

modifications, and existing technology has even greater application in the future.

The hardware and technology developed in present programs allows a program like MOL to go forward without reinventing the wheel. The experienced people who learned and were good engineers on Saturn are moving over on other programs, and there is a tremendous payoff from their experience.

That is why, if we can keep this thing going then, as Jim has said, you don't need to increase the space budget. If you hold the budget level, you can still bring in a tremendous increase in the return, while the cost becomes smaller as a percentage of the gross national product. One of the big strengths of the NASA program has been the stability of its budget since its beginning.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Yes, but if we don't get the follow-on orders that are planned in the present budget, then our manpower is going to come off pretty fast.

Mr. DORRENBACHER. And for every man that leaves the space program, whether he goes into an ordnance program or whether he goes to oceanography, it's going to take 5 years to replace him when the realization comes that we should have kept him on the job. The money already spent in the combined military/NASA space programs is money spent on education.

Mr. ABLE. Mr. Teague, we certainly appreciate the interest that you and the members of your committee show in the part that Douglas plays in the space program. Thank you for coming here today.