

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. GILRUTH. Gentlemen, welcome from all of us to the Manned Spacecraft Center. We want to tell you how much we all appreciate your visit and your interest in coming down here to see many of these things firsthand. We all know how busy you are and how hard it is for you to get away and I am certain that we all are sorry that the travel situation was so difficult last night.

What we have prepared here for you today is an agenda of activities which, I believe, will make the maximum use of your time. After a brief session this morning in this room we will visit facilities and activities out in the Center, and this afternoon we will have a series of presentations ending with an inspection of the Lunar Landing Research Vehicle at Ellington Field.

I remember well one of your visits when we inspected with you the Gemini II spacecraft which had just been returned from its final qualification out over the Atlantic.

Since that time we have flown 10 manned flights and completed the Gemini program. We have accomplished rendezvous, docking, and over 12 hours of extravehicular activity. Also, we have made consistent, controlled landings; and major rocket burns in space after rendezvous, to propel our spacecraft to a new record altitude of 851 statute miles.

Several of you have been with us here during the flights in this program.

In Apollo, we have made two unmanned Saturn I flights with spacecraft, both of which were successful, and have been conducting an intense ground test program. As you all know, the recent spacecraft fire at Cape Kennedy has caused the suspension of manned flight activity pending the findings of the investigation board, and implementation of their recommendations.

Among many other things we will show you here today is some research on materials in support of the Board aimed toward reducing the fire hazard. We all hope that this spacecraft accident, as in aircraft accidents, will produce findings that will make flying more safe in the future.

Now, George Low, the Deputy Director of this Center, will start our program by giving you an overview of activities and facilities here at the Center.

Mr. Low. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, it is always a real pleasure to have you here with us and to have this opportunity to tell you what our accomplishments have been and what we intend to do in the coming year.

I thought the best way of starting on this pictorial tour of the Center was to show an aerial photograph recently taken at the Manned