

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : All Astronauts

DATE: October 8, 1969

FROM : CB/Chief, Astronaut Office

SUBJECT: Astronaut group prestige and morale

It has come to my attention that certain unconscious and inadvertent actions have been detrimental to the astronaut group. In specific, the discussion by astronauts and their wives with friends and neighbors concerning certain of the so-called "fringe benefits" that are afforded the office.

The astronaut group has been in existence for slightly over ten years and has gone through a series of peaks and valleys with respect to its prestige and image. Over this period of ten years, there has been a considerable amount of hard work, long hours, and self-sacrifice to accomplish the goals of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs. We have also lost a few members along the way. The results of the flight crew performance has created a status where we are frequently invited to both social and professional sport functions in the Houston and surrounding areas. In addition to these functions, there are other types of intangible benefits which are afforded the group. When these benefits are discussed with individuals who are not fully cognizant of the long hours of work and the sacrifices, there often results an attitude of jealousy. This reaction is unfortunate; however, with the make-up of the human mind, there is little we can do about it.

With the above mentioned facts, I suggest that benefits offered to this office in all forms be kept strictly within our own house; i.e., the Astronaut Office.

Deke and I both consider the discussion of these items outside the group to be detrimental to our overall office position in both the professional and social areas.

We have a great group--let's keep it that way!



Thomas P. Stafford

CB:TPStafford:gra 10-8-69

