

CPYRGH **Who Misled the People?**

When General Nathan F. Twining, air force chief of staff, returned from Moscow on July 4 he indicated that his views of Soviet air power had not changed—in sum—that the Soviet Union has more military aircraft than the United States and is catching up fast on quality.

It is important to remember that he made that statement not only once but many times before he went to the Soviet Union. He repeated it when he returned and before he reported to President Eisenhower and his superiors, including Defense Secretary Wilson.

Secretary Wilson has been given the money and the means of speeding up production of the B-52 intercontinental bombers, of which the United States has only ONE operational wing. The rest of our intercontinental bombers are B-36's, designed 16 years ago. If 16 years is average for an automobile it is ancient for a military aircraft.

If Secretary Wilson now defies the expressed will of Congress and stirs the additional \$900 million appropriated for B-52's into the air force over-all budget without producing the extra B-52's demanded by Congress, or if overestimates by his military chiefs of military requirements are at fault, either Wilson or the military chiefs have grossly deceived the American people.

The facts should be rather plain by this time. Wilson underestimated the situation despite accurate intelligence reports on Russian progress which were available to him in 1953. That's the key year. It was clearly apparent from the record that Admiral Radford, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, tried to save Wilson from the insistent probing of Senators Symington and Jackson, by pleading that the matter couldn't be discussed in open session. What is so secret? Is it Defense Secretary Wilson's blundering?

The facts must be nailed down. Allen W. Dulles, head of Central Intelligence Agency, should not have to take the rap for faulty intelligence. He provided all the facts that Wilson needed as far back as 1953. The intelligence reports of the buildup of Russian air strength were ignored by the Defense Secretary. One must assume that the President also ignored the intelligence reports in order to persuade the people that "more defense" could be provided "for less money."



Now General Twining is back from Moscow. He was hustled to Gettysburg and reported to the President on what he saw. But he had already reaffirmed the views that he held before he went to Moscow. The Soviet air force is numerically larger, and getting better, all the time, than the U. S. air force.

General Twining and his opposite numbers in the other services and his subordinates have testified under oath. Secretary Wilson and his subordinate secretaries have testified under oath. One set of witnesses flatly contradicts the other. One or the other set of witnesses hasn't been truthful. On the basis of what both sets of witnesses know the truth to be, one group or the other has deliberately deceived and exposed the American people to danger. And it is becoming more and more apparent that it isn't the professional airmen.