

For Mrs. Lopez
at Col. Borman's number
and afterwards have
her read it back to you
slowly for accuracy.

Dear Frank,

I am glad you intend to go with the Genesis quote: I am sure it fits.

But I have been doing some more thinking about this, and would like to make these suggestions:

1. With six television transmissions, you are overexposed. There isn't that much to see, and with that much time you could be tempted to pad, ham it up, or try to entertain. Avoid all of these. While you can't alter the number of telecasts, the one thing you can do is to keep them short. In other words: keep your audience hungry. Keep your comments short and simple, and cut off when you have no more to say.

2. The two most important telecasts are the one after arrival at the moon, at 7:26 EST Dec. 24, when you describe man's first close-up of the moon, and how the Earth looks from the moon; and at 9:31 p.m. EST Christmas eve. I would devote the whole of the morning broadcast to a trained observer's ~~description~~ description of what you see, and what it feels like. No other comments - on the "one-world" thing, Christmas, or anything else; it doesn't belong on a morning broadcast, and would dilute the effect ~~of~~ that night. (But don't let this inhibit you from adding any color or subjective comment, such as: "One thing it ^(THE MOON) doesn't look like is a piece of cheese.") I would keep this telecast relatively short; it will add to the public's anticipation of your coming on that night.

3. The telecast on Christmas Eve should wind up with the Genesis quote, plus the closing ^{"Good-night"} line, which you already have. However, I would work into your descriptive comment early in the show this line: "As the first ambassadors of mankind to the environs of the moon, we just wish that the dream of peace and hope for mankind that was born tonight, could be made real." (Do not in any case try to sandwich it in after the Genesis quote; you can't top the Bible.) You may want to work in another comment to this effect: "Looking at

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the Earth, which is about the size of a basketball from here, it's hard to believe it has always been torn by dissension and conflicts."

I have thought better since of your using in full the comments I read to you on the phone Sunday, and ^{WHICH ARE} contained in my second letter. They could sound forced and artificial. Also, the astronauts are respected for being non-political and having no axe to grind, while your privileged position on Christmas eve, with the entire world your captive audience, almost forbids preaching a viewpoint. What you say that is in your heart, and comes out naturally, is something else again. So, whatever extracurricular comments you make: don't be preachy, say it in your own way, say what has universal appeal, and cut out when you are through saying it.

4. With regard to the Genesis quotation, and this is important, read it slowly. It has to be read slowly over the air to be properly understood. You might try reading it a couple of times aloud on the ground for proper cadence. Say it naturally, but slow~~ly~~.

5. If you ^{do} ~~say anything~~ talk about "one world" or "peace", limit yourself to saying each once. More than that, for an astronaut addressing the world from the moon, ~~say anything~~ adds up to soapboxing.

6. I still think it would be a mistake to do the Christmas tree thing, ~~for the camera inside the spacecraft~~. It would be the counterpart of the placards and gags on the last mission, and inevitably lead to unfunny or forced quips between ground control and spacecraft. It doesn't belong, and you will find that you and your colleagues will be esteemed for sticking strictly to the business of the mission. (The kids are going to be rooting for you anyway, and will have plenty to entertain them back at home.)

7. Never say: "Words fail me," or: "What we're looking at is beyond description." Just describe what you see, or how you feel.

8. You may want to comment, at the moon, on two aspects of an astronaut's work: the difference in speed between orbiting the Earth and the moon ("We're poking along on this slow bus"), if it's true that one travels much more swiftly

in Earth orbit; and whether while circling the moon you are personally disappointed that you aren't going to be the first man to land there (so near and yet so far).

9. Except for Christmas eve, don't be afraid to use a little humor (I know you won't). You might lead off with, "A funny thing happened to us on the way to the moon ---" , and then tell about something since the last telecast, like food floating out of reach, or one of you not quite getting dressed ~~far~~ by the next telecast. Don't be afraid to say, ~~that~~ "The moon looks exactly as it did in our simulators," or, if it is that way, ^{THAT} ~~the~~ the first look was disappointing.

10. Avoid "man on the moon" comments.

But listing all of these strictures is kind of silly: I'm sure your good sense and taste would take you through all of this entirely without outside advice.

Best,

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