

Mr. MYERS. You spoke about the various agencies of the Federal Government having information that the public should have. I don't believe you went into how this information should get to the public. Would it be through your organization or a similar organization? How would you get this information to the public?

Mr. KAPLAN. There are many ways. I wasn't thinking of getting it to the public through our organization. I was hoping the Government would, through its own means, disseminate it by means of some Government publication.

Mr. MYERS. This would be competition with you, then; wouldn't it?

Mr. KAPLAN. Oh, yes. Well, let's say supplementary to us because there are far more than 60 or 70 products that people are interested in, and we can't get back to the same product as often as we would like, so if the Government did stuff on television we would let them do it and go on to something else. As it happens, we had to do a report on hearing aids which cost us \$25,000 and 6 months of time because the Government information wasn't available, although it was all there in the files and all we did was repeat what the Government had done, and probably not quite as well.

Mr. MYERS. I believe the chairman asked, and I wasn't sure about your answer, if you think this is the responsibility of Government to give this information out or provide it.

Mr. KAPLAN. Yes, I think it is the responsibility of the Government to help the people in every way it possibly can, and this seems to be an enormous way of helping people.

Mr. MYERS. Do you mean as a spinoff or as a direct responsibility that the Government should go out into research?

Mr. KAPLAN. I would say both would be my view. Your particular concern at the moment is the possibility of making existing information available and I say there is plenty of that to do. If you got started on that you would have lots of information. It would be my view we ought to go beyond that and develop new information and publish that as well.

Mr. MYERS. You really want the Government, then, to provide this information even though specifications quite often in our Government would be extremely different from that of the general consuming public. It could be both extremes.

Mr. KAPLAN. To the extent they are different they shouldn't be public. To the extent they are the same, they should be.

Mr. MYERS. How will the public accept this? Say a requirement from NASA that some particular radio is going to be used quite different than any general public, but the general public sees NASA use this radio, it must be good. Don't you think there is danger there?

Mr. KAPLAN. I have not made myself clear. I am not suggesting that everything the Government buys should be published by brand name. What I am suggesting is that if the Government buys products and has information about products on the market of a kind that will be the same kind of product used in the same way by consumers, then that information should be available.

I am not interested in making the brand of missile information available.

Mr. MYERS. Very few people buy missiles, or specialized radios.

Mr. KAPLAN. Or a whole variety of things that the Government buys that is of no interest to consumers. But I am saying there is a