

On the Hill, in front of the Centre Block, the Prime Minister extended an official welcome to the three astronauts. Despite the chill in the air and a thin cover of snow on the ground, he was joined in his warm greetings by the children and the noonday crowds that had followed the sound of the carillon to the steps of the Peace Tower. During the short ceremony, the astronauts presented to the Prime Minister for the people of Canada a replica of the silicon disc left behind at Tranquility Base to commemorate man's first voyage to the moon. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister entertained the astronauts and their wives at lunch at his residence. There they were presented with Eskimo prints by the Cape Dorset artist Alashua and with copies of a book on Eskimo art by James Houston.

### Parliamentary Ovation

In the afternoon, the House of Commons paid its tribute to the lunar pioneers. When the Prime Minister rose to call the attention of the Speaker and the House to the presence of "several distinguished visitors" in the Speaker's gallery, and the astronauts and their wives stood to acknowledge the recognition, from the floor and from the crowded galleries came a rare, thunderous ovation. Of the spacemen and their achievement, Mr. Trudeau said:

The venture of these three brave men into the unknown stirred the imagination and the pride of all Canadians. This country is not so old or so well explored that either the experience of the frontier or the taste of adventure is forgotten. We are close in time and in space to wilderness. In our blood — or perhaps just in our secret desires — is found the spirit of such men as Hudson and Cartier, Palliser and Steffanson. The exploits of our visitors today proved that the urge of exploration is not over, and we are glad. They proved too that there is new meaning in the heavens, and we are better for it. Mr. Speaker, we are delighted to have with us these brave, courageous men and their equally brave wives.

The leaders of the other parties in the House, the Honorable Robert Stanfield, Mr. T. C. Douglas and Mr. Réal Caouette, followed the Prime Minister with words of tribute for the *Apollo XI* crew.

Later, the distinguished visitors attended a press conference at the National Research Council on Sussex Drive, which was also attended by about 250 newsmen and scientists. It began with a screening of a film of the *Apollo XI* mission and the moonwalk, with narration by the astronauts. During the conference, as throughout the visit, they stressed the importance to the space effort of international co-operation and repeatedly paid tributes to Canadian technology, which had contributed both directly and indirectly to the success of their mission. The astronauts spoke not only of the Canadian-designed and -built legs of the LEM (lunar landing module) but also of Canada's participation in space exploration through the *Alouette* and *ISIS* programs. The National Research Council, which arranged the astronauts' visit to Canada and acted as their host, has made important technical contributions to both the *Apollo XI* and *Apollo XII* missions. Scientists from the NRC and from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are at present analyzing moonrock