

Monday, July 21, 1969

Good Evening Everybody! Like many of you - most of you I presume, once our astronauts had landed on the moon I listened to my jubilant companions express their thoughts about it all. And because I happened to be with some unusual men, some of whom had even played a part in getting Armstrong and Aldrin to the moon, I thought you might be interested in their comments.

Sitting beside me watching the astronauts climb out of their space ship and take those - Man's first steps on the Moon, were Presidents of Universities, scientists including several Nobel Prize winners, editors, publishers and some of the top people in the Nixon administration - and so on.

When Armstrong took that step from the bottom of the lunar module ladder, and actually stood on the Moon, Keith Glennon, sitting behind me - he's the former head of the Brookhaven Atomic Laboratory on Long Island, he

clapped me on the shoulder and nearly knocked me off my chair - he was so thrilled. And a shout of relief and a cheer for Armstrong shook the building where we were.

As you know there had been quite a long wait while they were putting on those complicated, cumbersome space suits - taking them three or four times as long as we had been led to expect. Said Dean Mallot, former President of Cornell:- "Let's not be impatient. After all our forefathers often had to wait much longer than this when the stage coach from Boston to Hartford was delayed -- and with no way of knowing what was happening and when it might arrive!

Don Maxwell, editor of the Chicago Trib - stood beside me part of the time. His comment was:- "It's thrilling to live through a Jules Verne. But he went on to say:- "As a nation we are broke, and we should spend our billions on things that need to be done here on earth - to

✓ solve the problems of our cities, for education - and," he added: "to win the war and get it over."

Said Francis Farquar, - now in his 80's - twice President of the Sierra League, one of the leading conservationists in the country:- "This is one of the great moments of all time." But just as the Chicago Trib editor had remarked:- "Now let's solve some of our major problems here on Earth!"

Booming voiced Karl Wente, former head of the Bank of America, which was - mebbe still is - the largest bank in the world, gave me his thoughts on the Moon landing in a voice that could be heard for a quarter of a mile:- "The most magnificent thing Man ever did! But now let's pension off all these professors and stop all this spending!"

Ah, but there are even some professors who agree with Tycoon Wente. Says the eminent Dr. Chauncey Leek, formerly of Ohio State:- "Cost far too much! All

those billions could have been spent in far more useful ways!" Then he added:- "Once you've started on a course like this you can't stop! You go on doing even wilder things!"

Dr. Lee De Bridge, who recently retired as President of Cal-Tech, was with us. He is now Space Advisor to President Nixon. He agreed that Man will go on to wilder things. But he thinks they should be done. For instance he says we'll go to Mars within ten years. How long a trip will that be compared to the flight to the Moon. Says Lee DuBridge, the journey to Mars and return will take a full year. As for visiting the other planets in our solar system, Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, Mercury - not a hope says the President's Space Advisor -- either because of temperatures or pressures -- or both. The former head of Cal-Tech says that whether there will be practical results or not all advance in knowledge is worthwhile!

Two heads of the Atomic Energy Commission were with us - Glen Seaborg - and Adm. Lewis Straus, who was Atomic chairman in the Eisenhower Administration. Sitting with us was Buren MacCormack, head of The Wall Street Journal. He was holding a copy of this paper in which was this headline:- "Rock from the Moon at a Cost of \$400 Million a Pound." When Adm. Straus saw that he laughed and said:- "The astronauts will give pieces of that rock to their wives to put in rings. Then, before long jewelers will be advertising rings with more of this moonstone - and Warren - they'll even give you certificates vouching for its authenticity!"

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The Alaskan L T was driving me into San Francisco today when, listening to CBS Space Headquarters we heard that Russia's Luna 15 was nearing the Moon and not too far from our astronauts. Said Lowell:- "I hope they

don't have some sophisticated geer on their Luna 15 with which they might jam the instruments on our Lunar Module and keep our astronauts from returning!" Then, minutes later we heard the Russian unmanned space capsule had hit the Moon, gone silent, and evidently out of commission. So, we'll hope nothing, nothing will happen to keep Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins from coming home. What a day that will be! And So Long Until Tomorrow!