

I think the jurisdictional problems which exist with congressional committees and one thing and another must prevent us from homing in on the issues as they develop. I do think, Mr. Mosher, that the question you ask leads us to seriously keep involved in this over a period of time until we can see these things brought to a better understanding.

Mr. RYAN. Let me raise a question which was alluded to by Dr. Hornig and which you have discussed.

The public is more and more conscious of questions affecting the environment; first water and then air and now noise. This has become foremost in our thinking on questions of environmental pollution. I would wonder what role the Office of Science and Technology played, if any, in the decision to proceed with the SST, whether or not the question of sonic boom was studied by the Office of Science and Technology as it related to the development of the SST, and whether that was presented and really taken into consideration.

You spoke of the fact that as an SST comes into an airport, it will be traveling at subsonic speed, therefore the noise problem might not be any greater than the present jet traffic. However, it has been suggested by some that the sonic boom problem is such that the SST will not be able to fly overland either in the United States or Europe. If this is so, was this factor taken into consideration?

Where does the Office really affect the decisionmaking process in the Federal Government? Let's use the SST as an example.

Dr. BENNETT. Mr. Ryan, I would be very glad to supply the answer to that but I really am unable to give a response off the top of my head. I will be glad to see to it that you receive an answer to your question. The sonic boom study was begun before I became associated with the Office. It had been almost completed. The responsibility has been transferred to the Department of Transportation, but I can get that information for you and I will be glad to make it a part of the record.

Mr. DADDARIO. Do you include in that, Mr. Ryan, the physiological and psychological effects on man?

Mr. RYAN. Yes; I do.

Mr. DADDARIO. Would you include that?

Dr. BENNETT. Yes, indeed.

(The information may be found in the answer to question 19 appearing on page 37.)

Mr. RYAN. That raises the broader question—maybe you have some comment on it—what should the role of the Office of Science and Technology be in the decisionmaking process, whether it is constructing SST's or undertaking some other major problem?

Mr. DADDARIO. Can you supply that for the record?

Mr. RYAN. Unless you feel you can comment on it now.

Dr. BENNETT. I can comment on that.

Our role is to obtain the scientific and technological information that enters into decisions of this type and to make appropriate recommendations. We are but one input into the decisionmaking apparatus and while we are free to express our opinion, and do so, there are many others, both within and without the Government, who are also free to express their opinions.

Mr. RYAN. I think that may be the problem. I think that is something this committee should really look at as we go along.