

ASTRONAUT

L.T. - Olds. Fri. May. 5 - 61

Tonight our space lexicon has a new phrase - "freedom seven." Two words representing - the successful flight of America's first astronaut. "Freedom" - meaning the object of our space program. "Seven" standing for the number of our selected astronauts.

But as you know - <sup>has actually become</sup> only one of them ~~is~~ a real astronaut. Navy Commander Alan Shepard, the only one - to fly through space. His six companions - hoping to get their chance later on. It looks as if they will, ~~and~~ fairly soon - after what happened in "missile alley" today.

<sup>As you must know by now</sup> No postponements - this time. Astronaut Shepard, <sup>^</sup> blasting off - aboard his Redstone rocket. His cabin - a ton and a half of scientific hardware. Capable of controlled flight - when it was ejected. In other words, the American astronaut was able to guide his space craft - whereas Russia's Gagarin was <sup>a</sup> ~~merely~~ a passenger in his orbital flight.

<sup>^</sup> The tip - off on success today - Shepard's accurate handling of the controls. The space agency, reporting during

the flight ~~"our"~~<sup>"</sup> astronaut ~~is~~ working like a test pilot."  
Shepard, handling "freedom seven" - like a plane.

Radioing back remarks like - "what a beautiful view!" And "very smooth". And - "okay". Matter of fact notes - from a man traveling at five thousand miles an hour. Zooming over a hundred miles into the sky - over three hundred miles ~~from~~ down the Atlantic range.

The astronaut, surviving in such good condition - he freed himself ~~after~~ after landing in the ocean. Crawling out of his capsule - then boarding a helicopter by means of a sling. On board the <sup>carrier</sup> "Lake Champlain" he told the medicos - "I don't think you're going to have much to do."

He was right. All they've been able to find so far - high pulse and a bit of perspiration. The reaction, that happens to anyone - after a brief sprint. But Alan Shepard wasn't ~~out on the~~ <sup>exactly on a</sup> sprint. - ~~during~~ <sup>He was involved in</sup> the most sensational fifteen minutes in the history of our space program.

FOLLOW ASTRONAUT

Did you see it on TV or were you lucky enough to hear it over the radio? I thought Bob Trout for CBS did a superb job. No doubt other reporters were in top form today at Cape Canaveral. But, I'm delighted that I happened to tune in on Bob Trout. The tape of his account of the adventures of our first astronaut will be heard over and over in the years to come.

KENNEDY

The first official reaction to the astronaut flight - came at President Kennedy's news conference. The President had already talked with Alan Shepard by phone - offering him personal congratulations. Later, the President told newsmen - that we are going to step up our efforts in space. Make an all-out attempt - to overhaul the Russians. Put more money - into our rockets and technical equipment. Also, needless to say - into the training of more astronauts.

At the same time, President Kennedy is offering to the scientists of the world - the scientific information gathered today. Photographs, rocket performances, data on human reactions to weightlessness - and so on.

What about the publicity - surrounding the flight? The President says - he had no objection to it. Although he points out that it was due to the newsmen covering the story - not to government officials. The point being - that we live in a free society <sup>where</sup> ~~and~~ the flow of news on every subject - is part of our system. ~~Even~~ Even when there's a chance - of our

being made to look ridiculous. Of course, there's always the chance - that we will look good. As we did - today.

At this news ~~conference~~ conference, Mr. Kennedy covered <sup>other</sup> ~~the obvious~~ subjects, <sup>— such as is he</sup> ~~He's~~ considering the possibility of landing American troops - in South Viet Nam.

*(Also)* He hasn't made up his mind about a total embargo of Cuban trade - because most of that trade now is in food and medicine. He's sending Arthur Dean back to Geneva - to resume attempts to get a nuclear test ban from the Russians.

How does <sup>the young</sup> President ~~Kennedy~~ view <sup>↑</sup> his first hundred days in office? <sup>↑</sup> ~~The President refused to answer~~ <sup>He declined to comment on</sup> that <sup>↑</sup> ~~question.~~ Saying - he'll read the newspapers, and see what the reporters have to say about his administration.

## SHEPARD

Just who is this American Navy man - whose name now is a household word? Alan B. Shepard, Junior, is from - East Derry, New Hampshire. He attended Pinkerton Academy before going on to Admiral Farragut's Academy at Toms River, New Jersey. From there his itinerary took him - to Annapolis, and then the Navy Air Arm. All leading up to his choice as - our number one astronaut.

Thirty-seven years old, married, with two daughters. His family says - he's never been afraid of anything. As we all know - after a delay that would have wrecked the nerves of many a man, Shepard coolly rode his rocket into space, and back - and did it as airmen say - with "no sweat!"

## UNIONS

Amid the rejoicing - there's a sour note that ought to be heard. Senator McClellan of Arkansas reminding us - that we could have beaten the Russians into outer space. Why didn't we? Because of work delays at our missile bases.

Which points up angry criticism - by two top newspaper columnists. Ed Koterba of the Scripps How Papers and Bob Considine; top reporter for the Hearst chain. Both noting that many workers at Cape Canaveral draw fantastic salaries. For example, an electrician at Canaveral was paid - more than seven hundred dollars a week - far more, \$300 more a week than our top missile scientist, Werner Von Braun.

And the money lost - in slow-downs. The man who walks off his job - often draws overtime when he returns, and getting away with it - because of union demands. If they were behind the Iron curtain they'd

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probably be shot.

Here are some figures given by Bob Considine:-

"more than three hundred work stoppages, resulting in the loss of about a hundred and seventy thousand man-days of work, at one of the most critical times in the history of the nation."

In the words of Senator McClellan "the workers at our missile bases are playing fast and loose with the national security."

Says the Scripps Howard columnist: "doing as much damage as any evil deed committed by the Kremlin." His opening words: "You could almost hear Khrushchev and Castro - slapping their knees with glee."

Says Bob Considine "there's the compelling question of where the hell we are headed when we tolerate some of these obscene incursions on the morality that made the country great."

Another Considine quote:- "America's blood will boil - but, what will be done about it?"



NIXON

The former Vice President of the United States is in Chicago - for some politicking. Richard Nixon, scheduled for his first political speeches - since he was defeated in his bid for the presidency. <sup>- Dick -</sup> This, the opening round of what Nixon calls - "loyal opposition to the administration."

## PEER

In staid old England, a lot of eyebrows are raised - because of one word; the word "tribalism." Sounds - inoffensive. But not when applied to the British aristocracy; and - by a British aristocrat.

Anthony Wedgwood Benn is the noble lord who doesn't want to be one. Benn, trying to push away the family title - of Viscount Stansgate. Benn prefers to stay a commoner, and stay - in the House of Commons.

The official ruling, according to protocol - is that he has to move up to the House of Lords. But, he challenged the government - and ran in a Bristol election, where he won by a big majority. Now he's demanding - that his right to be a commoner be made legal.

A strange twist - of politics and society in England. Viscount Stansgate, who just wants to be plain Tony Benn - laborite M P; who calls the title, his title Viscount Stansgate - "tribalism."