

CAPE KENNEDY

Fri, Nov. 14 - '69

At Cape Kennedy - the wind blew and the rain flew - and so, too, did the Apollo Twelve - as you ~~no doubt~~ have heard by now. America's second Moon landing mission thundering into the skies into the midst of a raging storm - exactly on schedule. As it ^{dis}appeared into the blue - under launch conditions unthinkable just a few years ago - ^{it was} in effect, hurling a challenge at the elements to "do your worst".

And then - kapow! ~~at~~ A near miss from a bolt of lightning - or maybe a build up of static electricity - they aren't quite sure yet. But whatever it was - the ship's main electrical system suddenly cutting out. Setting off - "a couple of cardiac arrests" at Houston ground control we were to hear later. But up there in the space craft - no time for that.

As the cabin began to light up like a Christmas tree the warning lights here ~~at~~ there and everywhere -

Mission Commander Pete Conrad singing out - "we've just lost the platform, gang" - meaning the ship's guidance system. And he added - quickly that - "everything in the world had dropped out." At the same time though - an instant switch to the ship's battery powered ^{their} back-up ~~up~~ ~~system~~ system and fast - almost automatically - the crew taking emergency steps they had long practiced in space simulators; flying, by the seat of their pants - so to speak; until finally, happily - the trouble was fully corrected.

As the ship entered earth orbit - Conrad radioing back: "It was a rough start" - but ^{-now} "it's a first class ride." A ~~■~~ moment later - he observed: "I always like to start out behind the eight ball and then I can get ahead." ~~And back~~ ^{At} Cape Kennedy - President Nixon - who was present for the launch, summed it ~~■~~ all up in a single word: "Spectacular."

SPACE FOLLOW CAPE KENNEDY

After that - a thorough check of all systems;
showing the Apollo Twelve command module - the
"Yankee Clipper" ^λ apparently unharmed. Whereupon a
burst of speed to escape the earth's gravity - and the
Moon flight had really begun. Less than ~~two~~ three-and-
a-half hours into the mission - Pete Conrad - Dick
Gordon and Al Bean sending back their ~~is~~ first color
telecasts. - Still to come tonight - a check of the
space craft lunar ~~is~~ lander - the "The Intrepid" to
make sure - that it also escaped damage. In which
case it's full speed ahead. ^{Next stop the} ~~Look out~~ Moon. - ~~here we~~
~~come.~~

Meanwhile, ~~business~~ life continues here below. Sometimes happy, sometimes sad; sometimes noble - sometimes just the opposite. The course of human events - calling forth an infinite variety of human response. As in the case of ~~that~~^e ~~big~~ anti-war protest - today in Washington.

For those ~~of~~ who were taking part - ~~the~~ most of them - ^{they insisted it was} anyway, ~~an~~ expression of ~~man's~~ man's highest regard for his fellow man. For others ^{it was} a protest bearing with it the threat of mob rule. And in between - such as Senate Minority leader Hugh Scott; who said the protestors may look odd-ball; but they still have a right to "do their thing." The Senator adding: "They, too, will grow old, some day and then they too, will find there are no simple solutions to complex problems."

WHITE HOUSE

In the wake of Spiro Agnew's TV blast of last night a storm of reaction today. As you know - the Vice President charging that TV network news - is overly selective and often biased. A charge quickly denied by all three major networks. Indeed, the Vice President himself was accused of attempting to "intimidate TV newsmen." [↑] *Now - the public is being heard from - in the form of calls and letters to various stations and ~~new~~ newspapers. According to ~~one~~ at least one spot check - the tide of sentiment about running three to one in support of the Vice President. In calls to the White House - the figure actually set at ten to one. The Pr[↑]sident further let it be known that while he did not approve the Agnew speech in advance he has "great confidence in the Vice President."*

JAPAN

If you have been in Japan recently you no doubt were as impressed as I was by the *boundless industry* of the people, their optimism, and the way everything seems to be booming. The Japanese simply bursting with confidence; with the feeling that hard work and application will accomplish everything. In some countries workers demanding higher wages and more leisure. But not in Japan. Government officials and business executives average sixty and seventy hour weeks.

The gross national product of the country now ranks third in the world, while in size Japan ~~is~~ is, as you know, one of the smaller nations.

Everywhere you go in Asia you find the market flooded with Japanese products. Motor traffic everywhere a problem ~~is~~ just as it is with us, and most of the cars made in Japan.

There is a general feeling in that country that nothing can stop Japan from going ~~on~~ all the way to the top and becoming the world's ~~the~~ number one economic power.

Despite the fact that they lost most of their empire in World War Two, and were completely overwhelmed by our military power, today ^{Warren -} the Japanese are saying that the "Twenty-First Century will be Japan's."

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