

THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS  
FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1961

9:35 am The President arrived in the office.

9:35 - 9:40 am Hon. Kenneth O'Donnell

9:40 - 9:52 am The following directors and officers of the Big Brothers of the National Capital Area called on the President:  
Mr. Drew Pearson, President  
Judge David L. Bazelon, U. S. Court of Appeals  
Judge Luther Youngdahl, U. S. District Court  
Hon. F. Joseph Donohue, former D. C. Commissioner  
Mr. Arthur Clarendon Smith

9:52 - 10:06 am (Major General W. K. Wilson, Jr.) OFF THE RECORD  
(Hon. Elvis Stahr)

10:50 - 11:30 am The President and Mrs. Kennedy went to the Pan American Union Building to participate in the Protocolary Session of the Council of the Organization of American States, on Pan American Day.

10:53 am Arrived at the Pan American Union Building. They were greeted by  
Dr. Jose Mora, and Mrs. Mora  
Secretary General of the Pan American Union  
Mr. Paul W. Murphy  
Protocol Officer of the Pan American Union  
Ambassador Philip Wilson Bonsal  
Ambassador Sevilla-Sacasa of Nicaragua  
Ambassador Lavalley of Peru  
Ambassador Sanchez Cavito of Mexico

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT at the Protocolary Session of the Council of the Organization of American State, on Pan American Day.

11:27 am The President and Mrs. Kennedy departed the Pan American Building and motored to the White House.

11:29 am Arrived at the White House.

11:50 - 11:36 am The President and Mrs. Kennedy walked around the South Grounds of the White House.

11:40 - 11:47 am Mr. Gene McKone  
(Captain McKone's father)

12:00 - 12:35 pm Hon. David Bell  
Hon. Theodore Sorensen  
Mr. Robert Turner  
Mr. Elmer Staats

12:35 - 12:45 pm The President greeted the following members of the  
Department of State Senior Seminar:  
Josiah W. Bennett  
Dr. Chadwick Braggiotti  
Charles M. Cassel, Jr.  
John Devine  
John Dorman  
Philip F. Dur  
Thomas S. Estes  
Jack M. Fleischer  
George McMurtrie Godley  
Mary Jane Heyl  
Milford F. Itz  
Valdemar N. L. Johnson  
Edward Nelson Korn-Patterson  
John I. Kross  
Sanford Marlowe  
James B. Moore  
Nathan A. Pelcovits  
Albert Post  
William R. Swarm  
John L. Topping  
Sheldon B. Vance

The following accompanied the above Seminar group:  
Hon. Roger Jones  
Mr. George Abbott  
Mr. Charles P. O'Donnell

1:00 pm The President went to the Mansion.

1:10 pm The following had lunch with the President:  
(Lady Jackson) OFF THE RECORD  
(Mrs. Florence Mahoney)

3:20 pm The President returned to the office.

3:20 - 3:25 pm Hon. Walter Heller

3:25 pm Hon. Myer Feldman

3:30 - 3:55 pm Mayor Don Hammel, Tucson, Arizona  
Mayor Richard Lee, New Haven, Connecticut

3:58 - 4:02 pm William L. Blue  
Deputy Director, Office of European Affairs

4:00 - 4:44 pm H. E. Paul Reynaud  
Former Prime Minister of France  
and presently Deputy in the French Parliament  
National Assembly (for courtesy call)

4:44 - 4:53 pm Mrs. Blanche Rudolph  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Wilma Rudolph ( 3 gold Olympic Medal recipient)  
Mr. Edward Temple, Coach of Olympic Team  
Bobby Logan, Fort Worth, Texas (friend of Miss Rudolph)

4:58 pm The President went to the Mansion.

5:04 pm To the South Grounds.

5:43 pm Congressional Coffee Hour

Anderson (Minn.)	Inouye (Hawaii)
Andrews (Ala.)	Jensen (Iowa)
Ashmore (S. Car.)	Johnson, Lester (Wis.)
Auchincloss (N. J.)	King, Cecil (Cal.)
Belcher (Okla.)	Laird (Wisc.)
Betts (Ohio)	Madden (Ind.)
Brooks, Jack (Tex.)	Mahon (Tex.)
Broomfield (Mich.)	Mailliard (Cal.)
Burke, Frank (Ky.)	McDowell (Del.)
Chamberlain (Mich.)	McIntire (Maine)
Chiperfield (Ill.)	McVey (Kansas)
Downing (Virginia)	Miller, Geo. (Cal.)
Fallon (Md.)	Montoya (New Mex.)
Fenton (Penn.)	Morrison (La.)
Garmatz (Md.)	Moulder (Missouri)
Green, Mrs. Edith (Cre.)	Murphy (Ill.)
Harris (Ark.)	Natcher (Ky)
Harvey, Ralph (Ind.)	O'Brien, Thos. (Ill.)

(continued)

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1961

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5:43 pm

Congressional Coffee Hour (continued)

Plicher (Ca.)  
Rivers, Ralph (Alaska)  
Schenck (Ohio)  
Sheppard (Cal.)  
Sikes (Fla.)  
Smith, Neal (Iowa)  
Springer (Illinois)  
St. George, Mrs. Katherine (N. Y.)  
Stafford (Vt.)  
Steed (Okla.)  
Sullivan, Mrs. Leonor (Mo.)  
Taber (N. Y.)  
Taylor (N. Car.)  
Teague, Charles (Cal.)  
Tollefson (Wash.)  
Whitten (Miss.)  
Willis (La.)

6:35 pm

The President returned to the office.

Hugh Sides (*Time magazine*)

Hon. Theodore Sorensen  
Hon. David Bell  
Hon. Jerome Wiesner

7:53 pm

The President went to the Mansion.

January 19, 1971

EH

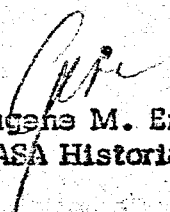
TO: XS/Robert Sherrod

Many thanks, Bob, for the Hugh Sidey material, which provides valuable eyewitness material to the seminal decision on Apollo. Any use of it will be cleared with Mr. Sidey, although it will be some time in the future.

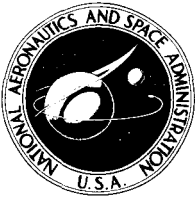
The rumors of the Soviet man launch were rampant in Washington for several days before Gagarin, mostly because of the Moscow reports in the local media. Within a week after April 12, I was able to buy at a U.S. dealer's, the stamp issued for the Gagarin Flight ("Glory to Soviet Science and Technology"), although the cosmonaut thereon pictured was not Yuri. I gave copies of the stamp to Dryden, who said he had a grandchild who would like it. Cosmonauts are now handing out colored slides of Soviet postage stamps, not the stamps (which are numerous and beautiful).

Incidentally, 17 of 18 book stores called did not have a copy of First on the Moon by Armstrong and buddies. Most claimed to have had it, and seemed surprised they have sold them. I believe Mailer's sales will be surprising, and the appearance of Sherrod's volume will be timely yet. I still hope Apollo 14 is routine.

Thanks again.



Eugene M. Emme  
NASA Historian



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: XS

18 January 1971

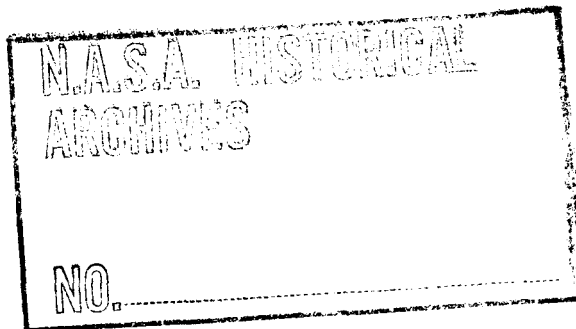
Dr. Emme

Gene:

Here is the material Hugh Sidey kindly dug out of his attic for me. It consists of Sidey's letter of 6 January 1971 (mislabeled "December 6, 1971" -- his secretary used to be the Saturday Day Evening Post's secretary in the Washington <sup>office,</sup> so I understand this), carbons of teletypes Sidey sent from the Washington <sup>Time Inc.</sup> office to New York, and carbons of press telegrams Sidey sent from Houston, St. Louis, etc. to New York while he was traveling with JFK.

I don't know how much this will add to what you already know, but it does provide fresh eyewitness material.

  
Robert Sherrod



**TIME**  
INCORPORATED

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006  
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rec'd 11 Jan 71

6 Dec 70?  
6 Jan 71?

? December 6, 1971

Dear Bob:

I finally did it. I took some time over the holidays, went up to the attic and dug up the old files but, as you might expect, the one that I was most interested in, I could not find. This is a curious business. I now vaguely recollect that I loaned it and some other material to someone else. I don't recall who it was or under what conditions, but I poured through stacks of that file paper and just couldn't locate it. That is the file concerning that evening in the White House, when Kennedy called me in and I sat with his people around the Cabinet table. Actually, that may prove less important to you than some of the material I did find and send along for you to look at. I think my account of that meeting as laid out in my book is pretty complete.

Let me here put down some other thoughts.

As you remember, after the Soviet man orbited, there was a great cry about our space effort. LIFE's editors asked me to do a piece pointing out how we were lagging in this race and, if possible, revealing what we planned to do about it.

I went to Ted Sorensen and talked at some length to him, expressing the feeling in our organization that the U.S. ought to get in this race. I believe it was the next day that Sorensen said he wanted to see me. I went to his office, late in the day, and sat down a few minutes and we talked a bit. Then, suddenly, he stood up and said: "Why don't you ask the President these questions? Come on." Then, we walked down the hall to the Cabinet Room and the group was gathered there.

At about the same time, Kennedy came in. He sat at his traditional place and he pulled the chair out at the end of the table for me and he said: "Here, you sit at the head of the table. That's a good place." I, of course, was pretty stunned by all this although I knew the men there, except for Webb. Kennedy then turned to me and said: "Now, what questions do you have about our space program? Tell everybody and maybe we can get some answers."

I then went through the usual series of questions about just where did we stand and what did we plan to do. It appeared that we had fallen behind and had no incentive to catch up and that Russia would indeed dominate space, and get to the moon before we did. Then, Kennedy took over the meeting and went around the table, asking each of the men--Webb, Dryden, Bell, Wiesner--their thoughts.

It was a pretty nebulous report. The main thing everybody was hung up on was the projected cost that might be at the outside as much as forty billion dollars. Dryden could not give any firm scientific assurance that we could even get to the moon after spending all that money. Dave Bell, Budget Director, was the most pessimistic. I guess that was because he had the job of juggling the books. I recall his kind of muted horror at the thought of launching a project that was so ravenous and so vague in promised results. Webb, as I reported in the book, launched into kind of a bureaucratic paean but then got down to the fact he thought it could be done and we could try it. Wiesner, who was slumped down in his chair so far that his head seemed to be at table level, didn't even take a position. My impression was that he was somewhat negative about the whole idea, but I couldn't be sure of that. That might have been just his manner. Kennedy seemed preoccupied with the size of the engines we were developing and the fact that the Russians had bigger ones.

In the material that I've sent along, you will see a sentence typed at the end of a proposed text piece for LIFE. When I saw that, it jogged my memory some more.

In the meeting, Kennedy complained throughout about the failure of scientists to give him hard answers. Also,



about their failure to live up to promises once they were given. Kennedy was very anguished during this meeting. He, too, slumped down in his chair. At one point, he had his feet at the edge of the Cabinet table and he was pushed back on the hind legs of his chair and teetering there. He kept running his hands through his hair, tapping his front teeth with his finger nails, a familiar nervous gesture. At one point, he examined his shoes thoroughly, which were on the edge of the table, and he tore off a piece of rubber sole that was loose. I got the feeling then that Kennedy's mind was always ahead of those men who were testifying. There was an aura of impatience, like he'd heard this all before and he was hoping that maybe some place there would be something new that he could grasp.

I also got the feeling then that Kennedy was beginning to get the feel of the challenge. I, of course, suspected that this whole thing was some kind of show business for my benefit to show that Kennedy was in there grappling with the problem. But, both before and after Kennedy's death, I talked to Sorensen about it and he insisted that was not the case. He said that space had not been very much on Kennedy's mind up until the Soviet manned flight. After that, he had taken a new interest.

My inquiry was another catalyst that made Kennedy realize what a big national concern it might be. Kennedy's interest grew from that time, Sorensen told me, and there never was any question after that, that he was in the race for the moon. I must say that it was a classic Kennedy challenge. If it hadn't been started, he might have invented it all, since it combined all those elements of intelligence, courage and teamwork that so intrigued John Kennedy.

At the end of that meeting, Kennedy turned to me again and asked if all my questions had been answered and I said something to the effect that they had been answered but, yet, there was no answer to the big question about going to the moon. Kennedy replied that I could see how difficult it was to get answers to these questions, and the real problem was whether we wanted to spend that immense amount of money for space when we had so many other pressing needs to meet.

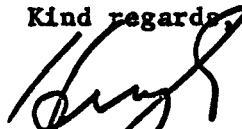
Kennedy ended the meeting, as I wrote in the book, with that bit about finding an answer even if it had to come from the janitor. He got up and the others jumped up. I was still flabbergasted by the whole performance and, of course, he knew it, and he gave me one of those wry grins and said something about okay, go write a good article.

Later on, I asked Sorensen what then had happened. Ted told me that he and Kennedy had gone back into the Oval Office and talked about it some more. He had given Sorensen the job of making sure that he got the proper reports. "I'm determined to get an answer," Kennedy told Sorensen in that meeting between the two. Sorensen said he felt that was particularly important time in this whole process of fashioning a space program. On that Friday evening, according to Sorensen, Kennedy began to really get the feel of what this whole thing might mean to his Presidency and to the United States. That excitement generated then never lagged. It built up until his death.

Bob, you look through these files that I extracted. They were about other moments of space. I think there may be some helpful material about the argument between Wiesner and NASA officials down at the Cape in Kennedy's presence.

If there are any questions, give me a call. Meantime, I'll continue to look for that other material. But I suspect that the important parts are in the book or in this letter.

Kind regards,



Hugh Sidey

Mr. Robert Sherrod (XS)  
Federal Office Building #6  
Room 6077 B  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20546

(REQUESTED)

APRIL 15, 1961

TO: WASHINGTON, LIFE; PARKER, TIME  
FROM: RICHY (WASHINGTON) (HS)

RUSH RUSH

TEXT PIECE

THE NEW WASHINGTON SENATORS HAD JUST HUNG UP ANOTHER RUN ON THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX IN THE SEASON'S OPENER LAST MONDAY AND MOST OF THE 26,734 FANS AND NEW PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY WERE FEELING GOOD ABOUT THE 3-1 SCORE DESPITE THE COLD, DAMP WIND OFF THE GRIFFITH STADIUM FIELD.

IN THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS, STAFF AND ASSORTED POLS FROM BOTH PARTIES, KENNEDY ALTERNATELY JOKED AND TALKED SERIOUS STATE BUSINESS. HE STRAIGHTENED UP SLIGHTLY AND SQUINTED AS ASSOCIATE PRESS SECRETARY ANDY HATCHER RELUCTANTLY STIRRED HIMSELF AT THE END OF THE SECOND INNING AND MOVED OVER TO LEAN CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL BOX.

THE UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL WAS ABOUT TO MOVE A STORY ON ITS WIRE SAYING THAT THERE WAS A STRONG MOSCOW RUMOR THAT RUSSIA HAD SENT A MAN INTO SPACE AND RECOVERED HIM. HATCHER SAID HE WOULD GO CHECK ON IT AND REPORT BACK. THE PRESIDENT NODDED WITHOUT SAYING A WORD, THEN TURNED BACK TO BASEBALL AND A HOT DOG.

ACTUALLY, KENNEDY KNEW FAR MORE THAN HATCHER ABOUT THE SOVIET SPACE EXPLOIT AT THAT MOMENT. HE KNEW THAT THE RUSSIANS PROBABLY HAD MADE THEIR MAN-IN-SPACE SHOT. BUT HE ALSO KNEW THAT IT WAS NOT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

MORE THAN A MONTH AGO THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE SOVIET FLIGHT WOULD COME BEFORE APRIL 15, JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE U.S. HAD HOPED TO SEND A MAN INTO SPACE AND BACK IN THE NOSE OF A ROCKETS ROCKET.

THERE PERHAPS WAS A MOMENT OF DISAPPOINTMENT AS KENNEDY THOUGHT THEM OF THE COMING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN ACHIEVEMENT. BUT HE IS NOT A BROODER AND ON THIS UNPLEASANT PROSPECT HE HAD BEEN PREPARED LIKE NO OTHER PRESIDENT IN HISTORY HAS BEEN BRACED FOR DIM TIDINGS.

ONLY THE WEEK BEFORE HIS SPACE EXPERTS IN A MORNING MEETING HAD RAISED THE WARNING FLAG ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN THE FOLLOWING WEEK. A FLURRY OF STORIES IN MOSCOW OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT A POSSIBLE HUMAN LAUNCHING WERE DISCOUNTED IMMEDIATELY AT THE WHITE HOUSE. AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE KNEW BETTER -- BUT INDEED THE REAL TIME FOR THE SOVIET LAUNCH WAS APPROACHING.

AS EXPECTED ON THIS MONDAY HATCHER'S REPORT BACK TO THE PRESIDENT WAS INCONCLUSIVE. THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION. WASHINGTON WENT ON TO LOSE THE BALL GAME AND JOHN KENNEDY WENT BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE PREPARED TO ~~ADMIT SOON~~ <sup>accept the fact</sup> THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD LOST ANOTHER GAMING IN A FAR MORE IMPORTANT GAME.

LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON PRESS SECRETARY SALINGER SWUNG HIS STUBBY LEGS UP ON HIS DESK, LIGHTED ANOTHER UPMANN CIGAR AND WELCOMED HIS FELLOW PRESS AIDES FROM THE DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENTS AND RELATED AGENCIES. BY THIS TIME THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT EVALUATION OF THE COMING RUSSIAN SPACE EFFORT JIBED WITH THE INCREASING SPECULATION FROM MOSCOW THAT THE BIG EVENT WAS ONLY HOURS AWAY. THE SALINGER GROUP BEGAN TO SORT THROUGH WORDS TO ASSEMBLE A STATEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD RELEASE WHEN THE NEWS BROKE. ABOUT 6 P.M. THE NEW FRONTIER'S TOP SCIENCE ADVISER JEROME WEISNER, PUFFING AS USUAL ON HIS PIPE, QUIETLY TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HE FELT THE MANNED SPACE SHOT WOULD BE THAT NIGHT. AN HOUR LATER SALINGER HAD THE PROPOSED STATEMENT COMPLETED AND THE PRESIDENT LOOKED IT OVER AND APPROVED IT TENTATIVELY. THE PRESS MEN ALSO HAD DRAFTED A PLAN OF ACTION FOR HANDLING THE NEWS WHEN IT BROKE.

"DO YOU WANT TO BE WAKED UP," ASKED MILITARY AIDE CHESTER (TED) CLIFTON AT 8 P.M. WHEN HE SAW THE PRESIDENT FOR THE FINAL TIME THAT NIGHT.

"NO," ANSWERED KENNEDY. "GIVE ME THE NEWS IN THE MORNING."

IT WAS A QUIET EVENING FOR THE PRESIDENT AND HIS AIDES. KENNEDY RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE LIVING QUARTERS. SALINGER UNCHARACTERISTICALLY BOWED OUT OF A DINNER DATE AND WENT TO HIS LAKE BARCROFT HOME IN VIRGINIA EARLY FOR SUPPER AND REMINISCES WITH AN OLD CALIFORNIA FRIEND. DR. WEISNER TURNED FROM SPACE TO ATOMIC ENERGY, DEALING WITH INDIA'S . MEANTIME, THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK OF THE UNITED STATES WAS ON A HAIR TRIGGER ALERT.

FEW PEOPLE KNOW FOR SURE WHEN THE U.S. FIRST DETECTED THAT THE SOVIET SPACE VEHICLE WAS ALOFT AND AIMED FOR SUCCESSFUL ORBIT BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LITERALLY MINUTES AFTER ITS LIFT OFF. AT 1:35 P.M. WEDNESDAY THE PHONE JANGLED RUDELY IN SALINGER'S SLUMBERING HOUSEHOLD. THE CALM VOICED DR. WEISNER, WHO HAD BEEN ROUSED IN HIS APARTMENT, RELAYED THE EXPECTED REPORT -- THE RUSSIANS HAD LAUNCHED ONE OF THEIR HUGE MISSILES, IT WAS IN ORBIT AND BELIEVED TO BE THE HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT. SALINGER GRUNTED HIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT, QUICKLY CONFIRMED THE PUBLICITY PLAN. NOTHING WAS TO BE SAID BY THE UNITED STATES UNTIL RUSSIA ANNOUNCED THE SHOOT. SALINGER ROLLED BACK INTO BED TO TRY AND GET A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS OF REST BEFORE THE INEVITABLE FLOOD OF PHONE CALLS.

A FEW MINUTES AFTER 2 A.M. THE NEXT CALL CAME. THIS TIME IT WAS THE NEW YORK TIMES WHICH HAD PICKED UP THE EXCITED MOSCOW RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LAUNCH. BEFORE CONFIRMING IT FOR THIS COUNTRY SALINGER CHECKED BACK WITH WEISNER TO MAKE SURE MOSCOW HAD INDEED MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SLEEP WAS THEN IMPOSSIBLE. TEN TIMES MORE THE PHONE RANG AS THE HOURS DRAGGED BY. NEWSPAPERS, NETWORKS AND FIRE SERVICES ALL CALLED FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE FLIGHT. DR. WEISNER KEPT THE PRESS SECRETARY FILLED IN ON THE OFFICIAL REPORTS AS THEY TRICKLED IN. THE PRESIDENT SLEPT UNDISTURBED.

AT 5:30 A.M. WEISNER CALLED FOR THE FINAL TIME TO TELL SALINGER

THAT MOSCOW HAD ANNOUNCED THE RETURN OF YURI GAGARIN TO THE SOVIET UNION -- THE FLIGHT WAS A SUCCESS.

THE NIGHT BEFORE SALINGER HAD LEFT WORD THAT AS SOON AS THE PRESIDENT'S VALET GEORGE THOMAS RAPPED ON THE PRESIDENTIAL DOOR AND TOLD HIMSELF THE PRESIDENT WAS AWAKE, SALINGER WAS TO BE NOTIFIED. ABOUT 2 A.M. THE WHITE PHONE IN SALINGER'S LIVING ROOM, A DIRECT LINE TO THE WHITE HOUSE, RANG. THE PRESIDENT WAS ASTIR AND READY FOR THE NEWS.

QUICKLY SALINGER TOLD THE STORY. KENNEDY LISTENED IN SILENCE IN HIS BEDROOM. "DO WE HAVE ANY DETAILS?" HE ASKED. SALINGER GAVE HIM THE SKIMPY FACTS -- NAME, ORBIT TIME. THEN HE REREAD THE STATEMENT WHILE THE PRESIDENT LISTENED, GAVE HIS APPROVAL. PUTTING DOWN THAT PHONE SALINGER TURNED TO ANOTHER TO TELL THE NEWSMEN THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE. "THE ACHIEVEMENT BY THE USSR OF ORBITING A MAN RETURNING HIM SAFELY TO GROUND IS AN OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT. WE CONGRATULATE THE SOVIET SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS WHO MADE THIS FEAT POSSIBLE...."

IN HALF AN HOUR SALINGER WAS IN HIS OFFICE IN THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH GENERAL CLIFTON WHO HAD MORE INFORMATION. THE TWO MET THE PRESIDENT IN THE CORRIDOR AS HE CAME TO HIS OFFICE. "DO WE HAVE ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC?" HE ASKED. CLIFTON HANDED HIM A FURTHER REPORT. KENNEDY STUDIED IT SILENTLY AND SERIOUSLY. THEN HE PLUNGED INTO A DAY'S WORK FAR REMOVED FROM THE REACHES BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL SHORTLY AFTER 4 P.M. WEDNESDAY THAT KENNEDY HAD ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ON SPACE. THEN IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HE CRIMLY AND WEARILY SUMMED UP THE UNITED STATES POSITION IN THE SPACE STRUGGLE.

"WELL," HE SAID, "THE SOVIET UNION GAINED AN IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE BY SECURING THESE LARGE BOOSTERS, WHICH WERE ABLE TO PUT UP GREATER WEIGHTS, AND THAT ADVANTAGE IS GOING TO BE WITH THEM FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER TIRED ANYBODY MAY BE <sup>at taking news</sup> AND NO ONE IS MORE TIRED THAN I AM,

IT IS A FACT THAT IT IS GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME (TO CATCH UP).... AS I SAID IN MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, THE NEWS WILL BE WORSE BEFORE IT IS BETTER ... WE ARE, I HOPE, GOING TO GO IN OTHER AREAS WHERE WE CAN BE FIRST, AND WHICH WILL BRING PERKAPS MORE LONG-RANGE BENEFITS TO MANKIND. BUT WE ARE BEHIND."

FOR THOSE WHO REMEMBERED THE FLAMING DAYS OF JOHN KENNEDY'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE ~~RESISTANCE~~<sup>a little</sup> IMPATIENCE WITH WHICH HE TREATED THIS QUESTION OF OUR ROLE IN SPACE WAS DISTURBING AND THE FORWARD CALM WITH WHICH THE NEW MOSCOW NEWS WAS ACCEPTED IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD MARVELED, SEEMED HARDLY THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW FRONTIER.

IT WAS IN POCATELLO, IDAHO'S HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM LAST FALL THAT HE CRIED OUT A HARSH INDICTMENT OF THE REPUBLICANS. "THEY (FOREIGN NATIONS) HAVE SEEN THE SOVIET UNION FIRST IN SPACE; THEY HAVE SEEN IT FIRST AROUND THE MOON, AND FIRST AROUND THE SUN ... THEY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SOVIET TIDE IS RISING AND OURS IS EBBING. I THINK IT IS UP TO US TO REVERSE THAT POINT."

STANDING ON TOP A BUILDING AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY'S WASHINGTON SQUARE IN OCTOBER, KENNEDY DECLARED: "THESE ARE ENTIRELY NEW TIMES, AND THEY REQUIRE NEW SOLUTIONS. THE KEY DECISION WHICH THIS (EISENHOWER'S) ADMINISTRATION HAD TO MAKE IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND PRESTIGE AND POWER AND INFLUENCE WAS THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUTER SPACE. ... THE SOVIET UNION NOW IS FIRST IN OUTER SPACE."

IT WAS IN OKLAHOMA CITY'S MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION THAT HE SHOUTED: "I WILL TAKE MY TELEVISION BLACK AND WHITE. I WANT TO BE AHEAD OF THEM IN ROCKET THRUST."

PROBABLY NO ONE IS MORE FRUSTRATED BY THE CONFINING REALITIES OF OUR ACTUAL SPACE EXPLORATION POSITION THAN JOHN KENNEDY.

AS MOSCOW WELCOMES YURI GAGARIN IN TUMULTUOUS ABANDON FRIDAY  
KENNEDY LEANED BACK LATE IN THE EVENING IN ONE OF THE BLACK LEATHER  
CHAIRS IN THE WHITE HOUSE CABINET ROOM. HE PROPPED HIS FOOT ON THE  
EDGE OF THE HUGE TABLE, AND HE RAN HIS FINGERS AGONIZINGLY THROUGH  
HIS HAIR AS HE HEARD ONCE AGAIN FROM HIS ASSEMBLED SPACE EXPERTS  
THE SOLE, PAINFUL FACTS OF WHAT HE HAD INHERITED FROM THE YEARS  
BEFORE.

BECAUSE WE <sup>learned</sup> ~~KNOW~~ HOW TO MAKE SMALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUR MISSILES  
WERE DESIGNED TO BE SMALL AND NOW THEY ARE TOO WEAK FOR ADVANCED  
SPACE PROPEC. WAY BACK IN 1948 WHEN THE RUSSIANS BEGAN THEIR MISSILE  
PROGRAM THEY FOUND THEY HAD TO DESIGN HUGE MISSILES BECAUSE THEY  
DID NOT KNOW HOW TO MAKE SMALL ATOM BOMBS. THE LUCKY MISTAKE HAS  
PUT THEM YEARS AHEAD IN THE CONQUEST OF OUTER SPACE.

BECAUSE DWIGHT EISENHOWER WAS MORE INTERESTED IN BALANCING THE  
BUDGET THAN IN SPACE HE ALLOWED LITTLE LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR MANNED  
SPACE FLIGHT BEYOND OUR LAGGING PROJECT MERCURY.

JOHN KENNEDY IS FACED NOW WITH AN IMMENSE SCIENTIFIC, FINANCIAL  
AND POLITICAL PROBLEM. DO WE REALLY GET IN THE <sup>manned</sup> SPACE RACE WITH THE  
RUSSIANS? SO FAR WE HAVE NOT.

UNLESS WE ALTER THE CURRENT PROGRAM, WHICH KENNEDY HAS NOT ALTERED DRAS-  
TICALLY, THERE IS NO HOPE. THE RUSSIANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE YEARS  
AHEAD. THE ALTERNATIVE IS SOME KIND OF MASSIVE CRASH EFFORT --  
PERHAPS LIKE WORLD WAR II'S "MANHATTAN PROJECT" WHICH DEVELOPED THE  
ATOMIC BOMB.

BUT THE COST OF SUCH A PROGRAM IS UTTERLY STAGGERING -- FROM  
5 TO 40 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS. EVEN THEN, THERE IS NO  
GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS IN 1968, AN OPTIMISTIC TARGET DATE FOR LANDING  
MAN ON THE MOON. NOR IS THERE A GUARANTEE OF WINNING DEEPER  
SPACE RACES LATER.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER RAN INTO THESE OVERWHELMING FACTS HE



RETREATED AND DID NOTHING, THEREBY AUTOMATICALLY MAKING A NEGATIVE DECISION.

JOHN KENNEDY DOES NOT HAVE A REPUTATION OF RUNNING FROM PROBLEMS AND HE IS NOT RUNNING FROM THIS ONE. BUT SO FAR HE HAS NOT MADE THE CRUCIAL POLITICAL DECISION. WILL WE RACE THE RUSSIANS IN MANNED SPACE EXPLORATION OR WILL WE NOT? IN THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR HE'S FINDING IT HUNDREDS OF TIMES MORE DIFFICULT THAN ON THE STUMP IN OKLAHOMA CITY.

HE HAS NOT DECIDED YET IF THE GAIN IN PRESTIGE CAN POSSIBLY BE WORTH THE BILLIONS NEEDED. HE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROBABILITIES TO JUDGE THE WORTH OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS. HIS ADVISERS STILL CANNOT TELL HIM WHICH PROJECT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AIM FOR EVEN IF IT LAUNCHED A CRASH PROGRAM. THE SOVIETS SEEM LIKELY TO PUT SEVERAL MEN IN ORBIT ALONG WITH A LABORATORY, TO LOOP A MAN AROUND THE MOON AND BACK TO EARTH, TO LAND A MAN ON THE MOON -- ALL BEFORE WE CAN DO THESE PROJECTS. WITH THESE PROBABILITIES DO WE THEN LEAPFROG AND AIM TO DEVELOP ONE OF THE MONSTER ROCKETS THAT CAN TAKE MEN TO MARS OR TO VENUS?

JOHN KENNEDY WILL MAKE THIS DECISION PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. HE IS WAITING FOR THE RESULTS FROM A RE-EVALUATION OF OUR ENTIRE ROCKET PROPULSION PROGRAM, THE CRUCIAL FACTOR NOW IN ALL SPACE FLIGHT.

HIS INFANT ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CLUTTERED DAY TO DAY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF GETTING ALONG ON THE SURFACE OF THE GLOBE. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE TIME TO THINK OF SPACE. FURTHER, HE IS THE LEAST INFORMED IN THIS FIELD. HIS WIDE RANGE OF ACQUAINTANCES AND HIS DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLITICS IS NOT DUPLICATED IN SCIENCE. HE IS LEARNING.

HE HAS MADE SOME DECISIONS ALREADY, BUT THEY ARE MINOR TO WHAT LIES AHEAD. HE HAS DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD SPEED UP THE

SATURN ROCKET WHICH IS A CLUSTER OF EXISTING LIQUID FUELED UNITS THAT WILL DELIVER MORE THAN A MILLION AND A HALF POUNDS OF THRUST. THIS IS ENOUGH TO ORBIT SEVERAL MEN AROUND THE EARTH OR SEND THEM AROUND THE MOON. HE HAS DETERMINED TO MOVE MODESTLY AHEAD ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUGE SINGLE LIQUID FUEL ENGINE THAT CAN DEVELOP A MILLION AND HALF POUNDS OF THRUST. THE 120 MILLION EXTRA DOLLARS ASKED FOR THESE PROJECTS CUTS THE SATURN TIME BY A YEAR BUT ADDS ONLY SLIGHTLY TO THE OTHER PROJECT. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO GREAT EMPHASIS PLACED ON DEVELOPING THE PROMISING SOLID FUEL ROCKETS INTO A UNIT FOR SPACE.

KENNEDY ALSO HAS MOVED TO MAKE THE NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL AN EFFECTIVE GROUP. IT IS COMPOSED NOW OF THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND STATE AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. BECAUSE THE UNIT WAS SET UP SO THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TO RUN IT UP UNTIL NOW IT HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DIRECT ITS ACTIVITIES. KENNEDY HAS ASKED CONGRESS TO CHANGE THE LAW AND SUBSTITUTE THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIMSELF.

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS GROUP CAN GIVE EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE AND A MORE BOUNDED VIEW OF WHAT THE COUNTRY SHOULD DO IN ITS SPACE QUEST.

BUT WHILE THE PRESIDENT IS ALLOWED A GRACE PERIOD THE PRESSURES FOR A DECISION ARE MOUNTING. ONLY HOURS AFTER THE SOVIET SUCCESS CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS CRIED FOR MORE ACTION UP ON CAPITOL HILL.

"WAIT," SAID ONE NASA SCIENTIST, "UNTIL THE RUSSIANS SEND UP THREE MEN, THEN SIX, THEN A LABORATORY, START HOOKING THEM TOGETHER AND THEN SEND BACK A FEW PICTURES OF NEW YORK FOR US TO SEE."

"KENNEDY COULD LOSE THE 1964 ELECTION OVER THIS," ADDED ANOTHER SPACE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS SUFFERED THROUGH U.S. MISSILE POLITICS ALL THE WAY.

AMAZINGLY, THERE IS A STRANGE CRYSTALLIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC

OPINION NOW THAT WHAT IS NEEDED MOST IS THE MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION ON WHETHER WE CHALLENGE THE RUSSIANS ON MANNED FLIGHT OR NOT. IN THE EARLY SPACE YEARS THE SCIENTISTS WERE THE ONES WHO PLEADED TO LEAVE POLITICS OUT, GO MORE FOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT THAN PRESTIGE BUILDING.

NOT, HOWEVER, THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE DOWN GRADING OF THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF YURI GAGARIN'S FLIGHT. A FEW HAVE SUGGESTED IT WAS JUST A PUBLICITY RIDE. BUT OTHER SCIENTISTS QUIETLY SAY THAT IF THE U.S. HAD DONE IT THE HEADLINES WOULD HAVE BEEN A FOOT HIGH DESCRIBING THE SCIENTIFIC DATA BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH. ONE KEY SPACE ADMINISTRATOR WHEN HE HEARD THE SOVIET SHOT DERIDED, GROPED ANGUISH-EDLY FOR WORDS, BLURTED OUT: "YOU JUST AREN'T AHEAD IF YOU'RE BEHIND."

THUS, IN THE COMING FEW MONTHS JOHN KENNEDY MUST WEIGH HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, THE STAGGERING COMPLEXITY OF SPACE PLANNING, THE IMMENSE COSTS OF MISSILES, THE VAGUE AND UNCERTAIN PROBABILITIES OF SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS AND COME UP WITH A DECISION IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. THERE IS NO BIGGER OR PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT TASK FACING KENNEDY NOW.

MEANTIME, OUR PLANS TO SEND AN ASTRONAUT INTO SPACE FIRST ON A PLAIN ROCKET SHOOT AND LATER INTO AN ORBIT AROUND THE GLOBE WILL CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. IT IS HOPED THE FIRST SPACE RIDE BY AN AMERICAN IN A ROCKET WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF APRIL AND THAT AN ORBIT CAN BE ACHIEVED TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN PALED BY THE SOVIET ACHIEVEMENT. BUT THE DATA STILL IS NEEDED AND THE PROGRAM HAS GONE SO FAR NOW IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO STOP IT OR ALTER IT MUCH. HOWEVER, IF ONE THING CAME CLEAR THIS WEEK IT IS THAT PROJECT MERCURY IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THE RUSSIAN CHALLENGE.

THE SPACE TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS ARE HOPING THAT KENNEDY WILL SOON SAY WE'VE GOT TO MEET THE SOVIET SPACE LEAD HEAD ON. THEN IF THE NATION'S ECONOMY WILL GROW AS HOPED THE SPACE BUDGET CAN SOAR TO AS MUCH AS FIVE BILLION A YEAR WITHOUT ANY MORE TAX BURDEN, THEY REASON. MANY OF THE EXPERTS FEEL THAT WITH A CLEARLY

DEFINED NATIONAL SPACE PURPOSE THEY COULD PULL IN THEIR HORNS ON THE WELTER OF OTHER PROJECTS (COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES, WEATHER SATELLITES, ETC.) WITH THEIR ENERGY FOCUSED, WITH MORE MONEY, THEY CAN FEEL AMERICAN KNOW-HOW WOULD MEET THIS CHALLENGE AS IT HAS ALL THE OTHERS IN HISTORY.

"ROOSEVELT WAS CONSIDERED CRAZY WHEN HE SAID WE COULD MAKE 50 PLANES IN YEARS BUT WE DID IT IN YEARS," SAID ONE SPACE MAN THIS WEEK. "THINK WHAT IT TOOK TO LAUNCH THE MANHATTAN PROJECT WITH NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS."

IS THE SPACE RACE AS IMPORTANT TO THIS COUNTRY'S SURVIVAL AS THESE PROJECTS WERE? A GREAT MANY INTELLIGENT MEN THINK SO, NOT ONLY TO ESTABLISH THIS NATION'S POSTURE AS THE WORLD LEADER BUT TO BE READY FOR A NEW PHASE IN WARFARE WHICH WILL INEVITABLY FOLLOW.

THOUGH THE WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS APPEARED AS QUIET AND CALM AS THEY WERE WHILE THE CHEERS OF MILLIONS ECHOED THROUGH MOSCOW STREETS, THERE WERE THOSE IN WASHINGTON WHO THOUGHT THAT THE HELMETED YURI GAGARIN HAD BROUGHT A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. IT CAME IN JOHN KENNEDY'S SUDDEN RAPID FIRE QUESTIONING OF HIS SPACE EXPERTS WHILE THE LIGHT OF A PERFECT SPRING DAY FADED. IT CAME IN THE QUIET BUT DETERMINED WAY HE PONDERED THE QUESTION, THEN LOOKED AT THESE MEN AND SAID, "THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT."

It came finally even later Friday evening when ~~he~~ was

OSC--1020A..

~~alone with the key aide~~ alone with a key aide he said he was determined to get an answer. John Kennedy's determination can be an awesome thing.

(REQUESTED)

*Wiesner*

*Waldertown Mass*

WASH10/NYK - APRIL 15, 1961  
TO: MOFFETT, LIFE; PARKER, TIME  
FROM: SIDEY (WASHINGTON) (AC)

*4-678Z*

SPACE TEXT PIECE CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS:

1. WE MISPELLED JERRY WIESNER'S NAME AS YOU PROBABLY HAVE NOTED.
2. ON PAGE 3, FIRST PARAGRAPH, DR. WIESNER HAD DINNER WITH DR. HOMI BAHBHA, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.
3. ON PAGE 4, LAST PARAGRAPH, WE SHOULD INSERT IN PARENTHESIS SOME EXPLANATION OF KENNEDY'S "TIRED" STATEMENT. MAKE IT: "HOWEVER TIRED ANYBODY MAY BE (OF TAKING SECOND TO THE SOVIETS IN SPACE), AND NO ONE IS MORE TIRED THAN I AM ...."
4. ON PAGE 5 WE WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THE SECOND PARAGRAPH. WE'RE GIVING A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT KENNEDY HAS BEEN INDIFFERENT. CAN WE MAKE IT READ: "FOR THOSE WHO REMEMBERED THE FLAMING DAYS OF JOHN KENNEDY'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, THE EDGE OF IMPATIENCE WITH WHICH HE TREATED THIS QUESTION OF OUR ROLE IN SPACE WAS UN-CHARACTERISTIC AND THE PERVADING CALM WITH WHICH THE NEW MOSCOW NEWS WAS ACCEPTED IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE THE REST OF THE FREE WORLD HAD ANXIOUS MOMENTS SEEMED HARDLY THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW FRONTIER."
5. ON PAGE 5, BETWEEN THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS (FOLLOWING THE LAST QUOTE FROM HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES) CAN WE INSERT A SHORT PARAGRAPH GIVING KENNEDY THE BENEFIT OF A DOUBT. HOW'S THIS:

"THE SEEMING EASE WITH WHICH KENNEDY SWALLOWED THE RUSSIAN TRIUMPH WAS DECEPTIVE. HE WAS ANGERED TO BE THE POLITICAL VICTIM OF THE MISJUDGMENTS OF OTHERS. HE WAS AWARE TOO THAT IN THIS SENSE HISTORY CAN BE CRUEL. DESPITE WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE, HE IS THE ONE EXPECTED TO SAVE THE DAY NOW."

6. ON PAGE 6, SECOND PARAGRAPH, CAN WE CHANGE THE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ THIS WAY: "BECAUSE WE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE SMALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUR MISSILES WERE DESIGNED TO BE SMALL AND NOW THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH THRUST FOR ADVANCED SPACE PROBES."

7. IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH CAN WE CHANGE "SMALL ATOMIC BOMBS" TO "SMALL ATOMIC WARHEADS." MAKES IT MORE ACCURATE.

8. ON PAGE 6, FOURTH PARAGRAPH, SECOND SENTENCE, MAKE IT READ "MANNED SPACE RACE" INSTEAD OF JUST "SPACE RACE." OTHERWISE IT IS WRONG.

9. STILL ON PAGE 6, LAST PARAGRAPH, MAKE IT READ "...A SPECULATIVE TARGET DATE FOR LANDING A MAN ON THE MOON UNDER AN EMERGENCY EFFORT."

10. ON PAGE 7, LAST OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, CAN WE ALTER IT TO READ: "WITH THESE PROBABILITIES DO WE THEN LEAPFROG AND AIM TO DEVELOP ONE OF THE MONSTER ROCKETS THAT CAN TAKE MEN DEEPER INTO SPACE -- PERHAPS TRAVEL TO MARS OR VENUS -- OR PUT HUGE PLATFORMS INTO ORBIT THAT CAN BE USED FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS OR SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS?"

11. ON PAGE 7, NEXT TO LAST PARAGRAPH, THE SENTENCE SHOULD READ: "FURTHER, HE IS LEAST INFORMED IN THIS FIELD." THE EXTRA "THE" MAKES HIM SOUND LIKE THE MOST IGNORANT MAN IN THE COUNTRY IN SPACE.

12. ON PAGE 7, BOTTOM OF THE PAGE, CAN WE START THAT PARAGRAPH OUT THIS WAY: "HE HAS MADE SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS ALREADY THAT HELP DEFINE OUR INTENTION OF STAYING IN THE MANNED SPACE RACE. BUT THEY ARE MINOR TO WHAT LIES AHEAD ...."

13. PAGE 8, THE AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN THE SPACE BUDGET REQUEST SHOULD BE \$125 MILLION INSTEAD OF \$120 MILLION.

WASH10/NYK - SIDEY - PAGE 3

14. ON PAGE 10, SECOND PARAGRAPH, MAKE THE QUOTE READ: "ROOSEVELT WAS CONSIDERED CRAZY WHEN HE SAID WE COULD MAKE 50,000 PLANES A YEAR BUT WE DID IT WITHIN TWO YEARS.."

15. FINALLY, HERE'S ONE OTHER PARAGRAPH FOR THE END OF THE STORY IF YOU WANT IT: "IT CAME FINALLY LATE FRIDAY NIGHT WHEN ALONE WITH A KEY AIDE HE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO GET AN ANSWER TO THE SPACE RIDDLE. JOHN KENNEDY'S DETERMINATION CAN BE AN AWESOME THING."

PSC--344P..

.. R WASH10/NYK/PN/343 PM

ASHPS/NN - APRIL 12, 1961 (REQUESTED)

TO: PARKER

FROM: SIDEL (WASHINGTON) (MB)

THE PRESIDENT'S WEEK (NA)

IT FRANKLY WAS A LITTLE CRAZY AND A LITTLE MIXED UP -- BUT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL WEEK JUST THE SAME.

YOU COULD FIND VIRTUALLY ANY ELEMENT. SORROW, LAUGHTER, SPORT, FRET, TENSION, EXCITEMENT.

JACK KENNEDY TOOK THE PHONE IN HIS WHITE HOUSE BEDROOM AT 7 A.M. WEDNESDAY MORNING AND LISTENED SILENTLY TO THE MOMENTOUS BUT TOTALLY EXPECTED WORDS FROM PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD ORBITED A MAN IN SPACE AND BROUGHT HIM BACK AGAIN SAFE. THEN HE CALMLY LISTENED TO A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE SOVIETS WHICH HAD THOUGHTFULLY BEEN PREPARED THE DAY BEFORE, APPROVED IT, AND TURNED TO OTHER BUSINESS.

ONE OF THAT BUSINESS WAS CRAGGY OLD KONRAD ADENAUER WHO ARRIVED FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF TALKS WITH A BATTALION OF GERMAN NEWSMEN. AND WHEN THE YOUNG PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ASKED WHAT ADENAUER THOUGHT OF THE EXPLOSIVE SENTIMENTS OF CHARLES DEGAULLE ON NATO AND THE UNITED NATIONS, THE 85-YEAR-OLD GERMAN WON A DELIGHTED KENNEDY GRIE WITH HIS ANSWER: "WHEN YOU'VE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH, THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS AND GONE THROUGH TWO WARS YOU DON'T GET TOO EXCITED BY THESE THINGS."

LATER WEDNESDAY KENNEDY'S OWN CALM OVER DEGAULLE'S FULMINATIONS SHOWED ITSELF WHEN HE GOOD HUMOREDLY REREAD THE DEGAULLE STATEMENTS, READED THEM FOR A MOMENT THEN TURNED TO HIS AIDES AND PRAISED THE DEGAULLE FLOURISH AND STYLE. AND, AFTER ALL HE ADDED, DEGAULLE WAS A POLITICIAN WITH HIS OWN PROBLEMS JUST LIKE KENNEDY.

THESE LOFTY MATTERS HOWEVER WERE NOT ALL THE THINGS IN THE



## CONVOLUTIONS OF THE KENNEDY BRAIN.

INDEED SUNDAY HE LEARNED IN A MOST ROUNDABOUT WAY THAT HIS MIDDLEBURG, VA., PASTOR (THE REV. ALBERT PEREIRA) ALONG WITH SOME INTERESTED CITIZENS AND OTHERS OF THE CLERGYMEN IN THE HAMLET HAD DESEGREGATED THREE LUNCH COUNTERS TO PREVENT SITIN DEMONSTRATIONS. HIS HOLINESS DELIVERED THE NEWS ("REJOICE...THAT THE FIRST BRIDGE OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE RACES HAS BEEN CROSSED GRACEFULLY.") IN A PRAYER, THE FIRST KENNEDY PRESS DISPATCH TO COME THROUGH SUCH EXALTED CHANNELS. (ACTUALLY, KENNEDY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE THREATENED TROUBLE)

FROM THE GOSPEL THE PRESIDENT TURNED TO ATHLETICS. HE DROVE OFF THROUGH THE VIRGINIA MIST TO WARRENTON WHERE HE BANGED OFF NINE HOLETS OF WET GOLF, THEN CHATTED WITH THE SOGGY CLUB HOUSE PATRONS. MEANTIME, JACKIE KENNEDY HAD CLIMBED ABOARD HER HORSE AND SPLASHED OVER THE PASTURES TO WHERE THE MIDDLE-BURG-ORANGE COUNTY PONY CLUB WAS BEAGLING (THE KIDS TAKE A PACK OF BEAGLES AND STIR UP RABBITS INSTEAD OF FOXES) AND SHE AND FRIEND PAUL FOUT JOINED IN THE FUN, WHICH IS OFTEN SHARED WITH THE YOUNG ONES BY THE PARENTS.

THE PRESIDENT PUT IN HALF A DAY'S WORK MONDAY MORNING AND THEN HEADED OFF FOR SOME COLD BASEBALL. WITH THE WIERDEST ASSORTMENT OF POLS AND FRIENDS EVER SEEN GATHERED AROUND HIM HE SPED (UP TO 60 MPH) FOR THE BASEBALL OPENER AT GRIFFITH STADIUM. THERE WAS OLD EV DIRKSEN RIGHT BEHIND THE PRESIDENTIAL SET. EV WAS CHAIN SHOKING A STORM. THE GUT FIGHTER -- CHARLIE HALLECK -- WAS MUCH IN PROMINENCE RIGHT ALONG WITH HUBERT HUMPHREY, MIKE MANSFIELD AND A BOSTEN OTHER POLS. OLD TIME BUDDY RED FAY CROUCHED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL FEET FOR A FEW PRIVATE JOKES, THEN SAT DOWN ON THE BENCH IN FRONT WITH TED SORENSEN AND SOME ASSORTED CABINET MEMBERS. LYNDON JOHNSON, LOOKING LIKE A TEXAS ROOKIE, LANKED ACROSS THE FIELD FOR THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER AND THE FLAG RAISING. KENNEDY TOOK OFF

HIS TOP COAT AND HAULED BACK TO THROW OUT THE FIRST BASEBALL. "COME ON KID, PITCH IT," SHOUTED ONE FAN. THE LOGISTICS OF THIS THROW WERE AWESOME.

FIRST OFF THERE WERE MORE THAN 50 PHOTOGRAPHERS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BOX. THEY WERE MASSED AS IF ONE. EACH HAN WANTED THE SAME ANGLE. SOME HAD BROUGHT STEPLADDERS SO THAT THERE WERE PHOTOGRAPHERS FIVE LAYERS DEEP AND 60 FEET ACROSS.

TRADITION HAS IT THAT BOTH BASEBALL TEAMS GATHER ON THE FIELD AND KENNEDY TOSSES THE FIRST BALL IN THEIR MIDST. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHERS THE PRESIDENT CAN'T SEE THE FIELD OR THE PLAYERS. IT'S A BLIND THROW.

SOME OF THE IRREVERENT HOPE THAT ONE OF THESE YEARS AN AGGRESSIVE WRECK EXECUTIVE WILL BEAN ON E OF THE UPPERMOST CAMERAMEN. BUT KENNEDY IS A GENTLEMAN. HE HAULED BACK AND TOSSED IT OUT WITH A GOOD RIGHT WHIP. THE BALLPLAYERS, ALL CHEWING GUM, LEAPED AND CLUTCHED. THE BALL WHIZZED ACROSS THE FINGERS OF A NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND THEN DROPPED IN THE LEFT HAND OF CHICAGO'S JIM RIVERA. CHICAGO ALSO WON THE BALL GAME.

KENNEDY STAYED THROUGH THE CHILL AFTERNOON. HE CHEWED THROUGH A BIGGS HOTDOG (HE'S A HOTDOG FAN ANYWAY) AND SHOOK A HOST OF HANDS BEFORE HE ROARED BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

KENNEDY WAS MORE THRILLED FROM THIS AFTERNOON THAN 17-YEAR-OLD RICHARD LOPEZ, THE BOYS CLUBS OF AMERICA'S "BOY OF THE YEAR". THE YOUNG EL PASO, TEXAS CITIZEN HAD BEEN IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY SINCE MORNING WHEN HE HAD GONE TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED "BOY OF THE YEAR."

KENNEDY SUDDENLY TURNED TO HIM. "WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE WITH ME?" HE ASKED. LOPEZ STAMMERED OUT HE HAD A LUNCHEON WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. "WELL, I THINK WE CAN ARRANGE THAT," SAID THE PRESIDENT, WHO PROMPTLY CALLED JOHN CONNALLY AND GOT THE KID

OUT OF THE LUNCH, THEREBY CONFUSING TOP NAVY BRASS MORE THAN THE DAY THE BATTLESHIP GOT STUCK ON A MISSISSIPPI RIVER SAND BAR.

"JUST THEN I FELT 50 FEET HIGH; I WAS FLOATING AROUND IN THE CLOUDS SOME PLACE," SAID LOPEZ LATER.

BASEBALL WASN'T ENOUGH SPORT MONDAY. WHEN THE PRESIDENT FINISHED AT HIS OFFICE AFTER THE GAME HE HUSTLED OVER TO HIS LIVING QUARTERS, DROPPED IN A CHAIR IN FRONT OF THE TV AND WATCHED THE LAST FEW HOLES OF THE MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT.

KENNEDY SHARED EGGS AND BACON WITH HIS LEGISLATIVE LEADERS THURSDAY MORNING AS USUAL BUT DIDN'T EXCITE THEM MUCH. OLD SAM RAYBURN, THE STEADY THREAT TO THE HOOPER RATING OF EV AND CHARLIE, WAS MORE CONCERNED AT THE START OF THE BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE THAN WHAT WAS SAID. "YOU FELLOWS GET OFF ME," HE CROWLED AT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS. "LAST TIME YOU MADE MY HEAD LOOK AS BIG AS A BUCKET."

WITH THAT STATE BUSINESS CLEARED UP, SAM TURNED TO PRESIDENTIAL SUBJECTS. "WELL WE REVIEWED THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM PRETTY WELL -- THIS WEEK WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO." SAM TICKED OFF THE HILL SCHEDULE, THEN BRUSHED ASIDE THE QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL LAG WITH, "WE CAN'T DO EM ALL AT ONCE." HE SAT THROUGH A FEW LIMP QUESTIONS, THEN CLOSED AGAIN. "WELL, IF THAT'S ALL, WE'LL ADJOURN."

LATER TUESDAY KENNEDY GOT HIMSELF EMOTIONALLY BRACED FOR THE SOVIET SPACE ANNOUNCEMENT. SALINGER CALLED IN HIS BAND OF PRESS AIDES AND THEY MAPPED THEIR STRATEGY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHIPPED UP A CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SEND OUT THE NEXT DAY.

SALINGER HAD HIS OWN LIGHT MOMENTS. JUST BEFORE HE RUSHED OFF

WEDNESDAY FOR COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND ANOTHER OF HIS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS HE ORDERED A SMALL RHODODENDRUM BUSH FROM THE WHITE HOUSE GARDENER. HE HAD IT PACKAGED AND WRAPPED. HE PLANNED TO PRESENT IT AS A PIECE OFFERING TO THE EVENING STAR'S EDITOR BEN MCKELWAY WHEN HE LUNCHEDED WITH HIM. THE START BEGAN THE FLAP OVER PLANTING RHODODENDRUM BUSHES ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN TO PROTECT CAROLINE'S PRIVACY, SOMETHING SALINGER DENIED BUT WHICH THE PRESIDENT MAY DO IF PHOTOGRAPHERS DON'T QUIT TAKING THE LONG LENS PICTURES.

TUESDAY JACKIE LUNCHEDED WITH THE NEWSWOMEN AND WEDNESDAY JACK LUNCHEDED WITH THE GERMANS. IT WAS DEBATABLE WHO HAD THE WORST OF IT.

BEFORE HIS NEWS CONFERENCE LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, THE PRESIDENT SPENT AN HOUR WITH SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK. AIDES WOODROW BUNDY AND SALINGER GETTING READY FOR THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS HE HAD HIS CUBA STATEMENT HANDILY WRITTEN OUT, WAS READY WITH GREAT DODGE ON LAOS (THEY FULLY EXPECT THE CEASE FIRE ANSWER TO COME FROM RUSSIA THIS WEEK) AND OTHER EVASIVE PHRASES ON A RANGE OF DELICATE ISSUES. BACK IN THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER THE 30-MINUTE NEWS CONFERENCE, HE BEGAN A MEETING ON LAOS.

(SIDE TX.)

...11:26P

NYK THRU 23 AND GN..

NYK THRU WASH 23/NY GS FG 1126P GN..