

for Manned Space Flight. We have just presented the results of a highly successful Gemini program which has now been completed.

Mr. RUMSFELD. You read Dr. Seamans' statement that this budget can be either accepted or rejected, but that it is not susceptible to compromise or halfway measures.

What does this mean, George?

Dr. MUELLER. That essentially by the time the Bureau of the Budget and the President have completed their examination of the budget that we have presented, it was pared down to those elements that were considered to be essential if we were to have a continuing space program and in particular, a continuing manned space program.

The basic problem that we have has quite clearly been stated before this committee last year and was approved by this committee last year in terms of holding open an option to go forward in fiscal 1968 with a Manned Space Flight program.

I believe that Dr. Seamans is pointing out that you have to make a decision this year either to go forward or not to go forward. There isn't any way of holding the option open 1 more year by a small amount of money this year.

Mr. RUMSFELD. I don't want to belabor the point, but, with all respect, I am not impressed by that statement by Dr. Seamans.

There are some who suggest this budget doesn't provide for a dynamic space program, as Dr. Seamans alleges. Further, I don't see how he can suggest that this budget is not susceptible to changes by Congress.

Certainly it is. It seems to me that every year NASA comes in and says: We are at the crossroads, Congress must do exactly what is requested or we are going to go down to the road to something terrible. Nothing can be changed or the program is over, and so forth.

Admittedly, you don't do this, and I should have brought it up with Dr. Seamans instead of you, but I believe the Congress should look at this budget request and make its decisions. It is not, as Dr. Seamans suggests, a take it or leave it proposition. I don't believe the statement by Dr. Seamans contributes much to these hearings.

Dr. MUELLER. I'm sorry, Mr. Rumsfeld, I didn't mean to waste your time.

Mr. TEAGUE. Any other questions?

What is this investigation going to cost? Can you make an estimate?

Dr. MUELLER. You mean of the basic investigation itself?

Mr. TEAGUE. The basic investigation itself.

Dr. MUELLER. I presume that one could evaluate that in terms of the number of people that we have working on the problem and the time. We have about 1,500 people now engaged in one aspect or another of investigating the accident and they will have worked for something like 2 months, so that we will have some 3,000 man-months of effort going into the accident itself. As I recall, our average cost per man-year at the present time is about \$17,000, so that if my arithmetic doesn't fail me, we have about 250 man-years times \$17,000 or about \$4 million.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Waggonner?