

Space Program May
Swamp Planes of Future

➤ THE U.S. SPACE program, constantly in the headlines with such feats as landing the Surveyor on the moon and the rendezvous of Gemini 9 with a target vehicle in space, is threatening to swamp the progress of future air transportation.

This warning was sounded by the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences in a report urging greatly increased attention to aeronautical research and development. Only two percent of the five billion being spent by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the current fiscal year is earmarked for air transport needs.

Despite the small amount being spent, the committee stressed, the main question is whether the public is satisfied with today's civil aeronautic system, and whether or not the rate of progress now is sufficient to meet future needs.

The committee noted the "tremendous growth in commercial aviation in recent years," the continuation of which is "dependent upon a sizable and sustained effort in research and development."

Among the urgent areas for study, the report included an all-weather landing system, decreased capital and direct operating costs through improvements in aerodynamic and propulsion efficiency, speedup of boarding and deplaning procedures, great improvement in safety factors and better air traffic control procedures.

• Science News, 89:501 June 18, 1966

SOCIOLOGY

Group Nagging Seen
In Polygamy of Aging

➤ THE RECENT suggestion that men and women over 60 years of age take up plural marriage was ridiculed by Dr. Jack Weinberg, clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago.

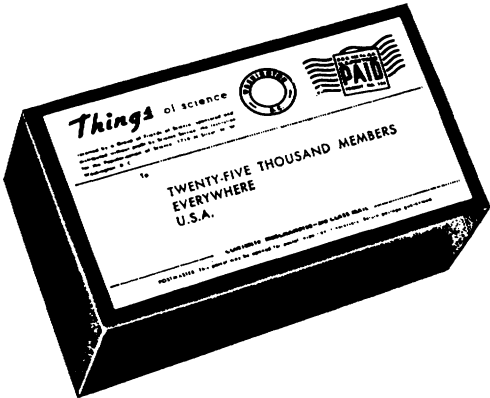
"While it may 'double the pleasure' without fear of begetting for some, the problems that it may evoke are too fearsome to contemplate," Dr. Weinberg told the National Conference of State Executives on Aging in Washington, D.C. "It may even lead to group nagging!"

Neither will Medicare, the War on Poverty, adequate housing and similar socioeconomic provisions by the Government be the answer in themselves to all the needs of the aged human being, the psychiatrist emphasized. The satisfaction of man's instinctual, biological animal needs is not sufficient to make him happy; they are not even sufficient to make him sane.

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