

will be brought up to par with Russia, or possibly improvement on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, let's get this straight: I am not a scientist. I go to such men as Dr. Waterman, Dr. Bronk, Dr. Lawrence, all of the great scientists of this country, and they assured me back in the spring, I think it was, of 1955, this could be done, and they asked for a very modest sum of money compared to the sums we were spending on other research. So, in view of the fact that, as I said before, this was basic research, I approved it.

Now, the satellite that we are planning to put in the air will certainly provide much more information, if it operates successfully throughout, according to plan, it will provide much more information than this one can.

Q. May Craig, Portland, Maine, Press Herald. Mr. President, you have spoken of the scientific aspects of the satellite. Do you not think that it has immense significance, the satellite, immense significance in surveillance of other countries, and leading to space platforms which could be used for rockets?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this time, No. There is no -- there is -- suddenly all America seems to become scientists, and I am hearing many, many ideas. (Laughter) And I think that within time, given time, satellites will be able to transmit to the earth some kind of information with respect to what they see on the earth or what they find on the earth. But I think that that period is a long ways off when you stop to consider that even now, and apparently they have, the Russians, under a dictatorial society, where they had some of the finest scientists in the world, who have for many years been working on it, apparently from what they say they have put one small ball in the air.

I don't -- I wouldn't believe that at this moment you have to fear the intelligence aspects of this.

Q. Burd, Chicago Tribune. Mr. President, considering what we know of Russia's progress in the missile field, ---

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. (Burd) Are you satisfied with our own progress in that field, or do you feel there have been unnecessary delays in our development of missiles?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't say there has been unnecessary delay. I know that from the time that I came here and got into the thing earnestly, we have done everything I can think of, and know -- I will say this: Generally speaking, they have, more than one scientist has told me we were actually spending some money where it was doing no good.