

Protesters, VIPs Flood Cape Area

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Former President and Mrs. Johnson arrive at Cape Kennedy for Apollo 11 launch.

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CAPE KENNEDY, July 15 — At the narrow red-brick church on Magnolia Street where the poor people gathered, the black faces glistened with anger as the orator hammered at the arithmetic of America and its space program.

Hosea Williams, a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, shouted accusingly, "This woman gets \$82 a month and a one-room shack." Lilly Belle Holt and her nine spindly children from Social Circle, Ga., stared blankly at the TV cameras.

"Why should we be worrying about sending three men to the moon when here are 10 people dying of starvation?" Williams growled. "If we can spend \$100 a mile to send three men to the moon, can't we, for God's sake, feed our hungry?"

The poor people's campaign run by SCLC brought the angry question to the gates of the Kennedy Space Center yesterday, the huge Federal rocket reservation where the \$365 million Apollo 11 will be launched Wednesday morning. They also brought the haunting faces of poor black people, most of them women and their children, assembled here from places like Marks, Miss., and Charleston, S.C., and Wayercross, Ga.

But the man who heads the \$24-billion space program greeted them at the gate as a friend and invited some of them in to watch his rocket go off. He promised that NASA would keep its eyes on the poor and hungry as well as the stars.

See SCENE, A7, Col. 1

Poor, Tourists, VIPs

Gather for Apollo Shot

SCENE, From A1

"It will be a lot harder to solve the problems of hunger and poverty than it is to send men to the moon," said Dr. Thomas O. Paine, the NASA administrator. But, he said, "if it were possible for us not to push that button tomorrow and solve the problems you are talking about, we would not push the button."

The confrontation in a field outside the space center placed Paine opposite SCLC president Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, an assembly of 150 poor people and three mules, the forlorn symbol of the poor people's crusade.

Mr. Abernathy told him that they were not against the space program. But they wanted him to explain the arithmetic.

The NASA administrator replied that, in a way, the space program and the benefits of science could be used to solve the problems of the poor.

Poor To Watch Launch

"I want you to hitch your wagon to our rocket," Paine said, "and tell the people the NASA program is an example of what this country can do."

Perhaps the space triumphs, said Paine, "will make a resolution for Americans to band together to fight the programs you are talking about."

At Mr. Abernathy's request, NASA arranged for a bus-load of the poor people to watch the launch from a site inside the space center, though not the same one where Congressmen and other top officials will be gathered. The NASA administrator also pledged to do what he could to adapt food concentrates developed in the space program to aid the Nation's malnourished.

At the last, Paine asked something of the poor people—to mention the three astronauts in their prayers. They said they would.

In Cocoa Beach, across the water of the Banana River and away from Brevard County's pocket of impoverished Negro families, the relationship between rockets and hunger was not so clearly drawn.

Pelicans glided in graceful formation over highway A-1A, a ribbon of bars and restaurants and motels now swollen with tourist traffic.

In a motel lobby, TV star Hugh O'Brian, wearing sea-blue shirt and pants, white sneakers and a gold bandana, posed for pictures before a model of the \$40 million lunar module that will land on the moon.

Villages of tents, trailers and camper trucks sprang up along the beaches and causeways where people can get a good view of the Saturn 5 rocket taking off. A restaurant manager groused about the size of the crowds, not nearly as large as the 1 million people that local businessmen predicted.

Sand Fleas and TV

The parking lot at Cocoa Beach's ocean front park was filled with out-of-state licenses from as far away as New Jersey and California. Two long-haired youths from Los Angeles were

sleeping in their car. "We were somewhere in the Midwest when we heard about it," said Rob Edelstein. "We thought it was going to be last Wednesday so we've been here a week."

Bob Bullard, who brought his family from Lake Charles, La., woke up this morning to see an NBC television camera perched on the dune in front of their camper. Bullard plugged in his TV set and watched himself on the Today show.

Nearby, Floyd Kalber complained about the sand fleas. Farther down the beach highway, a crowd of 75 or so gathered outside the Cape Kennedy Hilton to greet the limousine of Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas. Kids in bathing suits cheered and rushed the former President for autographs as he stepped out of the car. His companion, Texas Congressman Olin Teague, climbed out the other side and was shoved aside in the rush of TV cameramen.

Mr. Johnson attended a small luncheon given by Paul Miller, president of Gannett Newspapers, in honor of former NASA administrator James Webb, the man Mr. Johnson tapped back in 1961 to lead the America's moon efforts.

The 37 luncheon guests dined on crab salad and sherbert and were given gag newspapers about LBJ and Webb going to the moon. The former President, looking tanned and refreshed, spoke briefly about the historic event coming up Wednesday.

"I have ridden on every flight and I doubt a human could be as concerned or troubled until splashdown as I am or have been," Mr. Johnson said. The moments of waiting before the flight, he said, were "kind of like standing around the hospital before your first baby is born. You know you must be prepared to accept the worst but you hope for the best."

The former President and Mrs. Johnson stayed in quarters at Patrick Air Force Base, south of Cocoa Beach and about 30 miles from the Kennedy Space Center launch site. Other VIPs also found the Cocoa beach motel rooms gone. Most of the 19 state governors attending the launch will be brought down by bus from Daytona Beach, 65 miles away.

The 70 foreign ambassadors, 100 foreign ministers and most of the 217 Congressmen and 34 Senators scheduled to attend the launch were to fly in Wednesday morning and land on the space center landing strip. The more than 5000 "distinguished guests" include five Cabinet members, Vice President Agnew, and a long list of other officials from the Nixon Administration.

Other notables include John Wayne, Jack Benny, Johnny Carson, Charles Lindberg and retired Air Force General J. Lawton Collins, whose nephew, Michael, will ride aloft in Apollo 11.

The Johnsons and a select 60 other persons were guests of NASA administra-

tor Paine at a Cocoa Beach country club dinner tonight. Others less distinguished attended the usual round of pre-launch parties held by aerospace contractors for their friends and corporate executives.

But there seems to be less hoopla this time. That may be because everyone would have to be up before dawn Wednesday to fight their way through the traffic surrounding Cape Kennedy.