

1968 NASA AUTHORIZATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANNED SPACE FLIGHT,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, in room 2318, Rayburn House Office Building, at 10 a.m., the Honorable Olin E. Teague (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. TEAGUE. The committee will come to order.

Dr. Mueller, it is a pleasure to welcome you and members of your staff to our first subcommittee meeting on NASA's fiscal year 1967 authorization. The successful completion of the Gemini program and the major success that NASA has achieved in the Apollo program speaks well for the dedication and capability of NASA's managers, engineers, and scientists who are contributing not only to a successful lunar landing, but also to the technological vitality of the country.

The recent tragic accident at Cape Kennedy serves to highlight for all of us not only the dangers but the complexity of the tasks which you and all personnel both in NASA and in industry have undertaken. We look forward to a thorough and candid report on the causes and the remedial actions necessary to maintain national confidence in our manned space effort.

Based on a recent survey by the NASA Oversight Subcommittee, we have reason to have confidence in NASA's ability to meet the problems identified in this recent accident as well as to surmount the continuing engineering problems that a program such as Apollo is bound to have.

The identification of an Apollo Applications program during these hearings is most important. As I have said before, NASA's plans for manned space effort after the initial lunar landing need to provide a maximum return on our current investment in the national space program.

I urge you to take full advantage of these hearings to present to the subcommittee, the Congress, and to the people a clear statement of plan and purpose in manned flight.

I assume you are going to summarize your statement?

Dr. MUELLER. I will summarize the statement, although, with the chairman's permission, I will read some of it.

Mr. TEAGUE. The members may break in and ask questions as we go along.