss. That is fine, but now you have an interesting—

Dr. DRYDEN. I so stated to the press when asked about it.

Mr. Moss. Yes, I realize that. I have followed that.

Dr. DRYDEN. We have no information that they have had a manned failure. This is a story which originated in Czechoslovakia. It has been repeated every few months.

Mr. Moss. Right. I read it, I think, in an aviation publication a long time ago.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. Moss. But nevertheless it is repeated, and of course the Russians say this is an attempt by the Americans out of spitefulness to degrade their program; that they have always told everyone, told everything, and yet our Government knows that they have not told everything.

Now we are going today to show that we have not been told of their failures. But it is not your contention that knowledge of the failures would not be beneficial, but only that it might reveal means of collecting intelligence information, isn't that correct?

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes. I have never said that the public should not be told of the failures. I have said that the * * * information from which that knowledge is obtained—

Mr. Moss. Suppose we were not talking of detailed information. Supposing that our Government would officially say at this point that during the calendar year 1962 the Soviet Union had a number of failures. Now what information do we divulge?

Dr. DRYDEN. I think you would have to consult the people who have that responsibility to find out their opinion. My reaction at a distance would be the same as your own, that this particular bit of information would not. But I don't know.

Mr. Moss. Let me as a critique for my statement make it clear that we are going to consult with these people.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. Moss. Because for us to fail to do that at this point would leave a very cloudy record.

Dr. DRYDEN. It is quite proper for you to raise the issue, I would think.

Mr. Moss. But the thing that troubles me is that the space agency apparently has not questioned even to the point of saying, "Well,