

June 26, 1969

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - a last check of the Apollo-Eleven's three ^Cmon_Aship modules. Final step in preparations for a week long trial countdown - set to begin at midnight tonight. If it all works out - the go-ahead signal for planned blast off will be just three weeks away. Of last report - everything "going fine - right on schedule."

The Nixon Administration's new voting rights proposal was presented today to the House Judiciary Committee. As detailed by Attorney-General John Mitchell - its chief advocate - it's an attempt to treat the problem "on a nationwide basis;" and recognizing that "voting rights is no longer a regional issue! It is a national concern.!

Accordingly, the bill proposes a nation-wide ban on literacy tests. This in place of a Nineteen-Sixty-Five law - which applied only to seven Southern states. The bill also calling for a ban on state residency requirements - in the case of Presidential elections. Mitchell asserting: "Our commitment must be to encourage as many citizens as possible to vote." - At the same time, discouraging "the application of unreasonable legal requirements."

BEN HET

In Vietnam - the marathon battle of Ben Het was turning into a long-range gun duel today. Enemy forces hidden deep in the jungle - pumping more than Eighty shells into that beleaguered Green Beret camp. At staggered intervals - American gunners responding in kind. Pouring forth a torrent of fire - that caused one observer to comment: "I don't see how anyone can still be alive out there." And yet - the siege goes on. It's now in its seventh week with neither side giving an inch.

Former heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis - stricken with a physical collapse today in New York. The legendary "Brown Bomber" - immediately rushed to a hospital. However, friends saying it was "definitely not a heart attack" as originally feared. And though he was held for observation - Joe's condition later listed as "good"; which is good news, of course, to all Joe Louis fans - myself included. An all-time great as a fighter - and a fine person.

HUNTSVILLE

This next - perhaps surprising to some. From the world of space science - a defense of the proposition that there is a God - that, in fact, there is some form of life after death.

This - according to Dr. Werner von Braun; the former German rocket expert - who is now director of the Marshall Space Flight Center at Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. von Braun asserting that space travel - far from repudiating God - has merely shown that men must enlarge their concept of God; recognizing him not as a local deity - but rather "the creator and master of everything."

As for life after death - Dr. von Braun going on to say: "Science has shown that nothing can disappear without a trace;" that "nature does not know extinction - all it knows is transformation." And then he asks: "Now if God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of his universe - doesn't it make sense to assume that he applies it also to the masterpiece of his creation - the human soul?"

LONDON

London - Prince Charles looks at marriage. This -
in a televised press conference. The twenty-year-old heir
to the British throne - saying that common sense favors his
marrying a princess. That is someone who knows what
royalty is all about - said he: "Somebody pretty special -
who perhaps one day is going to become a queen - and could
fulfill this particular role."

"Only trouble" - said Charles rather mournfully -
"Britain is currently suffering from a distinct shortage of
princesses. And rather than go out of the country" - said he
- "I often feel I would like to marry somebody English -
or perhaps Welsh." In other words - a British lass, royal
or no.

In any case - the Prince making it plain - he'd like
a girl just like his Mom. Of the Queen ⁻⁻ he said: "She is just
a marvelous person and a wonderful mother - terribly
sensible and wise - with a marvelous sense of humor."
What about "life with father?" Did Prince ~~Charles~~ ^{Phillip} ever

tell him to - "sit down and shut up" - the reporters asked.
"Yes" - said Charles - "the whole time." There ought to
be a bit more to that story - don't you think!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A question heard often these days: What's wrong with American youth? Answer - according to a top anthropologist; nothing at all! Doctor Barbara Meyerhoff of the University of Southern California - asserting that, indeed, young Americans are embracing traditional U.S. values as never before.

Oh, sure, there are she admits a few youngsters simply bent on raising Cain - and always are. However, the great majority - we are told - are fully committed to the principles of democracy, autonomy, egalitarianism, and responsibility. And whether they realize it or not - this a part of their inheritance - says the USC professor. Adding, therefore, that today's young Americans are - Warren - in a very real sense - a credit to their parents.

The village of Lejona, Spain - scene of a "Mr. Ugly" contest today. And the winner - fifteen-year-old Jose Ramon Learra. Who credits his ugly countenance -to six months of "patient training in front of a mirror;" also, special facial massage - to enhance his naturally gruesome appearance. All of which caused his fans to scream: "You are the ugliest!"

By the way - the village also planned to name a "Miss Ugly." As it turned out, though - Jose will have to reign alone. The title of "Miss Ugly" left vacant - because nobody wanted it; not one of the señoritas - willing to enter the competition. Wonder why?