

POOL REPORT Travel to Air and Space Museum and Capitol ~~7-1-76~~ 7-1-76

President was walked thru Air and Space Museum rooms by Mike Collins, former apollo astronaut, now director of new museum. One room was mock up of "bridge" or control tower of air craft carrier...thru windows President could see a film showing jets taking off and landing. Another room was decked out in World War One rubble (France, I think) with antique flying machines suspended overhead. A quick walk away was the space room with huge rocket engines, ^{there was} and a tiny satellite held in the palm of a paper mache Uncle Sam. The President walked thru a tall metallic object said to be an orbiting space station unit. Then he spend several minutes on a balcony looking down at hanging displays: The Spirit of St. Louis, The Bell plane which first broke the sound barrier, and others. Below them was a space capsule, when he inspected when he got down to the ground level...He even touched a moon rock sample, and stood below the actual Apollo-Soyuz craft. When the outside ribbon was cut by a Viking Mars Lander arm, the President remarked "That's the most expensive scissors ever created." And on his way out of the building ..in thanking Mike Collins, the Commander in Chief said: "Congratulations. Super, Super."

The drive to Capitol Hill brought him to an entrance on the House side where he recognized and chatted with an armed guard named Ralph. The safe opening ~~was~~ went off without a hitch...and without a key as far as I could see. He dragged out a few framed pictures of US Grant and the like... a book filled with autographs from distinguished americans 100-years ago... and a Tiffany inkwell.

The quick ride home took him straight to the Oval Office.

Ann
-Compton, ABC News, 12:55p