

Sept. 14, 1965
Astronauts at Nat'l Academy
Cong Geo Miller Science
Dr Dryden
Dr Seamans

Dr Seitz
Nat Academy
Dr Hess
Jim Webb
Dr Berry
Dr Willett

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The President of the United States has already honored our distinguished space men today, as they in turn have honored our country.

I would, ~~however~~ ^{Trudy} like to add my few words of praise to ^{(Gordon) Trudy} Dr. Berry, to ^{(Pete) Jan} Colonel Cooper, and to ^{Peter Mother} Commander Conrad. Also, I want to commend every responsible person in Government and in industry who contributed to the great space adventure and great space success of the Gemini-5.

We are all proud to speak of our space activity as a national space program. Indeed, it is national, with cooperation from many branches of Government and from many elements of the private sector of our economy.

The program is more than national, however. It is international. And, I want to stress our space program's potential as an arm of foreign policy and particularly of peace policy.

I believe that high among the benefits which you astronauts, administrators, and scientists are contributing to your country is our sturdy movement toward world peace. If sanity prevails -- and I believe it will -- the path to the stars can be the path to peace.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act -- the basic legislation which authorizes our national space program -- states that all of our space activities should be conducted "for the benefit of mankind."

Indeed, such is this country's intention, and such are the program's results.

↳ In the field of education -- an area of major interest to those assembled here today -- the space program acts as a stimulus and a catalyst at all levels, with particular attention to science and engineering *medicine*. In fact, I believe the benefit to education alone is sufficient to justify much of the cost of our national space program.

↳ Those who are engaged in the national space program -- whether they be orbiting the earth in the most modern of space equipment or ~~whether they are~~ working diligently in the laboratories -- are contributing to the world's library of scientific knowledge. I would emphasize that such contribution might well be sufficient to justify the total cost of our national space program.

In conclusion, I would state that Gemini-5 is much more than a project of great historic significance, although it is that. It has been a pathfinder and a record-breaker -- but the highways to the stars are many and long, and records are made to be broken.

↳ As I said, Gemini-5 is symbolic of many things. It reveals the courage of those who flew successfully for eight days in the narrow confines of the spacecraft. ↳ It also portrays the managerial ability of

those who organized and brought this project to such a high state of perfection. It shows the scientific dedication and the engineering expertise of the many who were connected with this great project. And, it reveals the determination of your President and the Congress that second-place in space is not for this great country.

E. C. Welsh

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