

Congressman FULTON. I am asking.

Colonel ALDRIN. I think, in general, the elliptical effects of an orbit are long-term effects in comparison to the type maneuvering that is required.

Congressman ECKHARDT. Your gyro would have no effect on the orbit?

Dr. SLAYTON. The AMU was a gyro stabilized unit.

Congressman ECKHARDT. I didn't hear you, sir.

Dr. SLAYTON. The AMU that we proposed to fly in GT 9 was gyro stabilized, but it was purely for the purpose of maintaining an attitude. And to translate, there again, you need a thruster of some kind.

Congressman FULTON. When you said you ditched the pack, do you mean you threw it out of the hatch?

You couldn't stow the pack, you had said, in the capsule.

You mean you just threw it out of the hatch, or what did you do?

Colonel ALDRIN. I think at the time I was referring to an emergency ingress situation where you could not repressurize.

Congressman FULTON. I see.

Colonel ALDRIN. Then you would disconnect from this, open the hatch, and throw this away.

Normally the chest pack was stowed and then, perhaps, jettisoned on a subsequent EVA during a standup operation when conditions were safer.

The back packs, both the life support system that was to be used on Gemini VIII and also the Astronaut Maneuvering Unit were to be jettisoned after their use.

Congressman TEAGUE. Why didn't you use the maneuvering unit you intended to on XII?

Dr. GILRUTH. You recall, on XI we weren't able to do all the tasks we had hoped to do, and we thought we would be further ahead at the end of the program if we laid out a series of tasks with increasing difficulty and that were designed to show the limits of a man's capability in a series of well defined tasks than it would be to try again for the third time to do the AMU with the possibility that we might not succeed and we would still end the Gemini program without having defined where man's limits were.

Colonel ALDRIN. I would like to add something there.

I don't think there was anyone that wanted to try the AMU any more than I did, and I wasn't too happy initially with this change. However, looking back on things, I think we have learned more about controlling the person's body and being able to perform useful tasks that had a direct application to some of the things that we are going to be doing in the very near future. The AMU was a rather sophisticated transportation system, and we have not really established a need for that type of system.

It was a very interesting type of experiment, but I don't believe we have a need within the near future, within NASA for that type transport device.

Congressman TEAGUE. Any other questions?

Thank you, Buzz.

Mr. Low. Next will be Dr. Charles A. Berry, Director of Medical Research and Operations, on Space Medicine.