

We were very pleased with the stabilization that the vehicle achieved in the initial stabilization phase. I might point out that the specification for fine pointing may be characterized as follows: if you are sitting in Bethpage, roughly 40 miles from New York City, you could hold a target the size of a baseball in New York City. In technical terms, this is one-tenth of a second of arc.

Now, this vehicle achieved initial stabilization. It latched onto stars. It stabilized itself, held it for some time, and then the clock would reset itself due to the star tracking arcing.

Chairman TEAGUE. You say the next is due to fly next year?

Mr. EVANS. Yes; in the beginning of 1968. Now, the experiments are coming along very well. The first one flew with the Wisconsin experiment looking out one end and three additional experiments looking out the opposite end. The Smithsonian experiment will fly next time with the Wisconsin experiment package.

There is still a great need in the scientific area for this telescopic capability. One of the projects on the AAP, as you know, is how do we get a manned telescope out and stabilize it. I can say this to you, the know-how we have acquired, in OAO pointing toward the AAP, is very useful. This is the cross-pollination I think you achieve if you are fortunate enough to run a major unmanned and a major manned program at the same time. I don't know what it is worth in dollars and cents. I can tell you from the management confidence level, it is worth a great deal.

Chairman TEAGUE. Any questions, Bob?

Representative GIALMO. Not yet.

Mr. EVANS. Why don't I let Joe launch right in then? He has a presentation to make and I am sure we will be able to answer all of your questions.

Chairman TEAGUE. Gentlemen, if you won't comment straight out, I will ask the question: What difference does it make as to whether you get a certain amount of money next year and relieve the pressure, so to speak, instead of this concentration?

Mr. EVANS. Joe, why don't you plunge right into answering this question?

Mr. GAVIN. The question has been asked, what happens if the press of the schedule is relieved and the program is allowed to stretch out? This has been studied a number of times in the past. I think that some of the things that come to mind immediately are that, first of all, we have done quite a bit of stretching out within the framework of the present dates. Periodically we have reviewed those things which either we are doing or which our subcontractors are doing, with the intent of pushing them as far downstream as will fit the program. So in this respect, a certain amount of elasticity has already been used up.

This has been done in order to keep the cost rate from peaking any more than it has.

The second thing that comes to mind is that if a stretchout in dates occurs, there are certain fixed costs which seem to continue on for this additional time. The studies which I am sure that NASA has made or we have made or our subcontractors have made, all seem to show this up as a factor, which tends to make stretching of this schedule cost more in total.