

# Moon Flight Brings Mixed Emotions Among Blacks

(Story, Pix, Columns 1, 2, 3, 4)

## *The Moon Flight*

### **Mixed Emotions: Different Views**

Black New Yorkers, while looking on in amazement at the walk on the moon, expressed mixed emotions and different views when asked their reactions to the whole trip of Apollo 11.

There were even some who had little praise at all for Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins, pointing out that they were more concerned with their worries here on earth than those on the moon. A Broadway tickertape parade for the Apollo crew is scheduled here for Aug. 13.

Most, however, had praise for the endeavor, while at the same time underscoring man's earthbound problems. Here's what they had to say:

LEONARD BUTLER, student: "It's fabulous that we can make technological and technical advances but it's too bad we can't make human advances. In other words, we are losing our humanity."

STEVEN FERRER, resident: "I have no reaction outside of disgust. It's funny how people can involve themselves in such trifles in the name of mankind when in fact only a few individuals benefit. Its only an ego thing of international prestige."

DONALD FAISON, resident: "I'm really not concerned with it. . . It's really not important . . . That's the man's thing to avert the people's attention from what's happening here."

ELLIOTT WINFRED, student: "It's really exciting to know that someday man will live perhaps on another planet. After seeing those men on the moon, I'm ready to sign up for the first trip."

DR. MAMIE CLARK, executive director, Northside Center: "It frightened me to death. It was awful, and I still

can't believe it. What really frightened me was the fact of all that power. Why can't we use that to settle things here. I have nothing but admiration for the men who went to the moon. I couldn't do it. I think it was awe inspiring, incredible, wonderful."

DR. ANNA HEDGEMAN, author, civic leader: "I had two

(Continued on Page 45)

## **Meanwhile, Back Home**



**BENEATH THE MOON** — It was easy to forget that there are still poor and hungry people back on earth as the Apollo 11 soared towards the moon, but Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) leader Hosea Williams didn't forget. He strikes a militant black power pose in front of models of the Jupiter C (left) and Titan II rockets. The SCLC staged a demonstration at the launching in favor of more funds for the poor and hungry. See editorial on page 16. (UPI Photo)

# -Mixed Emotions

(Continued from Page One)

reactions. I am always, of course, excited by any adventure. The moon has been of interest to man throughout the centuries. I hope the astronauts themselves will catch some larger vision of life. The next time, hopefully, we spend \$25 billions of dollars it will be on people. The misery across the world can be met by the ingenuity of mankind. The moon walk makes this completely clear.

MRS. BERNICE HALL, director, Empire State Girls Clubs: "I thought it was a spectacular event and should open the eyes of people all over the world to the potential of man. If you really try hard enough, something can be accomplished. There was a feeling of unity between the men behind this major feat. You felt it as you watched them step on the moon. The moment everyone shared together made it complete. It was a great triumph, I think, for everyone. Anything worthwhile has to be explored and paid for in some way or other. The accomplishment is worth the money spent.

MRS. ESTELLE NOBLE, documentarian, Chase Manhattan Bank: "I think the experiment was wonderful and it's history. We are all alive to see this history being made. I do think that billions of dollars should be spent down here on

earth to alleviate suffering and injustices against minority groups — black people and the Indians. Billions of dollars in Vietnam and billions of dollars on the moon makes me wonder why we cannot apply equal amounts to mankind. It was a great achievement for our government. We are all Americans witnessing such an occasion for our country. Let's hope we may witness major feats of accomplishment here on earth."

JAMAL DAVID, manager of Black Shop, 2149 Seventh Ave.: "The Moon flight to me and to all black people proves that the whites are not concerned about the black problem. They could have used ten percent of the money spent on the flight to help the black peoples. They can always find a way to work out problems like conquering space and I am sure they can find a way to solve the black problem."

HERBERT LAMBRIGHT, photographer, 239 Marion St., Brooklyn: "It was an amazing scientific experiment and shows that man is on his way to conquer space. I applaud the Astronauts for their great adventure. I wouldn't mind going myself. It's exciting and I hope they keep politics out of it."

GENETHEL HARRIS, writer, Longfellow Ave., Bronx: "The flight was exciting. I enjoyed reading about it and watching

the Moon landing on television. I would have enjoyed taking part in the adventure myself. The preparations and the flight itself was expensive and I believe the money could have been put to good use here on earth but then again you must also remember that the preparation of the space program gave a large number of people work. I believe the United States can handle the space and poverty programs easily."

WILLIAM H. ROBERSON, counselor, Patterson Houses, 208 E. 18th St.: "It was wonderful. Let's hope that man will not become too gullible and find himself in heaven. The preparation and flight was a scientific masterpiece. I would have felt better if the same effort was exerted in the poor people's program here. I am sure the government could do it."

MR. ALFREDO THOMAS, Bronx: "I think it was a great achievement that man can leave the earth and sweep the earthy problems under the rug. This means man can start colonizing the moon and have better excuse for keeping the bread and homes from National ghettos which are also one of man's achievements."

JOHN JOHNSON, Bronx: "To my belief, they have no business up there. They have too many things to do down here. I'm not even thinking about it. To be honest with you, I don't give a good god damn with whatever they do. I can't even find good employment because of that damn man's walk. Later for that man's walk. I hope they don't even get back."

ALWAMATON GRAHAM, Bronx: "I believe they should take the money and build homes and create jobs for the poor people here, before going up there to interfere with someone else's world. I hope they come down here and do a job on these people here."

BETTY GEAN MC DANIEL, New York City: My reaction towards the man's walk on the moon is a marvels thing, but who cares what's up there? I need the money they used to send those men up there, why don't they give me some.

MRS. ALMA MAY DICKS, New York City: "I don't believe man should have went up there. The lord don't want man to be going else. When you do things the lord said not to. He will be very very mad. If he wanted us on the moon, he would of put us there in the beginning. I believe the world is coming to a end. Have you noticed it has been raining ever since they went up there. The lord is thinking about what he will do to us now. The rain is the sign of the lord crying. I pray every night, that the lord save me from this."

MRS. ROBINSON, Bronx: "I don't think we should be up there. I don't think the lord want us to go to other planets without first taking care of the poor people here. If he wanted us to be there, I believe he would take us by the hand and led us there without the use of these ships they are making. And how do we know this is not the world of death. All of that dust up there can be dust of our dead people."

THOMAS McFARLAND, businessman, 277 Cumberland St.: "While I believe it is a great scientific achievement, it's still a waste of money."

ROOSEVELT JAMES, Longshoreman, 173 Lafayette Ave.: "No human being has ever landed on the moon before, so I feel it's a move forward and just the beginning of bigger accomplishments."

JOSEPH LONG, record store owner, 540 Nostrand Ave.: "I feel it was a good experience in the space exploration program, but uncalled for. They should really try to quit spending all that money going to the moon and try to improve conditions of the poor, both black and white."

RUDY CLARENCE, businessman, 1222A Fulton St.: "It's a marvelous accomplishment but the money could have been put to better use to clean up our backyard here on earth."

HENRY DAVIS, BARBER, 1098 Dean St.: "I think it's progress for all mankind. However, \$24 billion is a lot of money to spend for a trip to the moon as compared to what is spent to take care of poverty on earth."