

predict what science is going to do in the next twenty years, but it is going to be a very considerable time in this realm, just as in any other, before the old is completely replaced by the new, and even then it will be a question of comparative costs and accuracy of methods of delivery.

It is going to be a long term. It is not revolutionary, a revolutionary process that will take place in the re-equipping of defense forces, it will be an evolutionary.

Q. Clark, I.N.S. Mr. President, do you think our scientists made a mistake in not recognizing that we were, in effect, with Russia -- in a race with Russia in launching this satellite, and not asking you for top priority and more money to speed up the program?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, No I don't, because as -- even yet, let's remember this: The value of that satellite around the earth, going around the earth, is still problematical, and you must remember the evolution that our people went through and the evolution that the others went through.

From 1945, when the Russians captured all of the German scientists in Peenemunde, which was their great laboratory and experimental grounds for the production of the ballistic missiles they used in World War II, they have centered their attention on the ballistic missile.

Originally, our people seemed to be more interested in the aerodynamic missile, and we have a history of going back for quite a ways in modest research in the intercontinental ballistic missile, but until there were very great developments in the atomic bomb, it did not look profitable and economical to pursue that course very much, and our people did not go into it very earnestly until somewhere along about 1953, I think.

Now, so far as this satellite itself is concerned, if we were doing it for science and not for security, which we were doing, I don't know of any reasons why the scientists should have come in and urged that we do this before anybody else could.

Now, quite naturally, you will say, "Well, the Soviets gained a great psychological advantage throughout the world," and I think in the political sense that is possibly true. But in the scientific sense it is not true, except for the proof of the one thing, that they have got the propellants and the projectors that will put these things in the air.

Q. Scheibel, Gannett Newspapers. Mr. President, could you give the public any assurance that our own satellite program