

As an example, I think one important feature of the orbital experiments that have been run with man and that might be run by follow-on orbital laboratories is not so much to find out what man can do, but to learn more about man himself.

Mr. BROWN. The development of satellites may do more for the remote sensing and communication fields than anything that has ever happened. We already have ComSat, a spinoff from our space activities. We have the potential to revolutionize our knowledge about weather, resources, and communicating information through broadcast satellites which ultimately may provide direct access to every home with unlimited information. This aspect of the space program is something most people do not understand unless you point it out to them in very specific terms. Ultimately it may be as important, or more important, than anything else we are doing. Yet abstractly what we are doing is sensing and communicating. That is why I am talking in terms of abstracts and the capacity of the laboratories to work in the broadest possible conceptual framework.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Rumsfeld.

Mr. RUMSFELD. On page 12, you made the statement that "we feel it is easier for the people who understand the technology to infer its possible use for other purposes, than it is for the managers in other programs to search the entire range of technology to find things that may be of use."

What do you mean by "easier"? Easier for whom?

Mr. FINGER. What I really mean is that—incidentally, there are some differences of opinion on this point.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Indeed there are.

Mr. FINGER. We are really trying to work it both ways. What I am saying here is that if a problem is defined, it is easier for those people who have worked on the technology to determine what elements of their technology could be used to solve that problem.

Mr. RUMSFELD. The problems aren't defined in most cases.

Mr. FINGER. We are trying to work it both ways. This is why we set up these biomedical application teams to work with university medical schools, with hospitals, to have those institutions, the practicing institutions, define the problems that they face in carrying out their work. This is what we are also doing with the law enforcement people. We then go through our technology using these team approaches to try to search the technology for direct applicability to defining solutions of those problems.

At the same time through our Dissemination Centers and other technological utilization approaches, we are also trying to assure the broadest possible dissemination of the technology we have or that we develop so that anyone can look through that technology. We are trying to present it in a way that they can see it and know that it exists. We are trying to approach it both ways.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Is it a fair analogy to state that, based on the assumption that people in this country like to read books and since it would not be feasible to send every person in the country a list of every book in every library, you want to develop a situation where NASA can serve as the librarian, searching its index file to see what information might be available on any given problem, for anyone who might make an inquiry?