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APOLLO 13

MISSION DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

PARTICIPANTS:

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NOTE:

"Aquarius" and "Auriga" mentioned as spacecraft call signs
are among a number of names being considered. The Apollo 13
crew, however, has not yet announced its choice.

Also, attached to this transcript is a copy of the preliminary
timeline for Apollo 13.

Astrology Tapped for Apollo 13

Aquarius will land on the Moon while Auriga orbits overhead. At least, those are the unofficial names for the Apollo 13 lunar lander and command module respectively, chosen by astronauts James Lovell, Tom Mattingly and Fred Haise. They're being used to designate the simulators in which the crew is training at Cape Kennedy prior to launch April 11.

Both are Latin names for star constellations. Aquarius means water carrier and Auriga means charioteer. Neither name has won official sanction for use on the mission, but in the past names chosen by the astronaut crew later were approved by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The name Aquarius is currently

enjoying a wave of popularity, thanks in part at least to the Broadway Musical "Hair," in which the cast sings, "This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius." according to the play, it is supposed to be an age of understanding and brotherhood.

But disagreement concerning the origin of Aquarius and its meaning is reported among astrologers, who claim to foretell the future by studying the position of the Moon and the planets. Scientists remain aloof from the controversy, although astrology has been experiencing a rise in public popularity.

Some astrologers say the age of Aquarius is just now beginning, others say it began 300 years ago, and still others say it will not begin for another 800 years. Some see it

as an age of brotherhood, others as an age of chaos.

According to astrology, a new age, named for each of the 12 signs of the zodiac, begins every 2,170 years as the sun backs into a new constellation. The zodiac is the imaginary belt around the Earth in which the Moon and planets travel. Aquarius is the 11th constellation in the zodiac.

In ancient astrology, aquarius stood for discretion, fidelity, benevolence and mysticism. Many ancient people, including Hebrews, Syrians, Persians, Turks, Hindus and Greeks, regarded it as a water bucket.

The water bucket symbol is appropriate for Lovell and Haise, since they will be the first astronauts to have a drink of water while

they explore the lunar surface. They will drink through tubes attached to eight-ounce water bags inside their helmets. This provision for drinking water was made after Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean reported they became thirsty during their lunar exploration.

The spacecraft name—Auriga, or charioteer—is in keeping with the emblem chosen by the Apollo 13 crew, which shows three horses pulling the Sun chariot from the Earth to the Moon. In Greek lore, Auriga represented a serpent-footed mythical king who invented the chariot to serve in lieu of feet. At death, as a tribute to his ingenuity, he was put in the sky as a constellation by the Greek god Zeus.