Coming home to affluence

by Hugh Sidey

[Column deals with contrast between experiences in China and scene at Andrews Air Force Base on Nikon's return.]

.... The Spirit of '76 roared up to its assigned place, the door was pushed back, and there were ruffles and flourishes from the army's special heraldic trumpets, followed by Hail to the Chief. A journalist next to me turned away. "My God," he muttered, "it's like the arrival of the king."

.... How, I asked myself, ... with our own heritage of simple eloquence, from Jefferson through Lincoln to Truman, can we end up with silver trumpets?