

Chicagoans Hail Historic Moon Walk... BUT

The achievements of America's space program were hailed by leaders in black Chicago as Apollo 11 astronauts set foot on the moon. Praise for U.S. scientific genius was unlimited. Yet, there were undertones of social unrest as each made mental comparisons between our scientific advances and what social scientists call our "cultural lag." Some major comment were:

Rev. Joseph H. Jackson: Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, 3190 S. King dr., "The achievement of Apollo 11 up to this point is one of the most spectacular feats in modern history. This lofty achievement united the American people on a most lofty creative level. It is an indication that problems economic, political, or social, can be solved as Americans, and all men dare lift their visions higher and broaden their horizons."

WARNER SAUNDERS: Director Better Boys Foundation, 1512 S. Pulaski rd. "I think it's a marvelous accomplishment, however it seems like an expensive way to get people to say they like us. I also think now that this has

been accomplished the same effort should be expended to overcome the social problems of the ghetto, and of poverty. 'Will' doesn't cost money, it can be done if they want to do it."

EMMETT STOVAL: Aviator, "I think the Apollo flight and its achievements are wonderful. I feel disappointed however, that I wasn't the first man to walk on the moon. I could have been, I was the first black man to volunteer for space flights, when I sent a letter to the Air Force Medical Center back in 1956. I had enough flying time and experience, but was turned down because I didn't have an engineering degree. But I think the whole idea of the Apollo flight should be an inspiration to our young people, to start thinking about and planning their careers as soon as possible. We have kids 13 years old in our pilot training program."

EDWIN BERRY: Executive director of the Urban League, "I think the Apollo moon flight and its accomplishments are an amazing

physical and scientific feat. And everyone who has worked on it, including the astronauts, the ground crews, and the backup people would be highly complimented. I think it once again points up to me the great, almost unlimited ability of America to accomplish almost anything she sets her mind to. The pressing problems of our society related to the twin evils of racism and poverty might have long since been solved, if our national leaders had given them the same as they have given to getting to the moon. With such ability to plan, develop, and carry out a feat as the moon flight, these same national leaders have the same responsibility to work to solve social problems on earth, and especially in our own country. I hope that my statements take nothing away from the men who have worked on this fantastic accomplishment, but I do hope it will place in some perspective what our priority should be. It seems to me malnutrition of our young people, the ill-housed poor, and the problems in our major cities should have come well before going to the moon.