

Dr. ODISHAW. I have been in touch with my office and the third United States satellite is in orbit. It was launched by Army, a modified Jupiter-C vehicle, launched at 12:38. Its period of revolution appears to be about 120 minutes. It looks as though the perigee distance or the distance nearest earth is rather small. Perhaps these are premature figures. Perhaps 120 miles. The apogee distance, farthest point from the earth may well be perhaps 2,000 miles.

These figures are extremely tentative and are not based on any final computations. This work is still going on.

Now, in all probability this satellite will not have a long life. It is apt to be a short life, perhaps a few weeks, but even here my information is extremely tentative.

From the point of view of the scientific experiments aboard this satellite it is a very satisfactory orbit. As a matter of fact, the range from 100 miles out to 2,000 miles will be very useful in studies of cosmic rays and the principal experiment aboard is the cosmic rays experiment.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Doctor.

Mr. HALE. That is a very curious orbit, such an apogee and a long perigee or the other way around.

The CHAIRMAN. The closest was 120 miles and the farthest distance was what?

Dr. ODISHAW. Two thousand. These are very rough estimates.

I think you should wait until there are official reports from the computations that are now going on before taking my tentative remarks as the real facts of the situation, but this is how the picture looks now.

The CHAIRMAN. That is very interesting news indeed. Is it a small satellite?

Dr. ODISHAW. It is similar in size and weight to 1957 Alpha, which was the first satellite launched by the Jupiter-C. It has the same configuration basically in size and weight. As I recall, the weight is about 18% pounds.

Mr. O'HARA. What is its speed, Doctor? Do they know?

Dr. ODISHAW. I cannot give you a figure on that. My estimate would be that it is between 18,000 and 19,000 miles per hour.

Mr. O'HARA. It should be visible then to the ordinary man down here.

Dr. ODISHAW. Yes. We expect it will be visible as the first Explorer satellite. The problem, of course, is the problem of its latitude range. Washington is considerably above its maximum excursion above the equator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Dr. Gould.

I am sure you have observed the fact that we have recruited some of those who were with us on the trip, Mr. Macdonald over here, Mr. Flynt, and Mr. Derouinian. We are glad that they could join us here for the rest of this meeting.

Now, do you have anything further than you wished to say?

Dr. GOULD. I think not unless you wish to ask specific questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Odishaw, did you have anything further you wished to comment on about the program at this time?

Dr. ODISHAW. I do not think so, certainly not in the Antarctic area. I feel Dr. Gould and Dr. Wexler both are extremely and intimately familiar with it.