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Charlie,

On page 830 of Part I, Policy Statements, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION FOR 1960, Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Eighty-Sixth Congress, First Session, appears the following:

"Secretary Douglas. As to the lunar probe, we believe they had two failures and possibly three failures before the successful lunar probe.

"They have also had failures in satellite launchings.

"Mr. Mahon. That is very interesting.

"(Discussion off the record.)

"Mr. Mahon. Anyone in his right mind knows there have been a lot of failures. Regardless of what you said I would know they have had a lot of failures. You cannot repeal the laws of nature and physics. Nobody can do these things without having a lot of failures.

"Secretary Douglas. That is our experience.

"Mr. Mahon. I have said that all the time and I will continue to say it. That is based not only on intelligence, but based on common sense."

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"Mr. Ford. I noticed here this afternoon for the first time a willingness to talk about and disclose with more accuracy your information about failures. A year ago you were quite specific about the number of successes that they had.

"Is this a new means of detection that reveals their failures more accurately than before?

"Secretary Douglas. This, Mr. Congressman, is information which is given on my own responsibility. I think it is important that we know pretty well everything that seems to be material of what we have on the books. It is only with this kind of background that we can have sensible judgments with respect to the whole program.

"Mr. Ford. I agree but I never heard the failures discussed in this light before."

Stanley J. Grogan

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