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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13662  
**Folder ID Number:** 13662-010

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**Folder Title:**  
Discovery Astronauts 3/25/89 [OA 6347]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

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Mark Albrecht  
exec. sec of  
Natl. Spac Council

(Smith/Blessey)  
March 22, 1989  
Draft Two  
Space

Justin  
Diener  
2800

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISCOVERY ASTRONAUTS  
ROSE GARDEN  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989

Assoc. Admin  
Administrator

Admiral Truly, Dr. Fletcher, Commander Coats and Crew,  
friends and families of the Shuttle Discovery.

David  
Bridg

America is a nation, and a family. And there are moments  
when we celebrate, as a family would: moments of remembering,  
and of pride.

AP 3/19/89

Last Saturday, nearly half a million people welcomed your  
return to Edwards Air Force Base. They were there to pay  
America's respects to your courage and your enterprise.

Nexis

Today, we, too, salute the story you have written. And I  
want to add two personal notes. As Commander-In-Chief, I am  
especially proud of the way you represented your branches of the  
Armed Services. And with the Shuttle Discovery safely back on  
earth, I want to thank you for taking good care of government's  
assets . . . Come to think of it: I hope the Congress follows  
your lead.

Vera Hirschberg  
453-8369

Assoc. in  
of  
Armed Services

civilian there  
as well

made  
by Sheddert

In a sense, your triumph is personal. After all, it's you who braved the elements and performed the tasks which made your mission a success.

But in a larger sense, the story of Discovery is as American as Opening Day and as timeless as our history. It says that to Americans, nothing lies beyond our reach. It speaks to our capacity to dare, and to dream the impossible.

My friends, this quality has graced every great moment of the American Story. And by enriching our lives, and our children's lives, it can shape America's dreams of the twenty-first century.

On the flight of Discovery, you showed, anew, America's genius in science and technology. You showed exactly where we are going, and why. We are exploring the new horizons of this nation's technological future. For, as Americans, we are driven, always, by a restlessness to do better.

This desire links the generations, and has pushed back the frontiers of research and exploration. For evidence, I point to the two students ~~on my left and right.~~ They show how tomorrow's technological promise lies in the youth of today.

John Vellinger was in 9th grade when he started work on an experiment, using chickens, to study how fast tissues develop in

Joy Palmer  
RLV  
756

Brad

Distinct  
and  
Dress

zero gravity. Last week, his experiment flew on the Shuttle Discovery. And so did the work of Andrew Fras. His experiment studied microgravity's effect on the healing of bones.

Brod

Jeff Vincent NASA  
453-8400

John Vellinger and Andy Eras show how America's future will depend -- in space, on earth -- on our most precious resource, our youth.

Andrew [EROS]

Jeff Vincent  
Terry 453-8400

Sindika NASA  
8400

X

Bodlett's  
852

You know, Adlai Stevenson once spoke of "the awful majesty of outer space." And it was that other noted public speaker, Yogi Berra, who observed, "It's never over 'til it's over."

My friends, this voyage of the Shuttle Discovery is over. But its spirit lives, linking the majesty of outer space with the promise of man.

By investing in our children and, thus, America's technology, we can make that promise a reality. And as we do, we will honor the spirit of Discovery: The spirit which throws open the possibilities of tomorrow -- and which points us toward the stars.

Men, your mission is accomplished, and your nation says, "Well-done." Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

###

President's copy

(Smith/Blessey)  
March 23, 1989  
Draft Three, 2:30 p.m.  
Space

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISCOVERY ASTRONAUTS  
ROSE GARDEN  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989  
11:15 A.M.

Dr. Fletcher, Admiral Truly, Commander Coats and Crew,  
friends and families.

First, let me take a moment to salute James Fletcher, whose  
name has become almost synonymous with NASA's. As you know, Jim  
will be retiring April 8. And I want to thank him for his  
example and his leadership.

Jim has shown, as you have -- the commander and crew of  
Discovery -- that America is a nation, and a family. And there  
are moments when we celebrate, as a family would: moments of  
remembering, and of pride.

Last Saturday, nearly half a million people welcomed your  
return to Edwards Air Force Base. They were there to pay  
America's respects to your courage and your enterprise.

Today, we, too, salute the story you have written. And I  
want to add this personal note. As Commander-In-Chief, I am

copy Siodlor  
453-8400

NASA

AP

especially proud of the way you represented your branches of the Armed Services. You've shown that teamwork works.

In a sense, your triumph is personal. After all, it's you who braved the elements and performed the tasks which made your mission a success.

But in a larger sense, the story of Discovery is as American as Opening Day and as timeless as our history. It says that to Americans, nothing lies beyond our reach. It speaks to our capacity to dare, and to dream the impossible.

My friends, this quality has graced every great moment of the American Story. And by enriching our lives, and our children's lives, it can shape America's dreams of the twenty-first century.

On the flight of Discovery, you showed, anew, America's genius in science and technology.

By conducting Protein Crystal Growth experiments, you furthered advancements in medical research. You used an IMAX [I-max] camera to study and, perhaps, one day reduce this planet's environmental damage. And you launched a TDRS [TEE-dress] satellite which completes the satellite communications network that will allow us -- more effectively,

continuous ground-air communication

*453-8402*  
*3rd Mitchell*  
*5998*  
*3rd Mitchell*  
*453-8402*  
*ALSO*

efficiently -- to relay data from all of our scientific satellites to earth.

In short, you showed exactly where we are going, and why. We are exploring the new horizons of this nation's technological future. For, as Americans, we are driven, always, by a restlessness to do better.

This desire links the generations, and has pushed back the frontiers of research and exploration. For evidence, I point to the two students standing here <sup>today</sup> with me. They show how tomorrow's technological promise lies in the youth of today.

John Vellinger was in 9th grade when he started work on an experiment, using chickens, <sup>embryos</sup> to study how ~~fast~~ tissues develop in zero gravity. Last week, his experiment flew on the Shuttle Discovery. And so did the work of Andrew Fras [FRAHS]. His experiment studied microgravity's effect on the healing of bones.

John Vellinger and Andrew Fras show how America's future will depend -- in space and on earth -- on our most precious resource, our youth.

You know, Adlai Stevenson once spoke of "the awful majesty of outer space."

Terry Sindler  
453-8400  
Mission Summary

Family Quotations  
Bottle  
p. 852

Terry  
X

8400

My friends, this voyage of the Shuttle Discovery is over. But its spirit lives, linking the majesty of outer space with the greatness of America. And we will forge even stronger links as we reaffirm our commitment to the Shuttle program, as our science missions open new horizons of knowledge, and as Space Station Freedom symbolizes the promise of man.

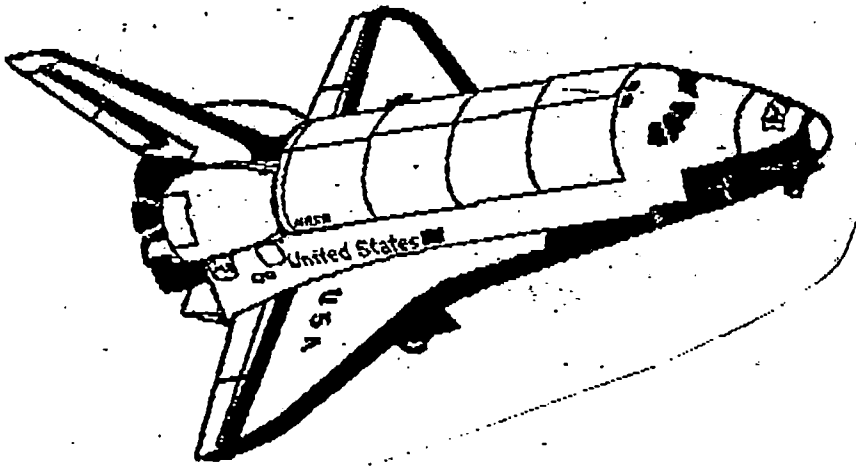
As we do, we will honor the spirit of Discovery: The spirit which throws open the possibilities of tomorrow -- and which points us toward the stars.

Men, your mission is accomplished, and your nation says, "Well done." Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

# # #

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453-8400*

458-6218



**NASA HEADQUARTERS NEWSROOM  
FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: 3-23-89  
TO: Stephanie Bozzy  
FROM: HQ Newsroom

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:**

4

**COMMENTS:**

**Photocopy-Preservation**

**IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS TRANSMISSION CALL  
202/453-8400.**

# NASA News

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Washington, D.C. 20546  
AC 202-453-8400

For Release:

David Garrett  
Headquarters, Washington, D.C.  
(Phone: 202/453-8400)

March 16, 1989

N89-24

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TRANSCRIPT OF CALL BY PRESIDENT BUSH TO SHUTTLE ASTRONAUTS

The following is a transcript of the conversation between President George Bush and the STS-29 Space Shuttle mission astronauts. The conversation began at approximately 8:20 a.m. EST today.

The astronauts are Navy Capt. Michael Coats, mission commander; Air Force Col. John Blaha, pilot; and mission specialists Marine Col. James Buchli, Marine Col. Robert Springer and James Bagian, M.D.

Photocopy-Preservation

The President (addressing Capt. Coats): How are you, sir? We just called up to congratulate you and your crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery. Sitting next to me is our Vice President, who is now head of the Space Council and who, incidentally, will be down in Houston in just about two weeks. But what I really wanted to do is congratulate you and then hear about how things are going. We're certainly proud of the mission.

Astronaut Coats: (Sound difficulties)...on the ground have worked very hard to get this flight off - the first one of your presidency and the first one of very many to come.

The President: Well, it's certainly wonderful. Looks to me like you made that crew clean up. I'm watching you. I can see you, sitting here in the Oval Office - amazing technology. And there are five of you sitting there and looking pretty clean and pretty fresh. How is everyone feeling on the flight?

Astronaut Blaha: Well, we're all feeling very well, Mr. President. It's been an exciting time. Of course, three of us on the flight are rookies in space and I think the cleanliness and the smiles that you see are just a reflection of the fun that goes along with the hard work. We're doing an awful lot of good things but we're really enjoying what we're doing.

The President: Well, we are following it carefully and I'm glad that the TDRSS satellite was a successful operation there. And how's the camera? How's that IMAX camera going to be?

Astronaut Springer: The IMAX camera has been working out really well, sir. In fact, we're getting a lot of great film that will help show a lot of people around the world how fragile the planet Earth is in this big vastness of space and maybe help everybody work to improve that.

The President: Well, it's a good focus, and there's just so much interest today on the global environment. And I think a lot of people will see just from your important mission the contribution space exploration can make to the world environment. So we're very grateful on that. A couple of more questions about -- I was interested because of the history of this -- about the student experiments and how that is going.

Astronaut Bagian: Well, Mr. President, the student experiments are going very well. Both of them were pretty well thought out....and they've been going just as we expected. Both John Blaha and myself have been looking in on those two experiments, and the data is looking very good. And I think the students will have a lot of good information to get out of it when we get back.

The President: Well, it's an inspiration to Americans -- I'll tell you to all of us -- that today's pioneers (and we're seeing you right now) pointing the way for the young Americans to build our nation's future. Listen, all of you down there at NASA, I heard what Mike said. And let me just -- while we're on the air to space -- let me simply say to everyone at NASA that you have our strong support. I know I speak for the Vice President. The space program, especially Space Station Freedom, is an investment in our future. We're living in tough budgetary times, but I am determined to go forward with a strong, active space program. And I want to congratulate you, Commander Coats, and all of them for this wonderful mission. We look forward to your safe return, and I think it's wonderful that two Marines can get along with a guy from the Navy and the Air Force and a civilian. That shows a broad-minded approach to life in space. Did you read that?

Astronaut Buchli: Yes sir, we did. Obviously, the Marines can get along with the services. But, just in case, we have them outnumbered. There's two of us on board.

Photocopy-Preservation

The President: I got the message. Sorry to start it going up there. But listen, congratulations -- congratulations to you and best wishes. And you've been an inspiration to all of us. So long and God bless.

Astronaut Coats: Thank you Mr. President, and give our regards to Mrs. Bush. Tell her we're flying something for the new first lady.

The President: OK. She'll be thrilled. Well, you'd better come up here and give it to her personally.

Astronaut Coats: That would be nice, sir.

The President: You're in -- you're invited right as of now. So when you get back, why, head this way. Over and out.

Astronaut Coats: Yes sir, have a good day.

The President: All at NASA, many, many thanks, keep up the great work.

- end Photocopy-Preservation

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 3/23

TO: *Stephonie Blessey*

FROM: JUSTINE D'ANDREA  
Associate Director  
Office of Cabinet Affairs

*Call me if you have  
any other questions.*

**STS-29 MISSION SUMMARY**

**Launched:** March 13, 1989, at 9:57 a.m. EST, KSC, Launch Complex 39-B

**Orbiter:** Discovery (OV-103)

**Mission Duration:** 4 days, 23 hours, 39 minutes

**Landed:** March 18, 1989, at 9:35 a.m. EST, Edwards AFB, Calif., Runway 22

**Crew:**

- Michael L. Coats, Commander
- John E. Blaha, Pilot
- James P. Baglan, Mission Specialist-1
- James F. Buchli, Mission Specialist-2
- Robert C. Springer, Mission Specialist-3

**Primary Payload:** Tracking & Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-D)

**Other Cargo Bay Payloads:**

- Space Station Heat Pipe Advanced Radiator Element (SHARE)
- Orbiter Experiments Autonomous Supporting Instrumentation System (OASIS)

**Middeck Payloads:**

- Chromosomes & Plant Cell Division (CHROMEX)
- Protein Crystal Growth (PCG)
- IMAX Camera
- Air Force Maui Optical Site Calibration Test (AMOS)

**Student Experiments:**

- Chicken Embryo Development in Space - John Vellinger
- Effects of Weightlessness in the Healing of Bone - Andrew Fras

**Mission Summary:**

This highly-successful mission was the eighth flight for the orbiter Discovery (OV-103) and the 28th in the Space Shuttle program.

The primary payload -- Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-D) -- was deployed on time; followed by a successful Inertial Upper Stage (IUS) burn to propel the spacecraft to geosynchronous orbit. After completion of its systems checkout, TDRS-D will replace the TDRS-A at 41 degrees west longitude above the equator and will become known as TDRS-East. TDRS-A will then be relocated to 79 degrees west longitude and will be maintained as an on-orbit spare.

After 4 days, 23 hours, 39 minutes mission elapsed time, the STS-29 mission culminated with an early-morning landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California on March 18 at 9:35 a.m. EST.

**Student Shuttle Involvement  
Program (SSIP)****oThe Effects of Weightlessness in Spaceflight on the Healing of Bone.**

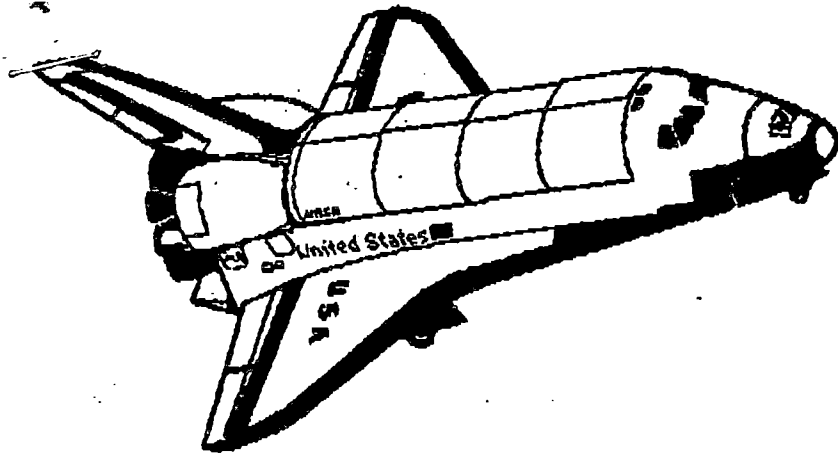
This student experiment will study the effects of weightlessness in space flight on the healing of bone fractures. Four rats with fractured legs will be observed on orbit to see how well the bones heal. The student experimenter is Andrew Fras of Binghamton, New York, a pre-med student at Brown University. The experiment is sponsored by the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

**oChicken Embryo Development in Space**

This student experiment studies the development of chicken embryo in space. The experiment will fly 32 one-day old chicken eggs which will be placed in an incubator box, while an identical control group will remain on Earth. The susceptibility of any cell is greatest during its developmental stages and the purpose of the experiment is to determine what happens to the eggs in the weightlessness of space compared to the progress of those in the control group on Earth. The experimenter is John C. Vellinger, a student at Purdue University. The experiment is sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Fras - DOB - 2/8/67

Vellinger - DOB - 7/2/65



**NASA HEADQUARTERS NEWSROOM  
FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: 3/15/89  
TO: BRAD MITCHELL  
FROM: TIM McCULLA, NASA

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:**

5

COMMENTS: **DELIVER TO  
BRAD MITCHELL  
2ND FLOOR  
WEST WING**

**IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS TRANSMISSION CALL  
202/453-8400.**

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO STS-29 CREW

COMMANDER COATS, I 'M CALLING TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR CREW ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY ON YOUR MISSION. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ON TV WHEN I CAN. IN FACT, I WAS LATE TO A MEETING BECAUSE I JUST WANTED TO SEE DISCOVERY'S LAUNCH. IT WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND TO ALL AMERICANS. WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MISSION SO FAR, IN YOUR VIEW?

\*\*\*

○ I WAS PLEASED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO LAUNCH THE TDRS~~8~~ SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY. I UNDERSTAND THIS COMPLETES THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THAT WILL ALLOW US TO RELAY DATA FROM ALL OF OUR SCIENTIFIC SATELLITES, INCLUDING THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE, AS WELL AS THE SHUTTLE, TO EARTH MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY. WHAT'S GOING TO BE THE IMPACT ON COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SHUTTLE FROM NOW ON?

\*\*\*

○ ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING THINGS ABOUT SEEING THE EARTH FROM SPACE IS BEING ABLE TO SEE WHAT WE'VE ONLY KNOWN ON MAPS SUDDENLY BECOME REAL BEFORE OUR EYES. WE ALSO CAN SEE WHAT WE HUMANS ARE DOING TO OUR OWN ENVIRONMENT. I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHING WITH THE IMAX CAMERA AREAS HARDEST HIT BY HUMAN ACTIONS. THOSE PHOTOS COULD GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO SLOW THE DAMAGE THAT PEOPLE ARE DOING TO EARTH. WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO COMMENT ON WHAT YOU'VE SEEN?

\*\*\*

I UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT THIS MISSION HAS SOME PROTEIN CRYSTAL GROWTH EXPERIMENTS ON BOARD THAT ARE EXPECTED TO HELP ADVANCE COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS OF CRYSTALS GROWN IN SPACE. WOULD ANYONE CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW THOSE EXPERIMENTS ARE GOING, AND WHAT YOU SEE AS THEIR POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE?

\*\*\*

U

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1989

get  
any other speeches  
by CARTER on  
Economic + Budget

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Discovery Astronauts

The draft remarks for the Rose Garden ceremony for the Discovery Astronauts appropriately focus on the future and the investments that we must make in the future.

I do have several suggestions that I hope will be helpful where I think the draft might be strengthened:

1. There is nothing to be gained by taking a shot at the Congress at the bottom of the first page by implying that the Congress does not take good care of government's assets. The sentence should simply be eliminated.

2. In the fourth full paragraph on page two the second sentence "You showed exactly where we are going, and why," might also usefully be dropped. The paragraph reads well without it. Including the sentence calls out for a good deal more explanation than is provided.

3. There is no mention of Dr. James Fletcher, other than in the salutation. Fletcher is probably more closely identified with NASA in the American mind than anyone else. He recently announced his retirement effective April 8. This would be a wonderful opportunity for the President to pay tribute to him. He did bring credibility and leadership to a demoralized agency when he was brought back out of retirement following the Challenger accident in January 1986.

4. There is also no mention of two significant missions performed by the Discovery Astronauts:

- o The launching of the *TDRS (TEAARAS)* satellite; and
- o The operation of the IMAX camera.

This camera is used to photograph the Earth from space is considered highly useful in dealing with global environmental problems.

5. You may wish to work in somewhere reference to the fact that the President was a pilot, indeed the youngest Navy pilot during World War II.

cc: James W. Cicconi

Research 11 1/2

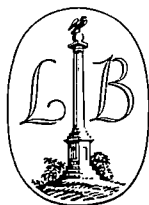
# Familiar Quotations

*A collection of passages, phrases and  
proverbs traced to their sources in  
ancient and modern literature*

FIFTEENTH AND 125TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
REVISED AND ENLARGED

## John Bartlett

*Edited by EMILY MORISON BECK  
and the editorial staff of Little, Brown and Company*



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY • BOSTON • TORONTO

<sup>1</sup> If total isolationism is no answer, total interventionism is no answer, either. In fact, the clear, quick, definable, measurable answers are ruled out. In this twilight of power, there is no quick path to a convenient light switch.<sup>1</sup>

*Speech at Harvard University*  
[June 17, 1965]

<sup>2</sup> The art of government has grown from its seeds in the tiny city-states of Greece to become the political mode of half the world. So let us dream of a world in which all states, great and small, work together for the peaceful flowering of the republic of man.

*Ib.*

<sup>3</sup> This must be the context of our thinking — the context of human interdependence in the face of the vast new dimensions of our science and our discovery . . . the awful majesty of outer space.

*Speech in Geneva [July 9, 1965]*

#### Spencer Tracy

1900–1967

<sup>4</sup> Just know your lines and don't bump into the furniture.

*Advice on acting*

#### William Lindsay White

1900–1973

<sup>5</sup> They Were Expendable.

*Title of book [1942]*

#### Thomas Wolfe

1900–1938

<sup>6</sup> A stone, a leaf, an unfound door.

*Look Homeward, Angel!*<sup>2</sup> [1929],  
foreword

<sup>7</sup> Which of us has known his brother? Which of us has looked into his father's heart? Which of us has not remained forever prisoner? Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone?

*Ib.*

<sup>8</sup> O lost, and by the wind grieved, ghost, come back again.

*Ib.*

<sup>9</sup> Most of the time we think we're sick, it's all in the mind.

*Ib. pt. I, ch. 1*

<sup>10</sup> Making the world safe for hypocrisy.

*Ib. III, 36*

<sup>11</sup> The young men of this land are not, as they are often called, a "lost" race—they are a

<sup>1</sup> See John F. Kennedy, 890:11.

<sup>2</sup> See Milton, 281:3.

#### Stevenson — Heis

race that never yet has been discovered the whole secret, power, and knowledge their own discovery is locked within them—they know it, feel it, have the words in them—and they cannot utter it.

*The Web and the Rock*

<sup>12</sup> If a man has a talent and cannot use it has failed. If he has a talent and uses half of it, he has partly failed. If he has a talent and learns somehow to use the whole of it, he has gloriously succeeded, and he knows satisfaction and a triumph few men know.

<sup>13</sup> You Can't Go Home Again.

*Title of novel*

#### Roy Campbell

1901–1957

<sup>14</sup> The sap is the music, the stem is the melody, and the leaves are the wings of the shape

Who dances, who springs in a golden eurythmy  
Out of the dust and the drought of the earth  
To sing with the silver hosannas of rain

*The Palm*

<sup>15</sup> Pass world! : I am the dreamer that remains  
The man clear cut against the last horizon

*Epigraph for LAURENS VAN DER POST, The Lost World of the Kalahari*<sup>3</sup>

#### Margaret Craven

1901–

<sup>16</sup> The Indian knows his village and feeds his village as no white man for his country his town, or even for his own bit of land his village is not the strip of land four miles long and three miles wide that is his as long as the sun rises and the moon sets. The myth is the village, and the winds and rains. The river is the village, and . . . the talking owl, who calls the name of the man who is going to die.

*I Heard the Owl Call My Name*  
[1973]

#### Werner Karl Heisenberg

1901–1976

<sup>17</sup> Every tool carries with it the spirit which it has been created.

*Physics and Philosophy* [1959]

<sup>3</sup> See Van der Post, 867:16.

Astronauts

There's competition in space  
future values

headland of America

R. called them.

~~The~~ TDRS [TeDRIS] satellite

communications system  
launched the shuttle in order  
to better communications  
between space craft of earth.

experiments by U.S. students  
- what would happen to chicken  
embryo

Kids are now in college  
1st time happened in Challenger  
- they watched it explode in Discovery  
tried it again in Discovery 2

Space Station Freedom - emphasized  
in call

distinguished guests  
Dr. James Administrator Fletcher  
Congressman  
Senators  
1st Rose Garden Ceremony

Dr. [unclear]

Assoc. pdm.  
of space flight

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

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March 19, 1989, Sunday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 509 words

HEADLINE: Discovery Astronauts Back From Orbit, Get Some Time Off

BYLINE: By LAURA TOLLEY, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: SPACE CENTER, Houston

KEYWORD: Shuttle-Astronauts

BODY:

The Discovery space shuttle astronauts, back from a five-day mission in which they deployed a vital communications satellite, spent Sunday with their families but were to return to work the next day to discuss their nearly flawless flight.

The crew's 1.9 million-mile journey ended Saturday morning with a picture perfect landing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., that was watched by a near-record 460,000 spectators.

Discovery's flight lasted 4 days, 23 hours and 39 minutes. It was the 28th shuttle mission overall and the third since Challenger exploded, claiming the lives of seven astronauts and halting manned spaceflights for nearly three years.

The next flight is the planned April 28 launch of Atlantis, which will deploy a planetary probe that will map the surface of Venus. NASA hopes to complete seven flights this year and 12 a year by 1992.

Space agency officials Saturday praised the five Discovery astronauts and the orbiter as well as the efforts of employees who have worked to get the shuttle program back on track.

"I think the country realizes we're back," Rear Adm. Richard H. Truly, NASA's associate administrator for space flight, said at a post-flight news conference Saturday at Edwards.

Truly also said the shuttle "is just as clean as it can be." Although NASA television close-ups showed numerous white marks on the black thermal tiles that protect the shuttle's underside during the fiery re-entry through the atmosphere, Truly described them as "a few minor chips."

A little more than seven hours after touchdown, the astronauts and their wives arrived home in Houston where they were greeted by their children and about 500 friends, fellow workers and space fans.

The Associated Press, March 19, 1989

Discovery commander Michael L. Coats, who guided the 97-ton spaceship to its centerline landing, said his crew worked hard both before and after blastoff Monday.

"I'd like to thank all of you and American people for the opportunity to fly in space," Coats added.

The other Discovery astronauts are pilot John E. Blaha and mission specialists Robert C. Springer, James F. Buchli and James P. Bagian. Blaha, Springer and Bagian were all space rookies.

"It was an awful lot of fun being out in space," Springer said, adding that it had been "a long wait" for all the crew members.

After having the day off Sunday, the astronauts are scheduled to return Monday to the Johnson Space Center to brief other NASA employees on details of the mission. Discovery remained at Edwards on Sunday for further scrutiny before being returned to Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Just six hours after liftoff from Cape Canaveral on Monday, the astronauts deployed a \$100 million Tracking and Data Relay Satellite. The deployment, the crew's primary mission, completes a constellation of three such spacecraft that will enable NASA to have nearly constant contact with space shuttles and other satellites.

The new satellite will be operational in a few weeks. At that point, the space agency will begin closing six ground stations at a savings of \$13 million a year.

Stuffed copy

(Smith/Blessey)  
March 22, 1989  
Draft Two  
Space

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISCOVERY ASTRONAUTS  
ROSE GARDEN  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989

Admiral Truly, Dr. Fletcher, Commander Coats and Crew,  
friends and families of the Shuttle Discovery.

America is a nation, and a family. And there are moments  
when we celebrate, as a family would: moments of remembering,  
and of pride.

Last Saturday, nearly half a million people welcomed your  
return to Edwards Air Force Base. They were there to pay  
America's respects to your courage and your enterprise.

Today, we, too, salute the story you have written. And I  
want to add two personal notes. As Commander-In-Chief, I am  
especially proud of the way you represented your branches of the  
Armed Services. And with the Shuttle Discovery safely back on  
earth, I want to thank you for taking good care of government's  
assets . . . Come to think of it: I hope the Congress follows  
your lead.

In a sense, your triumph is personal. After all, it's you who braved the elements and performed the tasks which made your mission a success.

But in a larger sense, the story of Discovery is as American as Opening Day and as timeless as our history. It says that to Americans, nothing lies beyond our reach. It speaks to our capacity to dare, and to dream the impossible.

My friends, this quality has graced every great moment of the American Story. And by enriching our lives, and our children's lives, it can shape America's dreams of the twenty-first century.

On the flight of Discovery, you showed, anew, America's genius in science and technology. You showed exactly where we are going, and why. We are exploring the new horizons of this nation's technological future. For, as Americans, we are driven, always, by a restlessness to do better.

This desire links the generations, and has pushed back the frontiers of research and exploration. For evidence, I point to the two students on my left and right. They show how tomorrow's technological promise lies in the youth of today.

John Vellinger was in 9th grade when he started work on an experiment, using chickens, to study how fast tissues develop in

zero gravity. Last week, his experiment flew on the Shuttle Discovery. And so did the work of Andrew Fras. His experiment studied microgravity's effect on the healing of bones.

John Vellinger and Andy Fras show how America's future will depend -- in space, on earth -- on our most precious resource, our youth.

You know, Adlai Stevenson once spoke of "the awful majesty of outer space." And it was that other noted public speaker, Yogi Berra, who observed, "It's never over 'til it's over."

My friends, this voyage of the Shuttle Discovery is over. But its spirit lives, linking the majesty of outer space with the promise of man.

By investing in our children and, thus, America's technology, we can make that promise a reality. And as we do, we will honor the spirit of Discovery: The spirit which throws open the possibilities of tomorrow -- and which points us toward the stars.

Men, your mission is accomplished, and your nation says, "Well-done." Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

# # #

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[NASA Museum 453-8400]

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 Bechli - col. in Marines  
 Springer  
 Bogina - M.D. civilian

NO SD Vera Hirschberg 453-8369  
 James W. McCulloch 453-8408

3/23/89

(Smith/Blessey)  
March 23, 1989  
Draft Three, 2 p.m.  
Space

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISCOVERY ASTRONAUTS  
ROSE GARDEN  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989  
11:15 A.M.

Dr. Fletcher, Admiral Truly, Commander Coats and Crew,  
friends and families.

First, let me take this opportunity to salute James  
Fletcher, whose name has become almost synonymous with NASA's.  
As you know, Jim will be retiring April 8. And I want to thank  
him for his example and his leadership.

Jim has shown, as you have -- the commander and crew of  
Discovery -- that America is a nation, and a family. And there  
are moments when we celebrate, as a family would: moments of  
remembering, and of pride.

Last Saturday, nearly half a million people welcomed your  
return to Edwards Air Force Base. They were there to pay  
America's respects to your courage and your enterprise.

Today, we, too, salute the story you have written. And I  
want to add this personal note. As Commander-In-Chief, I am

especially proud of the way you represented your branches of the Armed Services. You've shown that teamwork works.

In a sense, your triumph is personal. After all, it's you who braved the elements and performed the tasks which made your mission a success.

But in a larger sense, the story of Discovery is as American as Opening Day and as timeless as our history. It says that to Americans, nothing lies beyond our reach. It speaks to our capacity to dare, and to dream the impossible.

My friends, this quality has graced every great moment of the American Story. And by enriching our lives, and our children's lives, it can shape America's dreams of the twenty-first century.

On the flight of Discovery, you showed, anew, America's genius in science and technology.

By conducting Protein Crystal Growth experiments, you furthered advancements in medical research. You used an IMAX [I-max] camera to study and, perhaps, one day reduce this planet's environmental damage. And you launched a TDRS [TEE-dress] satellite which completes the satellite communications network that will allow us -- more effectively,

efficiently -- to relay data from all of our scientific satellites to earth.

In short, you showed exactly where we are going, and why. We are exploring the new horizons of this nation's technological future. For, as Americans, we are driven, always, by a restlessness to do better.

This desire links the generations, and has pushed back the frontiers of research and exploration. For evidence, I point to the two students standing here with me. They show how tomorrow's technological promise lies in the youth of today.

John Vellinger was in 9th grade when he started work on an experiment, using chickens, to study how fast tissues develop in zero gravity. Last week, his experiment flew on the Shuttle Discovery. And so did the work of Andrew Fras [FRAHS]. His experiment studied microgravity's effect on the healing of bones.

John Vellinger and Andrew Fras show how America's future will depend -- in space, on earth -- on our most precious resource, our youth.

You know, Adlai Stevenson once spoke of "the awful majesty of outer space."

My friends, this voyage of the Shuttle Discovery is over. But its spirit lives, linking the majesty of outer space with the greatness of America. And we will forge even stronger links as we reaffirm our commitment to the Shuttle program, as our science missions open new horizons of knowledge, and as Space Station Freedom symbolizes the promise of man.

By investing in our children and, thus, America's technology, we can make that promise a reality. And as we do, we will honor the spirit of Discovery: The spirit which throws open the possibilities of tomorrow -- and which points us toward the stars.

Men, your mission is accomplished, and your nation says, "Well-done." Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

# # #

**REMARKS: DISCOVERY ASTRONAUTS  
ROOM 450  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989  
11:20 A.M.**

**DR. FLETCHER, ADMIRAL TRULY, COMMANDER COATS AND  
CREW, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.**

**FIRST, LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO SALUTE JAMES FLETCHER,  
WHOSE NAME HAS BECOME ALMOST SYNONYMOUS WITH NASA'S. AS  
YOU KNOW, JIM WILL BE RETIRING APRIL 8. AND I WANT TO  
THANK HIM FOR HIS EXAMPLE AND HIS LEADERSHIP.**

**2**

**JIM HAS SHOWN, AS YOU HAVE -- THE COMMANDER AND CREW  
OF DISCOVERY -- THAT AMERICA IS A NATION, AND A FAMILY.  
AND THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN WE CELEBRATE, AS A FAMILY  
WOULD: MOMENTS OF REMEMBERING, AND OF PRIDE.**

**LAST SATURDAY, NEARLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WELCOMED  
YOUR RETURN TO EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE. THEY WERE THERE TO  
PAY AMERICA'S RESPECTS TO YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR  
ENTERPRISE.**

**TODAY, WE, TOO, SALUTE THE STORY YOU HAVE WRITTEN.  
YOU'VE SHOWN ONCE AGAIN THAT TEAMWORK WORKS.**

**IN A SENSE, YOUR TRIUMPH IS PERSONAL. AFTER ALL,  
IT'S YOU WHO BRAVED THE ELEMENTS AND PERFORMED THE TASKS  
WHICH MADE YOUR MISSION A SUCCESS.**

**BUT IN A LARGER SENSE, THE STORY OF DISCOVERY IS AS  
AMERICAN AS OPENING DAY AND AS TIMELESS AS OUR HISTORY.**

**IT SAYS THAT, TO AMERICANS, NOTHING LIES BEYOND OUR REACH.  
IT SPEAKS TO OUR CAPACITY TO DARE, AND TO DREAM THE  
IMPOSSIBLE.**

**MY FRIENDS, THIS QUALITY HAS GRACED EVERY GREAT  
MOMENT OF THE AMERICAN STORY. AND BY ENRICHING OUR LIVES,  
AND OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES, IT CAN SHAPE AMERICA'S DREAMS OF  
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.**

**ON THE FLIGHT OF DISCOVERY, YOU SHOWED, ANEW,  
AMERICA'S GENIUS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.**

**BY CONDUCTING PROTEIN CRYSTAL GROWTH EXPERIMENTS, YOU  
FURTHERED ADVANCEMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH. YOU USED AN  
IMAX [I-MAX] CAMERA TO STUDY THIS PLANET'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
DAMAGE. I HOPE THIS WILL LEAD TO REDUCING THE THREATS TO  
OUR EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT.**


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**AND YOU LAUNCHED A TDRS [TEE-DRESS] SATELLITE WHICH  
COMPLETES THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THAT WILL  
ALLOW US -- MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY -- TO RELAY  
DATA FROM ALL OF OUR SCIENTIFIC SATELLITES TO EARTH.**

**IN SHORT, YOU SHOWED EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE GOING, AND  
WHY. WE ARE EXPLORING THE NEW HORIZONS OF THIS NATION'S  
TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURE. FOR, AS AMERICANS, WE ARE DRIVEN,  
ALWAYS, BY A RESTLESSNESS TO DO BETTER.**

THIS DESIRE LINKS THE GENERATIONS, AND HAS PUSHED BACK THE FRONTIERS OF RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION. FOR EVIDENCE, I POINT TO TWO STUDENTS HERE TODAY. THEY SHOW HOW TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGICAL PROMISE LIES IN THE YOUTH OF TODAY.

JOHN VELLINGER WAS IN 9TH GRADE WHEN HE STARTED WORK ON AN EXPERIMENT, USING CHICKEN EMBRYOS, TO STUDY HOW TISSUES DEVELOP IN WEIGHTLESSNESS. LAST WEEK, HIS EXPERIMENT FLEW ON THE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY.



AND SO DID THE WORK OF ANDREW FRAS [FRAHS]. HIS EXPERIMENT STUDIED MICROGRAVITY'S EFFECT ON THE HEALING OF BONES.

JOHN VELLINGER AND ANDREW FRAS SHOW HOW AMERICA'S FUTURE WILL DEPEND -- IN SPACE AND ON EARTH -- ON OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE, OUR YOUTH.

YOU KNOW, ADLAI STEVENSON ONCE SPOKE OF "THE AWFUL MAJESTY OF OUTER SPACE."

**MY FRIENDS, THIS VOYAGE OF THE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY IS OVER. BUT ITS SPIRIT LIVES, LINKING THE MAJESTY OF OUTER SPACE WITH THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA. AND WE WILL FORGE EVEN STRONGER LINKS AS WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SHUTTLE PROGRAM, AS OUR SCIENCE MISSIONS OPEN NEW HORIZONS OF KNOWLEDGE, AND AS SPACE STATION FREEDOM SYMBOLIZES THE PROMISE OF MAN.**

**AS WE DO, WE WILL HONOR THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY: THE SPIRIT WHICH THROWS OPEN THE POSSIBILITIES OF TOMORROW -- AND WHICH POINTS US TOWARD THE STARS.**

**MEN, YOUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED, AND YOUR NATION SAYS, "WELL DONE." THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.**

**# # #**