September 22, 1971

Notes from telephone from Neil Armstrong to Frank Heck

In response to Heck's observance he might not favor a press conference:

"I will be glad to talk about it from your point of view. Having had a sizable Cincinnati contingency at the press conference here -- just needed to know what the requests have been. And what your ideas are."

In response to Heck's comment that "our feeling is that it would help to get the press off your back - give them a chance early, although it probably won't free you entirely. If you're willing just to take your chances on their discovering you..."

"I will have to find out what your policies have been in the past. In the past couple of years here -- well for three or four years -- my policy has been to give no individual interviews. Press conferences entirely. Just in fairness. Partly due to the fact that you tend to have a lot of other observers who hear you answer and it doesn't allow the guy to interpret in his own way. I prefer the press conference and only when warranted. Limit it - must have something to say.

"I'm going to be in next week. Maybe we can just get together and see what the lay of the land is - see what your recommendations are at that time.

"Meantime, just say I'm all tied up with the transition at the present and we'll see how it all checks out when I'm established. We won't tell them I don't give any interviews at this point. We have to live with the community and we don't want to antagonize. We will establish a policy we can live with. We want to get off on the right foot.

"I'll see you next week and will enjoy talking with you about it."