

# Historic Work Of Company Cited By President Kennedy



**HIGHLIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT** was the Gemini briefing conducted by Walter Burke, Vice-President, General Manager, Spacecraft (foreground) and Mr. Mac. A classified briefing on the company's space program was held later during the visit.

## "Greatly Impressed" By Space Activities

Within the past twelve months the McDonnell team has been afforded more opportunity to witness the full fruition of its collective effort than perhaps any individual group in history.

Mercury orbital flights by astronauts Glenn and Carpenter . . . speed and altitude records of the Phantom II . . . inception of the Gemini program . . . initial progress on the F/RF-110 programs . . . Events have followed each other at a breathtaking pace.

It would seem almost impossible to provide a fitting climax for this sparkling array of achievement. But such a climax did come on September 12 with the visit of President John F. Kennedy to the McDonnell plant.

The visit was part of a two-day tour of space installations which included in addition to McDonnell: the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center at Huntsville, Alabama; Cape Canaveral; and NASA's Manned Space Flight Center at Houston, Texas.

President Kennedy was keenly interested in all aspects of the space program and displayed an equal enthusiasm for meeting the people associated with the program.

### First In Space

As Mr. Mac stated: "The President, by his remarks and attitude, seemed obviously determined that the United States should be first in space, with the emphasis on peaceful competition in space science and exploration. At the same time he showed strong and equal interest in military defense as illustrated by the amount of time he spent inspecting the design features and manufacturing of the Phantom F4H and F-110 aircraft."

Preparations for the visit began the preceding week. There were problems of security, communications, press coverage, transportation and traffic. Ample applications of "midnight oil" by many McDonnell personnel were necessary to complete the preparations in time.

### Reception By 10,000

By the time President Kennedy's huge four-engine jet transport taxied onto the McDonnell ramp more than 10,000 personnel were on hand to greet him. More than 100 St. Louis area press representatives, in addition to nearly 50 members of the White House Press Corps covered the visit.

Mr. Mac met President Kennedy and escorted him to the speaker's stand. Enroute, the President broke thru the security line in order to shake hands with personnel.

In his introduction of the President, Mr. Mac stated: "Our little aerospace company has a new high today. We are honored to have with us the President of the United States. In Houston this morning, the President told his audience: 'For the eyes of the world and its restless millions now look up and out to space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that they shall not see it governed by a hostile plague of conquest but by a banner of peace. We have vowed that they shall not seize spaceville with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding; yet, the vows of this nation can only be fulfilled if we in this nation are first, and therefore, we intend to be first.'

"As many of our teammates here know, that has been the feeling with which we have worked with NASA in going into space: as a means of peaceful competition in a way of finding wonderful and creative substitutes for war while giving release to the competitive spirit of mankind."

### Tour of Inspection

After his address, President Kennedy inspected four Phantom II airplanes on static display on the flight ramp. A dramatic F4H flight demonstration provided a fitting

(Continued on Page 7)

## What The President Said

I want to express my very warm thanks to all of you. I know that some of you are on the first shift, and some on the second shift, and I appreciate very much your coming out and saying "Hello."

This is a most important effort in which you are all involved, building these planes which help protect the security of the United States and the dozens of countries which are associated and allied with us all around the world, which would not be free if it were not for the power and the determination of the United States, and also because of your efforts in the field of space.

As Mr. McDonnell said, no one can tell exactly what the future holds there, but it is an unexplored sea. It is essential that the United States participate in this great adventure. It is essential that the United States be first, and, therefore, we depend upon you.

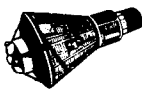
In the United States, every citizen of this country is involved in this effort. As I pointed out this morning, it costs every citizen, man, woman and child, today 40 cents

a week to be involved merely in the effort in space. It will shortly cost them 50 cents a week.

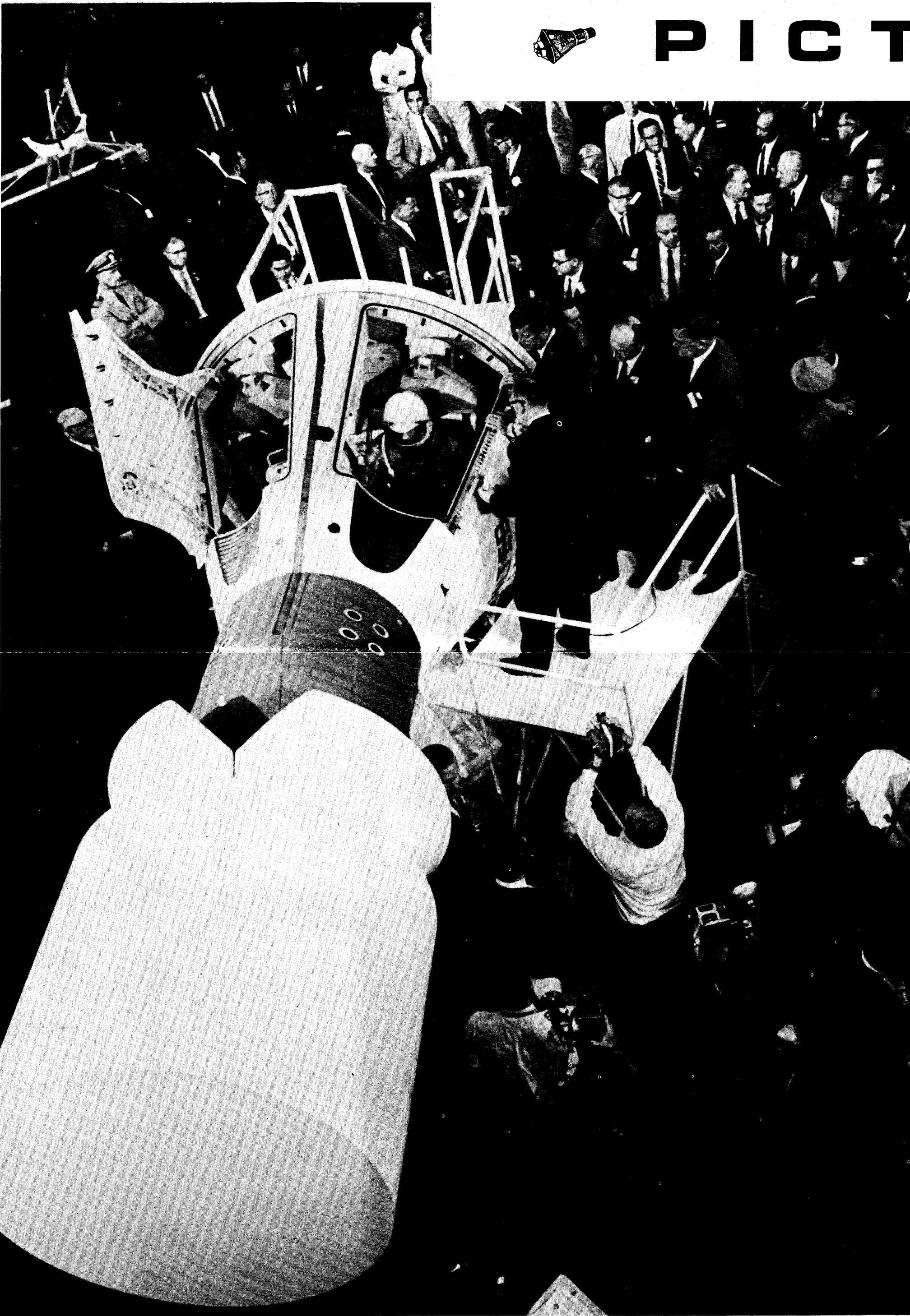
Every citizen of this country has a stake, and is participating in this effort, but it all comes to you, to those in Houston, to those in Cape Canaveral, to those at MIT, to those on the West Coast, who perform the vital functions which make it possible to put one man or two men first in orbit around the earth, and then in orbit around the moon, and then on the moon, and then come back. You are part of that great effort.

I can imagine no action, no adventure, which is more essential and more exciting than to be involved in the most important and significant adventure that any man has been able to participate in the history of the world, and it is going to take place in this decade.

I congratulate you on what you have done, and I congratulate you on being part of this adventure.



PICT

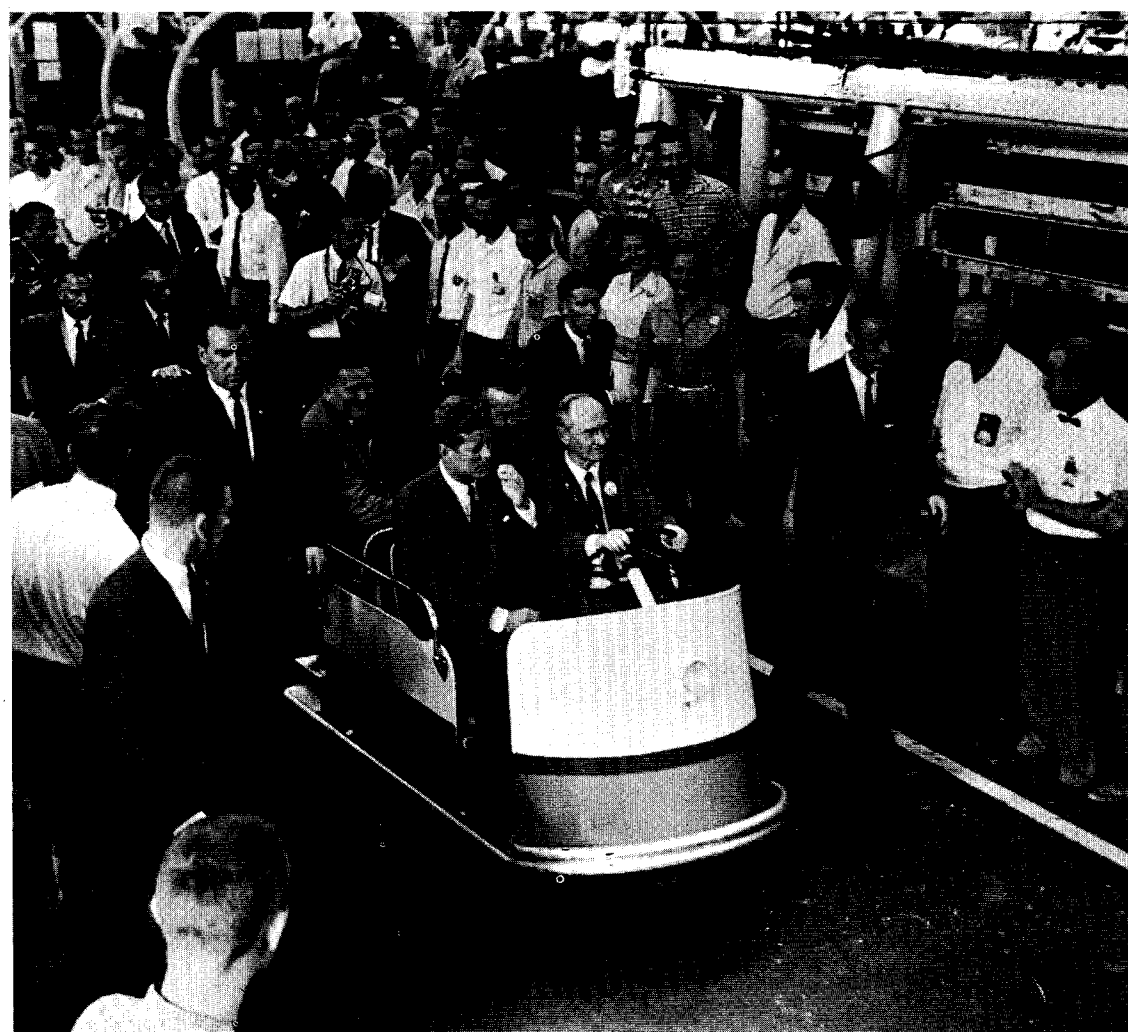




# URES



**THOUSANDS LISTENED** intently as President Kennedy delivered his brief, but dynamic, remarks from the speaker's rostrum during his September 12 visit to the McDonnell plant. In background are Phantom II's with Air Force and Navy markings which were on static display.



**ROUNDS OF APPLAUSE** by McDonnell personnel greeted President Kennedy as he toured the production areas of Building 1 in the electric "caddy" chauffeured by Mc. Mac. Also present on the official tour were James Webb, Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (N.A.S.A.) (left) and Vice President Sanford McDonnell.



**HAIL . . .** Smiling broadly in the direction of the thousands on hand to greet him, President Kennedy briskly deplaned from the huge jet transport on the McDonnell flight ramp.

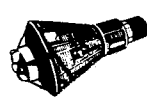


**. . . AND FAREWELL.** President Kennedy waved a farewell to those who waited until the conclusion of the tour and briefing to see him off. Although brief, every minute of the President's visit was packed with activity.

McDonnell and Globe-Democrat Photos



**GEMINI BRIEFING**, conducted in the mock-up room by Vice President Walter Burke, was followed with interest by President Kennedy. Throngs of reporters and photographers sought vantage points to record the first publicized inspection of the two-man space vehicle.



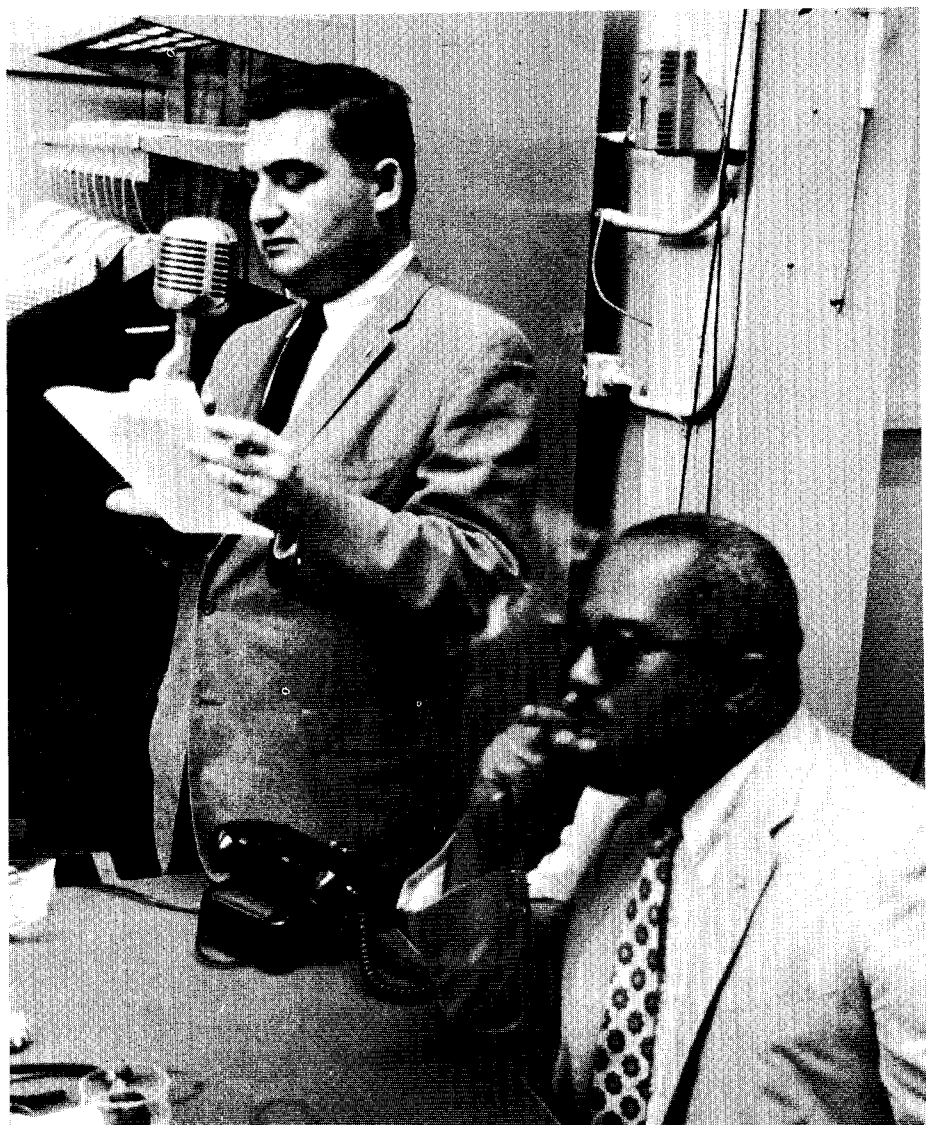
# PICTURE



**ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING** by a crowd estimated at 10,000 prompted President Kennedy to "break ranks" and shake as many hands as possible after his arrival on the McDonnell flight ramp.



**AN AERIAL SALUTE** to the President was provided by four Phantom II's. Watching the demonstration were, left to right: Mr. Mac, President Kennedy, Vice-President Sanford N. McDonnell, and James Webb, Administrator of N.A.S.A.



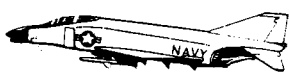
**THE PRESS**, including more than 100 local representatives of newspaper, television and radio, had a busy day. White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger and Assistant, Andrew Hatcher, expedited the flow of official information in the improvised Press Room adjoining the Gemini mock-up area.



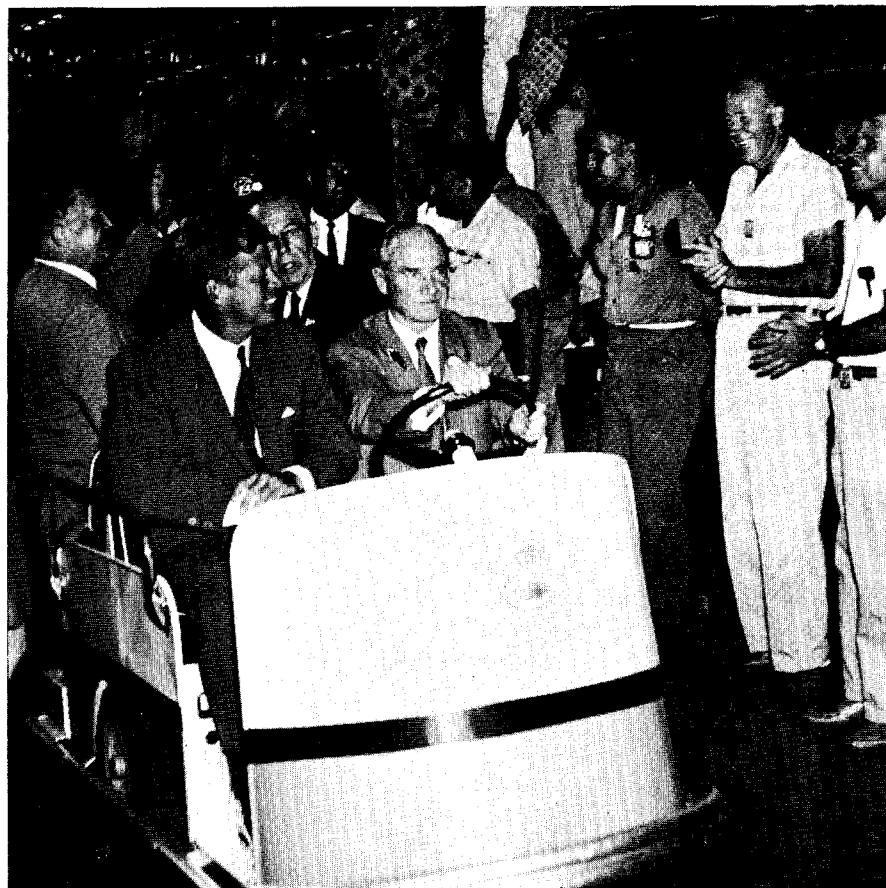
**"A MOST IMPORTANT EFFORT"** was President Kennedy's work being done at McDonnell Aircraft. The Chief Executive's thousands on the flight ramp, was also carried to additional thousands by the public address system.



J R E S



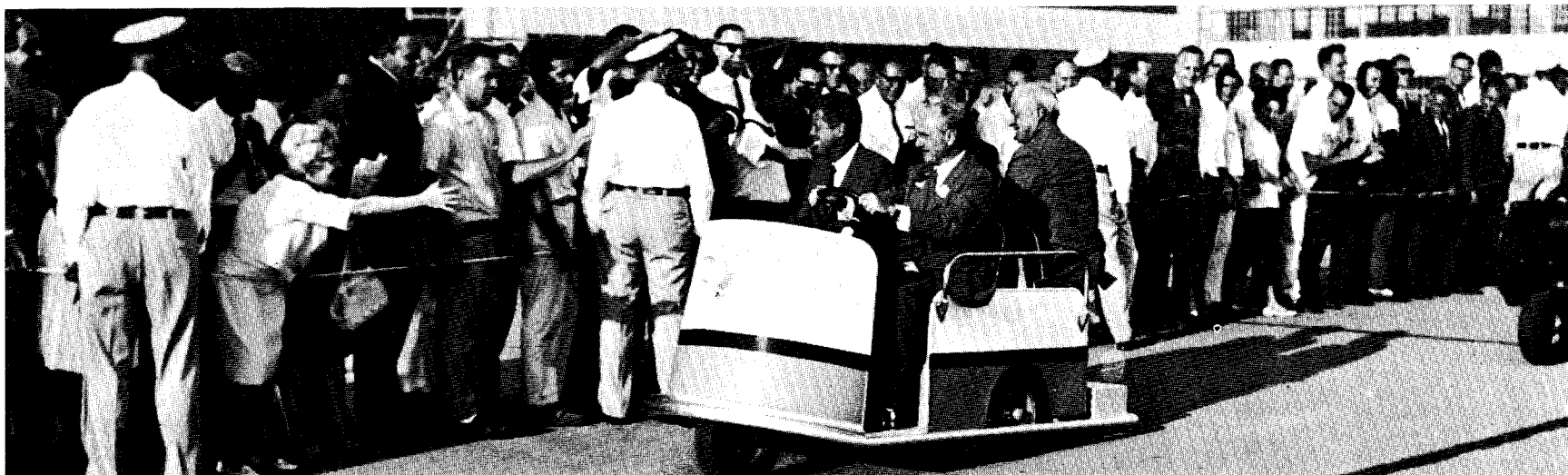
**A WARM WELCOME** was extended President Kennedy by McDonnell President Davis S. Lewis (right) shortly after the President's arrival. Mr. Mac (center) was the Chief Executive's official host during the tour.



**MOTORIZED TOUR** of the McDonnell plant was chauffeured by Mr. Mac and enabled President Kennedy to observe Phantom II fabrication and Gemini production activities at close range.



**A "SEA OF FACES"** turned toward President Kennedy during his remarks on the flight ramp. Press coverage of the visit was much in evidence as seen by the number of photographers in the crowd. A battery of 40 speakers carried the President's words to all parts of the ramp area.



**MANY WAITED** patiently on the flight ramp until President Kennedy had concluded his plant tour and briefing so they could catch another glimpse of the Chief Executive. Mr. Mac returned President Kennedy to his waiting airplane by motorized "caddy."

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"It ain't the individual . . .  
nor the outfit as a whole . . .  
but the everlasting teamwork  
of every bloomin' soul."  
— Kipling

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## "The Best of Our Energies"

The September 12 visit of President Kennedy to the McDonnell plant was a sparkling event in the lives of all our personnel. The President appeared as sincerely interested in meeting the people who are directly responsible for the creation of the Phantom II, Mercury, and Gemini as he was in the inspection of the actual hardware.

The fact that "man does not live by bread alone" is an accepted axiom of industrial relations. Large corporations expend considerable time and effort in the development of a sense of purpose among employee groups. The identification of the individual with the final product thru a team effort is considered of utmost importance.

Therefore, when no less a personage than the President of the United States takes time out from a heavy schedule to tell an assembled industrial group that it is engaged in the most important and significant adventure in the history of man we believe that the ultimate has been reached in team motivation.

President Kennedy, in making this statement to the McDonnell team during his address, had previously amplified it with some rather sound reasons for the magnitude of the space effort. He pointed out that this country has elected to go to the moon in this decade, not because the task is easy, but because it is hard.

The President's message, in other words, served a two-fold purpose. On the one hand, it was complimentary of the past efforts of the McDonnell team in the production of modern weapons and spacecraft for the security of the country. On the other, it outlined the immense challenge that lies ahead.

To McDonnell personnel both in St. Louis and Cape Canaveral the acceptance of a challenge is not exactly a foreign idea.

The initial challenge was made on January 12, 1959, with the award by NASA of a contract to build the nation's first spacecraft. The challenge was met — not by brilliant bursts of engineering ingenuity — but by solid, seven-day-week schedules in which dedicated hands and minds worked around the clock to create something that had never before existed.

Another challenge was accepted in December, 1961, when NASA commissioned McDonnell to build the two-man Gemini spacecraft. Although much of the work on Mercury could serve as a nucleus for development of the larger, more sophisticated craft there existed uncharted technical areas that only long hours of dedicated effort could penetrate.

Mercury spacecraft have proven their mettle in the successes of four manned missions; Gemini is still untried . . . and over the space horizon lies other challenges of ever-increasing complexity.

"The goal," as President Kennedy stated, "will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills."

## Getting The Job Done

It is a tribute to the spirit of cooperation and versatility of McDonnell personnel that the visit of President Kennedy on September 12 went smoothly and on schedule.

Hundreds of details in such areas as security, transportation, press facilities and communication — to mention only some — had to be worked out thoroughly in advance. Meetings, some that lasted far into the evening hours, were necessary to coordinate the efforts of the various departments.

Many volunteered services for whatever it would take to get the job done. Assignments of such diverse and unfamiliar tasks as press escort, golf "caddy" driver, television crew coordinator or errand boy were accepted cheerfully.

The effort was well summed up by Winston G. Lawson, Special Agent in charge of the Secret Service Presidential Detail: "A very difficult assignment handled in an exceptional manner."

## President Kennedy's Address At Houston

During his recent tour of spacecraft facilities, President Kennedy delivered a major address in Houston, Texas, which has special significance for all McDonnell personnel. Excerpts from the speech follow:

"No man can fully grasp how far and how fast we have come, but condense, if you will, the 50,000 years of man's recorded history in a time span of but a half-century. Stated in these terms, we know very little about the first 40 years, except at the end of them advanced man had learned to use the skins of of animals to cover them.

"Then about 10 years ago, under this standard, man emerged from his caves to construct other kinds of shelter. Only five years ago, man learned to write and use a cart with wheels. Christianity began less than two years ago. The printing press came this year, and then less than two months ago, during this whole 50-year span of human history, the steam engine provided a new source of power.

"Newton explored the meaning of gravity. Last month, electric lights and telephones and automobiles and airplanes became available. Only last week did we develop penicillin and television and nuclear power, and now if America's new spacecraft succeeds in reaching Venus, we will have literally reached the stars before midnight tonight.

"This is a breathtaking pace, and such a pace cannot help but create new ills as it dispels old, new ignorance, new problems, new dangers. Surely the opening vistas of space promise high costs and hardships, as well as high reward.

"If this capsule history of our progress teaches us anything, it is that man, in his quest for knowledge and progress, is determined and cannot be deterred. The exploration of space will go ahead, whether we join in it or not, and it is one of the great adventures of all time, and no nation which expects to be the leader of other nations can expect to stay behind in this race for space.

"Those who came before us made certain that this country rode the first waves of the industrial revolutions, the first waves of modern invention, and the first wave of nuclear power, and this generation does not intend to founder in the backwash of the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it. We mean to lead it, for the eyes of the world now look into space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.

"Yet the vows of this Nation can only be fulfilled if we in this Nation are first, and, therefore, we intend to be first. In short, our leadership in science and in industry, our hopes for peace and security, our obligations to ourselves as well as others, all require us to make this effort, to solve these mysteries, to solve them for the good of all men, and to become the world's leading space-faring nation.

". . . I am delighted that this University is playing a part in putting a man on the moon as part of a great national effort of the United States of America.

"Many years ago the great explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why did he want to climb it, and he said, 'Because it is there.'

"Well, space is there, and we are going to climb it, and the moon and the planets are there, and new hopes for knowledge and peace are there. And, therefore, as we set sail we ask God's blessing on the most hazardous and dangerous and greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked."

## Editorial Comment

### GREAT DAY FOR MCDONNELL

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat)

It is a most remarkable and deserved tribute when a President of the United States pays an official inspection visit to an industrial plant.

The McDonnell team — from Mr. Mac, himself, down to the lowest apprentice — can take pride in the visit of President Kennedy. They will receive national recognition from the Presidential visit, which will further increase their already-great stature throughout the country.

The McDonnell Aircraft Company has had a truly remarkable growth in the 23 years since Jim McDonnell started a small and far-from-promising shop.

It has grown to become St. Louis' and Missouri's largest employer, and has made vast contributions to the strength of America through its fine products, both in aviation and in space.

The Presidential visit is an accolade on which the entire McDonnell organization, as well as the St. Louis community itself, may well reflect with pride.

### SPACE AND THE NATION

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

President Kennedy's flying tour of civilian and military space facilities, and his eloquent appeal for support in the effort to put a man on the moon by 1970, should be helpful in the event the President seeks an expansion of the current \$5,400,000,000 space budget. And he will surely have to ask for more money if his imaginative picture of the United States as a peace-seeking space-faring nation is to be translated into reality.

It should hardly be necessary to sell Americans, pioneers and explorers by heritage, on the value of probing the unknown regions of outer space. Yet the moon race has been criticized as a huge boondoggle; and some have asked whether it would not be better to let the Russians get to the moon first and spend the money in human betterment on earth.

The President had the answer for those who shrink from the contest. The exploration of space will go ahead whether we will it or not, he said, and no nation which expects to be a leader of nations can expect to stay behind. This country has vowed that outer space shall not become a field of battle but a place of scientific endeavor, he continued, but these vows "can only be fulfilled if we in this nation are first — and therefore we intend to be first."

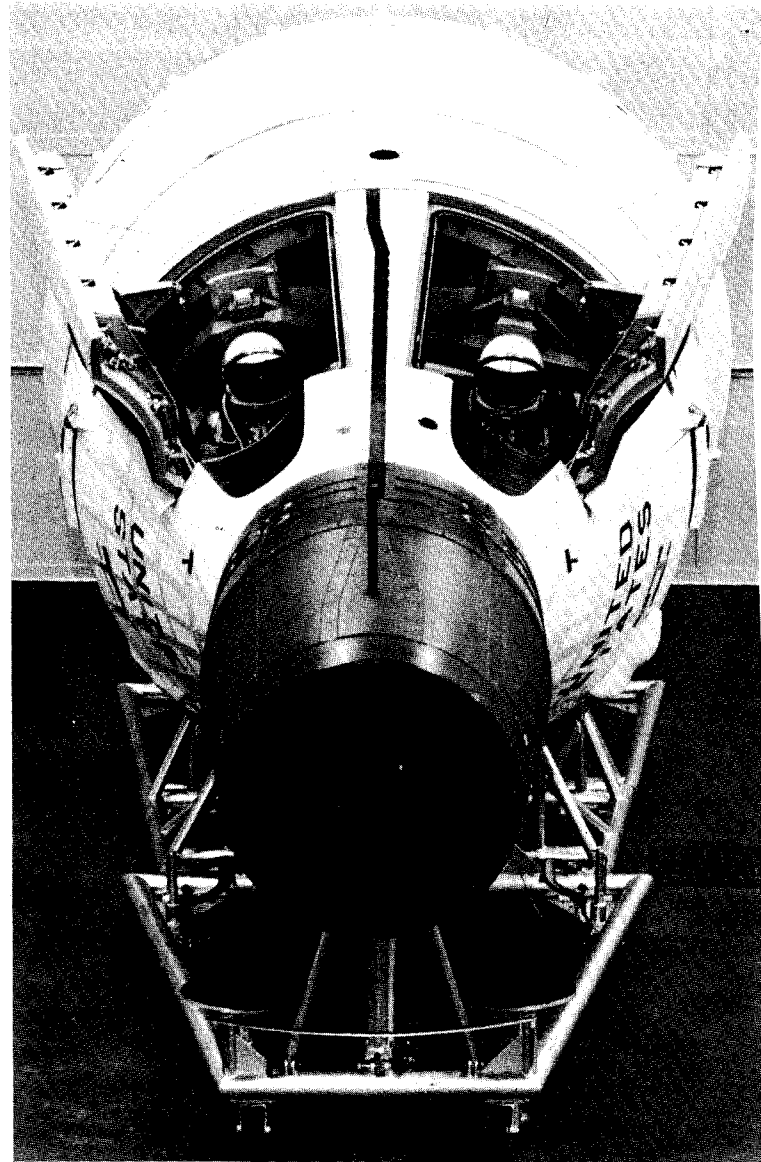
In his major speech at Houston Mr. Kennedy did not say in so many words that the energies now expended in the arms race could well be turned to space exploration, but the field surely is vast enough to absorb the effort now put into armament production. As J. S. McDonnell, head of McDonnell Aircraft Corporation of St. Louis, said in introducing Mr. Kennedy to plant employees, exploring space could be "a creative substitute for war" which would still provide an outlet for man's competitive spirit . . .

Mr. Kennedy conceded that the United States is behind the Soviet Union in manned flight, but he did not dwell on gloomy comparisons. He did not need to, for the truth is that the United States is making rapid progress. Thus, there was an air of solid optimism in the President's words. He spoke of the scientific knowledge gleaned by our satellites, and of the fantastic Venus shot, made with "the most intricate instrument in the history of space science." And of the work being done on the monster rockets that will be needed to reach the moon, "carrying all the equipment needed for propulsion, guidance, control, communications, food and survival on an untried mission to an unknown celestial body — and then return safely."

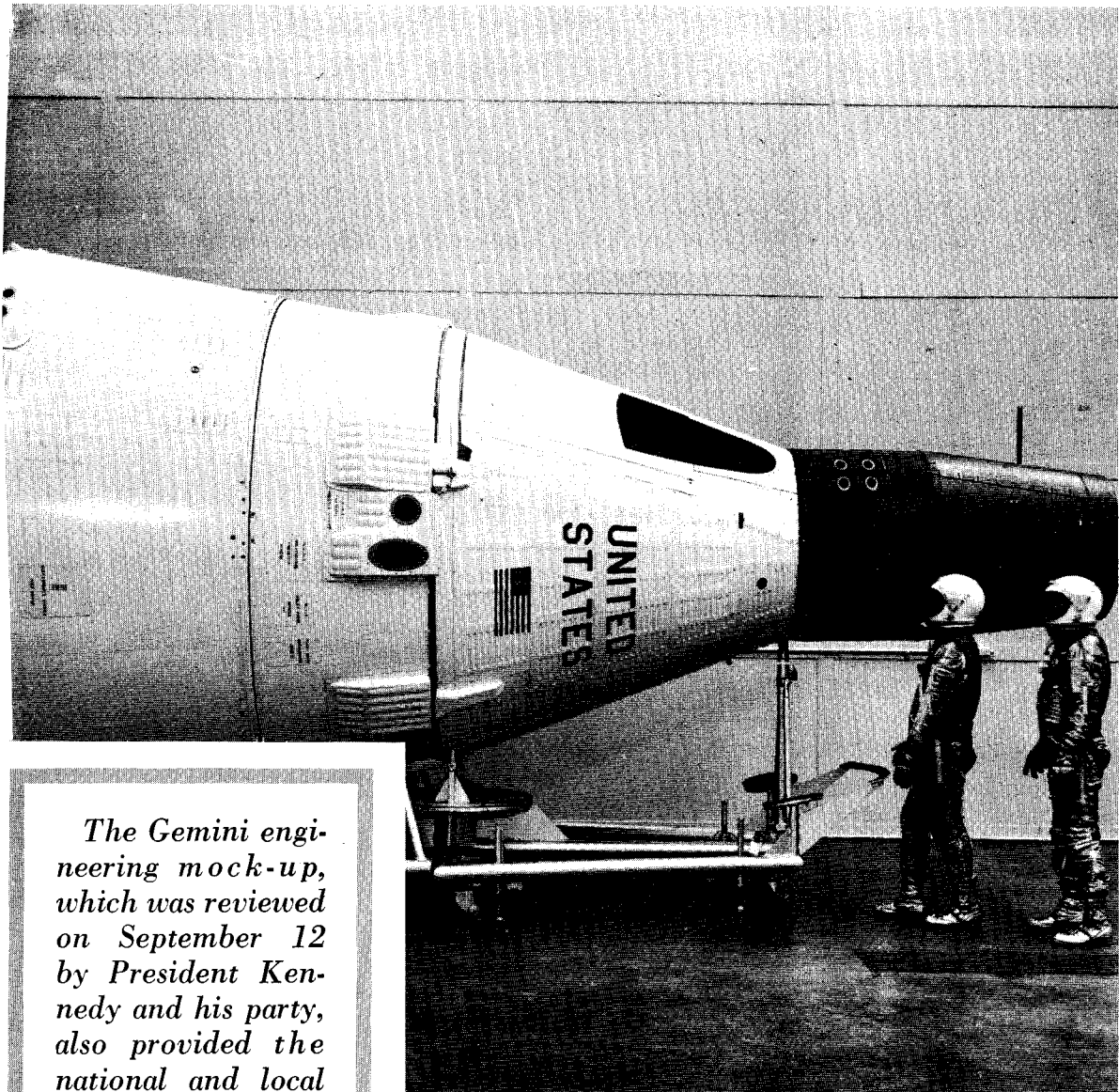






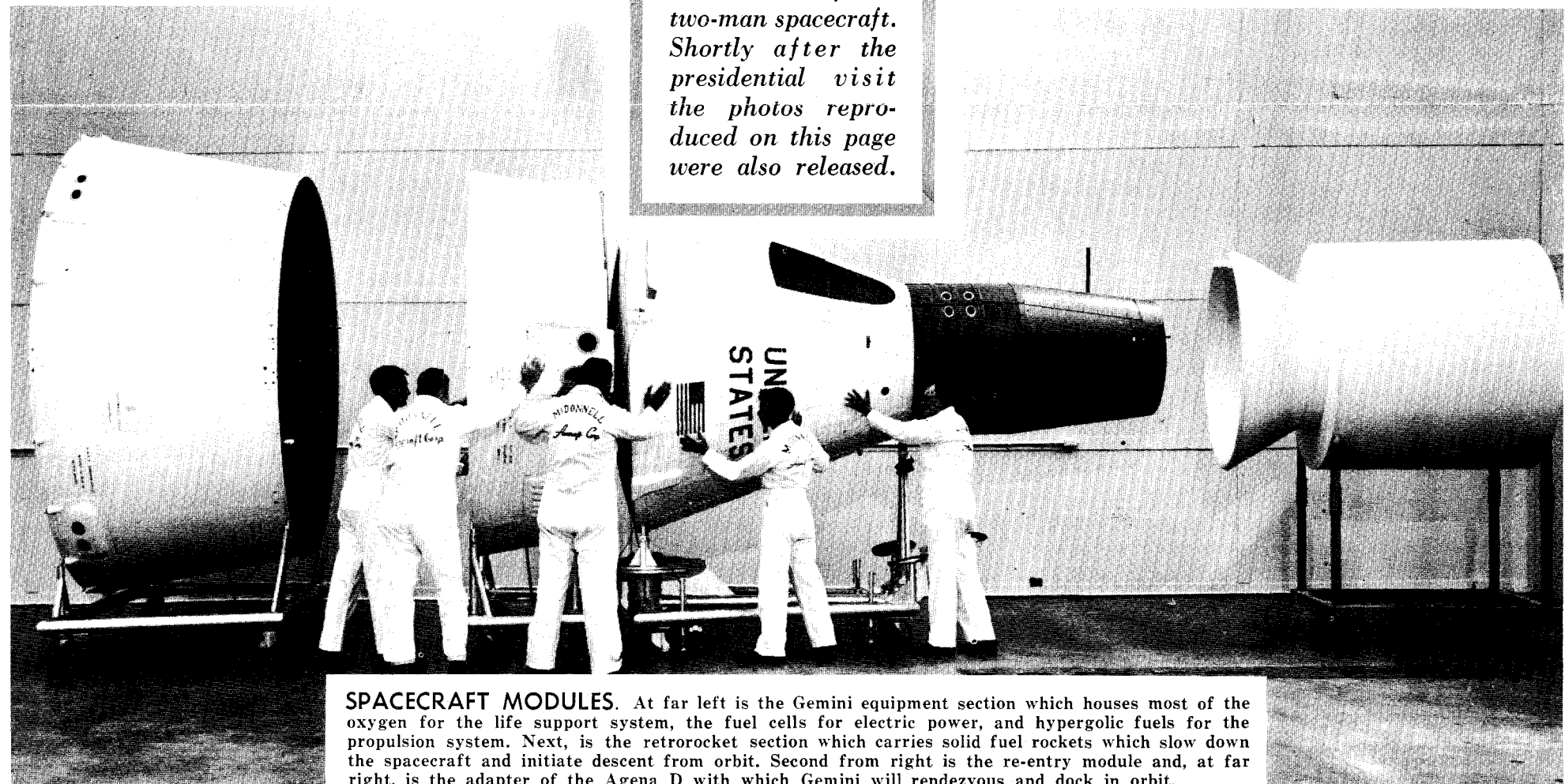


TWO-MAN GEMINI spacecraft photo shows the positioning of the two astronauts during flight. Gemini is being developed for orbital flights of up to 14 days duration and for rendezvous and docking missions with propulsion vehicles in orbit.



"SUITED UP" for space. The two-man Gemini spacecraft is shown with its three major components in this side view of the engineering mock-up. At extreme right is the re-entry module which houses the crew throughout the flight.

*The Gemini engineering mock-up, which was reviewed on September 12 by President Kennedy and his party, also provided the national and local press with the opportunity of getting the first photos to be released of the two-man spacecraft. Shortly after the presidential visit the photos reproduced on this page were also released.*



SPACECRAFT MODULES. At far left is the Gemini equipment section which houses most of the oxygen for the life support system, the fuel cells for electric power, and hypergolic fuels for the propulsion system. Next, is the retrorocket section which carries solid fuel rockets which slow down the spacecraft and initiate descent from orbit. Second from right is the re-entry module and, at far right, is the adapter of the Agena D with which Gemini will rendezvous and dock in orbit.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S VISIT

**MCDONNELL** *Airscoop*

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S VISIT

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Mercury orbital flights by astronauts Glenn and Carpenter and planned rendezvous of the Phoenix II.

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