

Astronauts discuss Apollo's import space bathrooms

"A society that ceases to look to the future has ceased to grow," Apollo 17 crewmember Harrison H. Schmitt said Thursday when he and his crewmates kicked off UNL Greek Week by dedicating the Apollo 9 space capsule, now on permanent display in front of the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Schmitt, Eugene Cernan and Ronald Evans emphasized the values in the U.S. space program while joking intermittently about their December trip to the moon.

"We have evolved into the universe," Schmitt said. "There's no limit to who can participate in (the) space (program)," he said.

"The program has meant an increase, in a very peaceful way, to our total technological base. There are very tangible benefits to our children and grandchildren," he said.

The study of another planet's evolution has given the United States an "understanding of the control and distribution of elements and resources necessary for human life," Schmitt said.

Cernan said one of the immediate benefits has been in international relations.

"We are now dealing, communicating with an 'adversary' beyond the atmosphere of distress," he said.

He was referring to a planned Russian-U.S. joint space venture in 1975.

"Apollo has opened the possibility that people can work together for peace for all mankind," Cernan said.

"Accepting the challenge is in your hands," he told the mostly young audience.

Evans described the space trip as "delightful. Everybody should have the opportunity to do it."

He then said it was time to answer the two most frequent questions he gets.



Apollo 17 crewmembers . . . kicked off UNL Greek Week Thursday.

"Was I scared? If you don't have just a little bit of apprehension, you don't understand the problem," he said.

And the question, "How do you go to the bathroom at zero G's (no gravity)?"

He described a vacuum and a plastic bag method but said:

"You know the saying, 'If you build a better mouse trap people will be beating at your door?' Well, ladies and gentlemen, we need a better

mousetrap."

Cernan said he'd been concerned about the problem that Evans had about waking each morning. So, Cernan said, he asked Evans' wife how she wakes him.

"She said she kisses him. And after nine days in space, that doesn't sound like a bad idea," Cernan said.

The astronauts were commissioned admirals in the Nebraska Navy by Lt. Gov. Frank Marsh.

Taft—national primary is important for future

The establishment of a nationwide Presidential primary election may be an important step in the future of the American political system, according to U.S. Sen. Robert A. Taft Jr.

The Republican senator from Ohio told about 60 persons Thursday night in the Nebraska Union that there are several advantages in a Presidential primary. A resolution calling for such a primary is in the works in Congress now, Taft said.

Taft told the group that the present state primary political contests do not offer comparable tests for all candidates and they are not governed by consistent bylaws from state to state.

The establishment of a nationwide primary system would eliminate the discrepancies in the various state primaries, Taft said.

However, the senator said he believed the primary proposal could not be accepted without consideration of the disadvantages involved.

"Having the national primary would take the candidates off the streets and put them on the television screens," Taft said. "It would take the personal touch out of the campaigning and make those running for office seem even more remote."

The candidates could possibly disregard the local views and rely upon national issues only, he said, and the candidate with the most appeal would win.

Taft said he also believes that the presidential primary would give the wealthy candidates—those with a strong financial backing—an extreme advantage.

"I'm afraid we would find our candidates relying more heavily upon big business for support than they already do," Taft said. "Overall, we would simply be replacing the hard issues with beautiful faces."

Taft, who has been active on several committees dealing with finance, banking, labor and insurance, also spoke briefly about the implied disapproval by the voters of Congress.

During the last general election, he said, many well-known incumbents were defeated by candidates practically unknown nationally. This, Taft said, is demonstrative of the lack of confidence in the legislative branch of national government.

"Before 1930 the Congress used to overpower the executive branch," Taft said. "This hasn't happened for some time and it seems like some voters might want it that way again."

"For the first time in many years, it was almost a disadvantage to have a well-recognized name on the ballot," the senator said.

According to Taft, one way in which to create more interest and more confidence in Congress is to shorten the whole election process.

Taft cited examples from England, where candidates campaign for only six weeks before elections. He added, however, that this might be too extreme for this country due the variety of problems indigenous to the United States.

"Political parties should also make more use of recruitment and research processes than they are today," he said.

The senator outlined several plans for this recruitment and research idea, including one which is being discussed in Ohio.

The plan calls for a search committee which would

screen various candidates and then give an endorsement, thus making a state primary unnecessary.

However, Taft said he would rather see a research committee find as many candidates as possible, bring their names to the public and expose them to the voters.

Then, he said, the committee could sample public opinion toward the various candidates and through research decide upon the best candidate, still avoiding the state primary.

CSL to define organization status

The Council on Student Life (CSL) Thursday charged the Committee on Student Organizations with preparing a policy to define the status of "all-University organizations." If approved, the policy would permit campus organizations to grant full membership status to its University student, faculty and staff members and to its non-University members.

The committee's charge resulted from a request by Ron Bowlin, a member of the University Friends of the arts, that the organization be recognized as an all-University organization. Bowlin said there was some confusion about the status of the arts group because membership in the organization is not limited to students.

In other business, the council approved a report by a CSL subcommittee on the Campus Handbook. The report recommends that several sections of the handbook be reworded or reorganized.

The subcommittee also recommended the section dealing with "Expectations of University Students," be replaced by the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, recently approved by CSL.

The body also voted to appoint three CSL members to meet with the Faculty Senate Liaison Committee and ask them to urge the Faculty Senate to take action on the conduct and discipline code. The Faculty Senate tabled the code at its meeting this week.

