

Mr. SIEPERT. Mr. Chairman, the Kennedy Space Center believes the committee will be interested in a progress report on the plans for handling the general public in their desire to see our facilities while they are in operation.

There is no budget request before you for new money to construct a visitors' facility. What I am going to describe to you is a project that is within currently available appropriations and in accordance with a previous authorization by the Congress to provide visitor information facilities here at Merritt Island.

We want first to give you an idea of the two locations we are discussing. Here (fig. G-1) is the familiar outline of Cape Kennedy. You are here at the present time, in the Merritt Island industrial area.

Over here to the west is the Florida mainland, with route U.S. 1 going north and south. Immediately east of U.S. 1 on the NASA Causeway and directly in front of our KSC gate No. 3 is the site where we presently operate a temporary bus tour terminal. There is also a small space exhibits building of 2,100 square feet where displays are available for visitors to inspect free of charge.

The public tours, which began last July, start from this point and go across the NASA Causeway over the Indian River, then visit the cape, and finally tour complex 39. The total trip occupies about 2½ hours and covers nearly 60 miles. It is conducted by well-trained TWA guides who drive leased, 37-passenger buses. The buses are equipped with sound systems for the escort's use with his own narrative plus appropriate tape-recorded documentary. These tours have

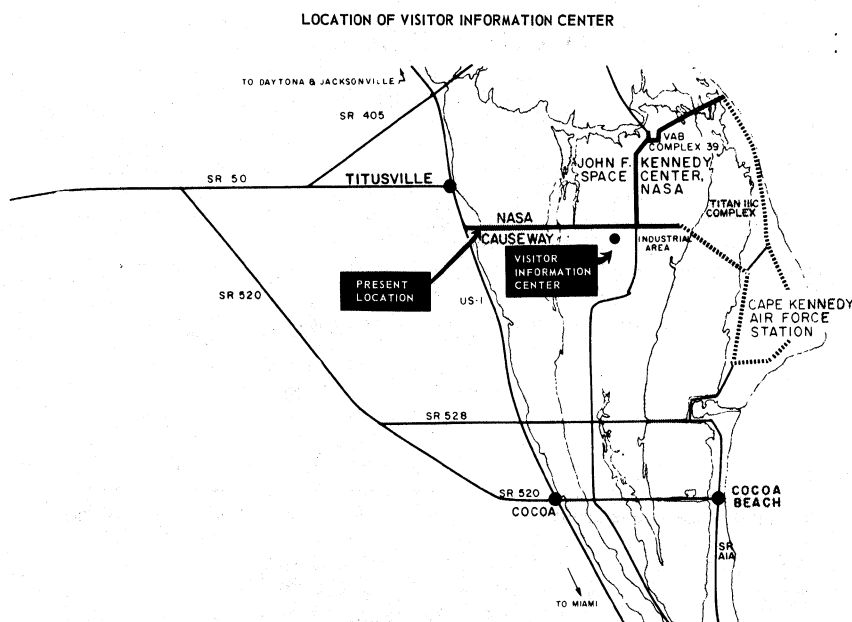


FIGURE G-1