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1959 Subject Files, Source	letter		Johnson to J.R. Thomas	09/18/59	1
"	"		J.R. Thomas to Johnson	09/11/59	1

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September 18, 1959

Dear Friend:

I am concerned, as you are, over the apparent gap between Russian and American missile development. I don't believe we have suffered from thumb-twiddling; but it seems pretty clear that our efforts have not been as substantial and as sustained over a long period of time as they might have been. The Russian achievement demonstrates again that we are in a long-time, full-scale struggle with a powerful and aggressive competitor, and that nothing less than our utmost efforts will do in that struggle.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. J. R. Thomas
3540 Cork Place
Fort Worth, Texas

LBJ/HM/ss

3540 Cork Place
Ft. Worth, Texas
Sept, 18, 1959


Senator Lyndon

Dear Sir:

just thought you would
like to know that Russia has
put a rocket on the moon.
What have we done besides
twiddle our thumbs? What
are we going to do? twiddle
our thumbs? What was
that fellows name in ~~Rome~~
Rome that twiddled his thumbs?

Respectfully Yours
J R Thomas

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Oct 57. Clippings	clipping		Tyler Lewis - Times	10/18/57	1
Nov. 57 (2 of 8)	"		Boston Globe	11/19/57	1
Nov. 57 (6 of 8)	"		Evening Star - Washington	11/26/57	1
Nov 57 (6 of 8)	"		NY Herald Tribune	11/27/57	1
Nov 57 (8 of 8)	"		Dallas Morning News	11/25/57	1

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October 18, 1957

Johnson Promises Missiles Inquiry In Festival Speech

Declares Government Lacks 'Unified Effort'

By GEORGE M. CONNER JR.
Courier-Times Staff Writer

U. S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson today in Tyler said an "intelligent, unified effort" is lacking in the nation's missiles program and pledged he would lead a four-pronged subcommittee investigation on this subject.

The Senate majority leader, speaking at the Distinguished Guests' luncheon of Tyler's 20th annual Texas Rose Festival, said the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee would attempt to find out:

1. Could we have matched the Soviet achievement?
2. Would it have been worthwhile to match the Soviet achievement?
3. Does the Soviet satellite indicate that this country has slipped behind in the development of its defenses?
4. If so, what do we do to catch up?

Senator Johnson is chairman of the subcommittee.

"There may be good and logical answers to all four questions," Senator Johnson said. "We may discover that the alarms are false; that there is no great cause for concern. But we may also find out that our whole defense structure needs a thorough overhaul from top to bottom."

Speaking at Tyler's Carlton Hotel, the veteran Senate leader struck out at inter-agency battles of the armed services and decried what he said may be too much secrecy involving the nation's military projects of outer space.

"The satellite is made possible only by the development of rockets and guided missiles," the speaker said. "But the missile program has been divided into three parts—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force."

"It has been the subject of constant bickering among the services. It has meant inter-agency battles fought with all the fierce intensity—although not the bloodshed—of war itself."

"But certainly the armed services were engaged in a race with each other to control the guided missile. And we cannot afford many more races like that."

The nation's military projects of outer space, he said have been shrouded in more secrecy than the hydrogen bomb and guarded hints on outer space projects of the nation go back to 1948, the Senator said.

"Perhaps there has been too much secrecy," he declared. "Military security must always be safeguarded. But there is such a thing as keeping a project so secret that the people who have to work on

it can't find out anything themselves."

Very little is known about the Russian satellite, Johnson said.

"It was put into the air by people who are not our friends."

The satellite, he declared, "may pave the way for new and horrible weapons. It might open new frontiers for our people."

However, he cautioned that the nation must not delude itself into believing that it is unimportant and minor.

"We have got to get rid of the rose colored glasses," the Senator declared. "We have got to admit frankly and without evasion that the Soviets have beaten us at our own game—daring, scientific advances in the atomic age."

In spite of this, Johnson said, this is not the time for alibis any more than it is for panic.

"I am not trying to scare you today because I am not very scared myself," he said. "I don't believe you are either. There have been no signs of panic that I have detected among the great mass of our people."

Today's speaker told his audience the development of the Russian satellite "is a situation which requires a careful study by Congress."

Official reports, he said, are conflicting.

"The official sources are long on warm optimism; short on cold facts," he declared.

The Senator said there is no clear-cut evidence that the nation has slipped behind in its defense program, although it may have suffered a loss in prestige or a possible political setback.

"But we still possess crushing power," he said.

The "real issue" of the Russian satellite, he declared, is the fact that this nation can no longer consider Russia to be a country years behind us in scientific research and industrial ability.

"We can no longer rely upon the comfortable feeling that the communists can produce technical miracles only by stealing our secrets from us," he said.

"The mere fact that the Soviets can put a satellite into the sky—even one which goes beep—does not alter the world balance of

power. But it does mean that they are in a position to alter the balance of power."

"The satellite now circling over our heads may be little more than a scientific toy. But a nation that can produce such a toy can produce anything else that is conceivable," he declared.

"We must assume that the Soviet Union can produce any bomb, any rocket, any weapon that we can produce. It is only a question of time and even that may not be much of a question."

The Senator said the "usual answer" to such a situation is to spend more money, make greater sacrifices and exert more effort.

"That may be the path to which we will have to come," he declared. "But first, we should take a long careful look. We have spent plenty of money; made great sacrifices and exerted heavy effort. The satellite circling our earth is still stamped 'Made in Moscow.'"

Concluding his talk, the Senator declared:

"We will have to find ways and means of bringing some unity into our weapons development program. We cannot permit this glaring gap to continue."

"There is no doubt in the mind of any informed man of the ability of this country to defend itself. There is no reason why we cannot outstrip any potential enemy."

"The only ingredient that is lacking is intelligent, unified effort. That ingredient must be supplied as quickly as possible."



AT FESTIVAL LUNCHEON—George Pirtle, left, of Tyler; U. S. Senator Lyndon Johnson, center, and Ronald Reagan confer at the Distinguished Guests Luncheon of the Texas Rose Festival at noon today in the

Carlton Hotel. Sen. Johnson was the principal speaker. Reagan was master of ceremonies. In his talk Sen. Johnson scored the U.S. missiles program. (See story, page 1, section 1).

(Courier-Times Staff Photo)

Built to Spot Enemy Missile *Boston Globe* Giant MIT Radar Device *11/19/57* Pinpoints Red Satellites

A large, high-powered radar for ballistic missile defense, which sweeps the sky from atop Millstone Hill in Westford, has been completed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been used to track the Russian satellites at remote distances.

Announcement was made jointly by the institute's Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington and Dr. Julius A. Stratton, chancellor and acting president of M.I.T., in an address to the M.I.T. Club of New York, last night.

The radar detections of the satellites have been assisted by, and have confirmed the accuracy of predicted positions calculated from radio observations by Lincoln scientists and engineers.

Dr. Stratton, who spoke in place of Dr. James R. Killian, president of M.I.T. on leave to serve as special assistant for science and technology to President Eisenhower, said "to the best of my knowledge" it is the first satellite-tracking radar device in the United States.

The antenna system consists of a bowl-shaped reflector, 84 feet in diameter, mounted on a concrete and steel tower 90 feet high. The rotating structure alone weighs 90 ton. The antenna rotates horizontally 360 degrees and vertically 90 degrees, giving it a full sweep of the sky.

Positioning of the radar was done with such accuracy that tower caused by uneven heating of the sun could not be tolerated and it was painted white to secure maximum re-

flectivity.

The radar was designed for use as a research too, "primarily for the study of problems in ballistic missile defense."

Recalls Russian Claim

Dr. Stratton said he knew of the Russian claim that it could track Sputniks I and II by radar after their radios went dead, but he added, "I don't know if that is true, although they are competent to do it."

The radar is also expected to be used to track the United States satellite when it is launched.

Coupled with the radar, Dr. Stratton explained, is an electronic brain (a transistorized computer) which supplies data on trajectories at a rate of thousands of characters per second. A trajectory is the curved path followed by an object in space—such as a satellite or missile passing from its point of discharge to target.

The Lincoln Laboratory of M.I.T. which built the radar is engaged in electronic research on problems of air defense. It is supported by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Since Oct. 5, the day following the launching of Sputnik I, Lincoln scientists have observed by radio the passings of Russian satellites over the northeastern United States. Starting on the first night with a single radio receiving equipment, the Lincoln effort expanded rapidly to include observations from four separate locations. Tape recordings of Sputnik signals have been made on both the 20 and 40 megacycles frequencies.

The Millstone radar first observed Sputnik II Nov. 7 at 5:12 a.m. From these observations measurements of range, height, elevation, bearing and doppler frequency were made. The height of the satellite was 152 miles.

The facility will support cooperation between the U.S. Air

DR. TELLER'S SHARP PHRASES KEEP LISTENERS ON ALERT.

Dr. Edward Teller, lead-off witness in the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee inquiry into the missiles race, proved himself today to be not only a knowledgeable witness but also a sharp one at turning a phrase.

Though highly technical in content and somewhat affected by a heavy Hungarian accent, Dr. Teller's testimony kept listeners in the Senate caucus room alert for the bon mots which came out frequently. Here are examples:

On the scientists in Russia—"Their scientists are honored and to some extent even understood."

On life on other planets—"We might not recognize life because it might not look like life."

On prestige for science majors—"We have to get to the point where science students will be admired as much as football players."

On emulation as a training aid—"We are descended from monkeys and imitation is one of our strongest impulses."

On the isolation of intellectuals—"The highbrows have gone off into a corner and started to talk among themselves in polysyllables. Very often they don't understand each other."

On the growth of basic knowledge—"A few hundred years ago it was only for geniuses to know the earth was round."

On controlling the weather—"If we do find a way to control the weather, we will have eliminated the last safe topic of conversation."

At this point Senator Johnson, Democrat of Texas, added a quip of his own: "The way the weather's been acting lately in Texas, some people think the Russians already control it."



The Father of the H-Bomb Speaks

Why I Want to Go to the Moon

By Edward Teller

From Dr. Teller's testimony before the Senate Preparedness subcommittee.

SHALL I tell you why I want to go to the moon? Well, I have already told you in a way. I don't really know. I am just curious. . . .

I am certain that people will go to the moon and will get to the planets. There is no question about that in my mind. . . .

For one thing, I would be extremely anxious to put up an observatory on the moon. We are looking out of our atmosphere in just a few wave lengths, first of all in the visible region and since the war in the region of some radar frequencies. . . .

Now, when we go to the moon, a possibility of looking at the universe will not be just for a few wave lengths in the visible and a few in the radar region. It will be over the whole spectrum, and it is an increase in informa-

tion very much greater than the increase . . . in fullness of the picture . . . you get when you go from black and white to colored pictures.

I would like to look. I want to go to the moon because I can use it as a platform to look even farther. Then, of course, I will certainly, even though I know that the moon is a very inhospitable sort of place, I will look for any kinds of traces of life. They may show up in some strange and unexplainable chemical combination.

I will certainly look for something like that when we get to Mars. It is quite possible that when we get there first we won't even recognize life because it will be so strange that it will look like no life.

Nevertheless, by and by we might learn things, and by that we might learn something about ourselves, which is certainly extremely interesting.

So I would like to say that in the field of the exploration of the moon and of the exploration of the planets there are a great number of most interesting and most inspiring things, and practical things will come a little bit later . . . and I am sure it will have also a great military advantage.

But don't ask me, please, what it is. My imagination is not good enough for that; to go so far ahead and to plan, I cannot do . . .

I cannot tell you in black and white what will be the advantages. I could dream up some sort of systems which need the moon, and then I can dream up counter-arguments, and I can argue for as long as you please.

But the fact is that if you make such a very big step like going to the moon, it will have both amusing and amazing and practical and military consequences.

That is how it always was in the world.

Ike Aide Under Fire For 'Secrecy' Talk

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 AP—A congressional foe of government secrecy today mildly scolded presidential assistant Robert Cutler and denounced the "evils of secrecy" in meetings of the Commerce Department's Business Advisory Council.

Rep. Moss (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Government Information subcommittee, made public differing versions of what Cutler told the council on Oct. 26—Cutler's account and that of some who heard him.

The controversy resulted from an off-the-record speech delivered by Cutler, who is President Eisenhower's representative to the National Security Council at Hot Springs, Va. Cutler's audience was made up of 200 of the council's businessmen - members and their guests.

In his speech Cutler denounced what he called a breach of security by a trade journal. He did not name the magazine, but it was readily identifiable as Aviation Week, a McGraw-Hill publication.

In his statement today, Moss said members of the council have informed the subcommittee that Cutler charged the magazine with "rendering a great disservice to the nation" and "suggested that businessmen take the journal's alleged disservice into consideration when they place their advertising."

Moss released simultaneously Cutler's explanatory letter to the subcommittee. Cutler reported that he did say in his speech that "some of my listeners were probably advertisers" in the magazine, but he added: "I did not state that any advertiser should boycott the magazine."

The article which aroused Cutler's wrath was a widely reprinted story disclosing that this country was tracking Soviet missile tests through a radar station in Turkey. Aviation Week said Russia knew of the station and only the American public was kept in ignorance.

In his statement today Moss said he was not passing judgment on the magazine's disclosures, but he added:

"If a responsible government official alleges that there has

been an unauthorized disclosure of properly classified information, his only proper course of action is to make his charges openly and take the steps provided by law."

Moss said the questions raised by Cutler's speech "illustrate the evils of secrecy imposed on meetings of the Business Advisory Council." The council, with a membership made up largely of the heads of large corporations, confers periodically with the secretary of commerce in closed session.

"This secrecy is defended," Moss said, "on grounds that the government can obtain candid advice from businessmen only at off-the-record meetings."

"When secrecy is extended to dinner meetings at which government officials are enabled to make remarks for which they are not publicly accountable, the argument for secrecy becomes untenable."

Immediately following Cutler's Hot Springs talk, reports circulated that he had described the radar station story as one of the worst security violations in years, and had used the word "treason." The Moss committee investigated by obtaining statements from council members and asking Cutler to furnish his recollection of what he said.

Cutler's reply to the committee said in part:

"To illustrate difficulties facing a free nation in the continuing struggle with international communism, I mentioned a story recently published in a weekly trade journal, not identified by me by name (but in which I stated that some of my listeners were probably advertisers)."

"This story purported to give details about an overseas installation and its contribution to free world defense."

"I remember saying that the publication of this story was in category of things prejudicial to our nation and its people in the free world struggle for survival. I explicitly stated that the publication of the story was not treason. I did not state that any advertiser should boycott the magazine."