



EDITORS' NOTE

OPINION AND COMMENT

Editorials	4
A budget for a tough year	
Slumming at the Smithsonian	
Reviews	8-15
Book: Vance Bourjaily's <i>The Man Who Knew Kenned</i> reviewed by John W. Aldridge	ly,
Movie: Roger Vadim's <i>The Game Is Over</i> , reviewed by Richard Schickel	
The Feminine Eye	16 _A
Welcome aboard—Austerity Class.	IOA,
By Shana Alexander	
Letters to the Editors	17

THE WEEK'S NEWS AND FEATURES

of the Men Who Count	18
The three astronauts—Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee—died in their burning Apollo capsule before they could ever take the first great step toward the moon	
On the Newsfronts of the World	28
Colobrating Swice jets fly straight up over the Alne	

People and events around the globe

The Presidency 30B

A blueprint based on deep feeling. By Hugh Sidey

The arrival of Twiggy, a shy, skinny Cockney teen-ager who is fashion's "Face of 1967"

45

58

Art's Master of the Minimal Honor comes late to Ad Reinhardt, solitary moralist noted for mute paintings, scathing diatribes and unyielding dogma seasoned with a dash of humor. By David Roundan

By David Bourdon

The Scandal in the Bahamas

An exposé of an island paradise corrupted by graft,

Oulahan and William Lambert

Modern Living 76

Wild and woolly French furniture fashioned after

greed and an influx of U.S. gangsters. By Richard

various forms of animal life. By Bill Wise

Military 80

Galax, Va. turns out to salute a heroic sergeant

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Miscellany

COVER-RALPH MORSE 3-WALTER DARAN 18, 19-BOB SPECIAL, RALPH MORSE 22-t. It. MAJOR JAMES A. McDIVITT; cen. BILL TAUB from NASA; rt. RALPH MORSE—FRANCIS MILLER. 28, 29-ERNST SAXER 30-FRANCIS MILLER. WERNER STOY from CAMERA HAWAII-PARIS—MATCH 30A-SIMONPIETRI from HOLMES-LEBEL 30B-U.P.I. 33 through 40-JEAN-CLAUDE SAUER 45, 46-JOHN LOENGARD 47, 48-HERBERT ORTH 49-HERBERT ORTH-JOHN LOENGARD 51-JOHN LOENGARD 58 through 62-FLIP SCHULKE from BLACK STAR 63-ROWLAND SCHERMAN exc. t. rt. FLIP SCHULKE from BLACK STAR 64, 65-FLIP SCHULKE from BLACK STAR 66, 67-Dot. II. PHIL GREITZER for The N.Y. DAILY NEWS; rt. KEN HEYMAN from RAPHO-GUILLUMETTE 68-map by ROBERT ESSMAN 70-THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL 76, 77, 78, 79-CARLO BAVAGNOLI 80, 81-STAN WAYMAN exc. bot. It. 82-KEYSTONE

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No Time To Lie on the Bahama Beaches



SILVA, OULAHAN AND LAMBERT

One part of our journalistic franchise is investigative reporting. We have explored, among other subjects, the abuses of prescription writing by doctors who have a financial interest in drug companies, the machinations of Jimmy Hoffa and Bobby Baker, the tricks of income tax swindlers, graft in the State Liquor Authority of New York, the excesses of the congressional pork barrel. In the pursuit of exposing crime, we turn our attention in this issue to the Bahamas.

The story began here at home, five months ago. Associate Editor William Lambert, who won a Pulitzer prize for investigative reporting before he joined our staff (in 1957, with his colleague Wallace Turner, for an exposé of the Teamsters' union), had been hearing many snatches of information about financial hanky-panky in the islands. He went to Washington to talk about it with people he knew in the Justice Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Post Office Department. In every office he visited, someone knew something about the bubbling scandal of the Bahamas. The problem was to put it all together. Staff Writer Richard Oulahan, Washington Correspondent Mike Silva and Photographers Flip Schulke and Rowland Scherman were assigned to work with Lambert. From last September until last week, they sifted facts from files and archives, cross-checked their information, interviewed people in Washington, New York, Freeport and Nassau.

Each one of them went to the Bahamas but came back covered with dust instead of sunburn. They didn't have time to lie on the beaches. They did go to the gambling casinos—in the line of duty. Oulahan lost \$23 in the slot machines and Silva says "I discovered, to my dismay, how not to play blackjack and craps." Lambert won't gamble—even on the archaic and operator-eavesdropped Bahamian telephone system. Two British newspapermen whom he hired to help on the story were instructed to courier their reports to Miami by hand instead of telephoning them. One was later handed a ticket home to England by his boss, and the other, tipped off that the Bahamian police were waiting for him at his apartment, smuggled himself aboard a cruise ship and slipped away. Our three-man team and two photographers suffered little more than stony silence, evasive action and, most of all, forced feeding of Bahamian scenery by the over-diligent employes of the Ministry of Tourism.

George P. Hunt Managing Editor

THREE ASTRONAUTS

ROGER CHAFFEE .

ED WHITE .

• GUS GRISSOM

