



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Congressional Space Science Hearings Transcripts

Denise Peeler (revision by Elizabeth Borja)

1990; revised 2022

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Congressional Space Science Hearings Transcripts
<b>Date:</b>	1958-1964
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0205
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Aeronautics United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences
<b>Extent:</b>	1.38 Cubic feet (4 document boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Congress established committees on space exploration in 1958, in response to the Soviet Union's launching of Sputnik in October 1957. Both Senate and House committees held hearings on the creation of the new civilian space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and its budgets. In addition, they held investigative hearings about the United States' launch failures and the Soviet Union's space program. By the late 1960s both committees were relegated to subcommittees status as part of groups which dealt with all aspects of science and technology. This collection consists of published transcripts of hearings before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science and Aeronautics and the United States Senate Committee on Aeronautics and Space Science.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift, NASM.XXXX.0205.

### Processing Information

Arranged and described by Denise Peeler, 1990. Revised and encoded by Elizabeth C. Borja, 2022.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

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## Biographical / Historical

Congress established committees on space exploration in 1958, in response to the Soviet Union's launching of Sputnik in October 1957. The House Committee was created as the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration (1958). In 1959, the Committee on Science and Astronautics became a permanent standing committee within the House of Representatives.

The Senate, encouraged by Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, established a Special Committee on Space and Astronautics in February 1958. By 1959, the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences was a permanent, as well as prestigious, Senate committee.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of published transcripts of hearings before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics and the United States Senate Committee on Aeronautics and Space Science. The hearings deal with a wide variety of topics including appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, American and Soviet space programs, as well as other space-science-related topics.

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## Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series: 1) House of Representatives Hearings and Reports and 2) Senate Hearings and Reports. Within each series, materials are mostly arranged chronologically.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Astronautics

Types of Materials:

Publications  
Transcripts

Names:

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences  
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Places:

Outer space -- Exploration -- Soviet Union  
Outer space -- Exploration -- United States

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: House of Representatives Hearings and Reports, 1958-1961

Box 1, Folder 1	Staff Reports of the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, 1958-1959 Notes: Survey of Space Law; Space Handbook: Astronautics and Its Applications; The Next Ten Years in Space, 1959-1969
Box 1, Folder 2	Select Committee Staff Reports, January 1959-March 1959 Notes: International Cooperation in the Exploration of Space; The United States and Outer Space; Satellites for World Communication; International Control of Outer Space
Box 1, Folder 3	Committee Reports and Hearings, May 1959-October 1959 Notes: Soviet Space Technology; Meeting with the Astronauts (Project Mercury--Man-in-Space Program); Boron Energy High Fuels (Hearings); Boron High-Energy Fuels (Report)
Box 1, Folder 4	Committee Hearings, January 1960-February 1960 Notes: Review of the Space Program
Box 1, Folder 5	Staff Committee Reports and Hearings, January 1960-February 1960 Notes: Project Mercury First Interim Report; Review of the Space Program
Box 1, Folder 6	Committee and Subcommittee Hearings, February 1960 Notes: 1961 NASA Authorization
Box 1, Folder 7	Committee Hearings and Message from the President, February 1960-March 1960 Notes: Review of the Space Program; Second Semiannual Report of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Box 2, Folder 1	Committee Reports and Hearing, February 1961-April 1961 Notes: Report on the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the International Astronautical Federation; Project Rover (U.S. Nuclear Rocket Development Program); H.R. 6169 - A Bill to Amend the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958
Box 2, Folder 2	Committee Reports and Hearing, May 1961-July 1961 Notes: Communications Satellites
Box 2, Folder 3	Committee Reports and Hearing, May 1961-July 1961 Notes: The National Bureau of Standards and the Space Program; Orbital Rendezvous in Space; NASA Authorization for Fiscal Year 1962; 1962 NASA Authorization

Box 2, Folder 4

Committee Reports and Hearing, July 1961-October 1961; 1963

Notes: Equatorial Launch Sites--Mobile Sea Launch Capability;  
Communications Satellites; Posture of the National Space  
Program; Amending the NASA Authorization Act For Fiscal  
Year 1962; Commercial Applications of Space Communications  
Systems

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## Series 2: Senate Hearings and Reports, 1959-1964

Box 2, Folder 5	Committee Reports and Hearings, 1958 Notes: Summary of Hearings Astronautics and Space Exploration; Space Law: A Symposium
Box 3, Folder 1	Special Committee Final Report and NASA Authorization Committee Hearings, April 1959-May 1959
Box 3, Folder 2	NASA Authorization Committee Hearings, March 1960
Box 3, Folder 3	NASA Authorization Committee Hearings, June 1960
Box 3, Folder 4	Staff Report, Amendment to the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, December 1960-April 1961 Notes: Policy Planning for Space Telecommunications; Amending the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958
Box 4, Folder 1	Committee Hearings, February 1962-March 1962 Notes: Communications Satellite Legislation
Box 4, Folder 2	Staff Report, May 1962 Notes: Soviet Space Programs: Organization, Plans, Goals, and International Implications
Box 4, Folder 3	NASA Authorization Committee Reports and Hearings for FY1964 and FY1965, August 1963-March 1964

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