

Republicans Assert U.S. Lets Moscow Widen Space Lead

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (UPI) — A Republican panel said today that what it called misguided and extravagant efforts by the Administration to land a man on the moon had permitted the Soviet Union to increase its lead in space.

The Republican study group on "space, science and the atom" said that President Johnson's space program was forsaking national security objectives for partisan political considerations.

The panel is headed by Lewis L. Strauss, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Other members are Dr. Edward Teller and Dr. Willard F. Libby, the scientists, and Gen. Arthur Trudeau, former Army Chief of Research and Development.

The study group, in a report to Senator Barry Goldwater, the Republican Presidential nominee, declared:

"The imbalance in our space program is demonstrated by the stark contrast between meager funding of military space projects and extravagant spending for the man on the moon (Apollo) program.

"The exploitation of space in the immediate neighborhood of our planet has a much more direct bearing on our safety. Overemphasis by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Apollo has led to a slow-down of unmanned scientific space exploration.

"The multi-manned Soviet satellite launched into orbit and successfully landed focuses attention on the deplorable planning and management of our own costly space effort."