

Irv Kupcinet

New Space Race -- Carson, Bishop and Sullivan

CHICAGO — Some newsmen covering Apollo 11 are miffed. They feel NASA is holding back vital information because of the astronauts' exclusive contract with Life Magazine.

"To make the Life contract pay off," one space reporter told us, "they've been withholding some juicy news that won't appear until the astronauts' story is published in the magazine."

The space race now turns to another red-hot competition — whether Johnny Carson, Joey Bishop or Ed Sullivan will be first to get astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins.

Astronaut Frank Borman, who served as NASA's liaison man with President Nixon, watched the launching in the White House and left to get into a car to drive off. Getting into the car, he severely jammed a finger in the headrest. "How about that," exclaimed Herb Klein, Mr. Nixon's director of communications. "You went to the moon and back without injury. But back here, you hurt yourself on one of Ralph Nader's safety devices."

★ ★ ★

ELVIS PRESLEY, who set the pattern for all hip-swinging singers more than a decade ago, made his first live appearance in eight years when he opened at the International Hotel in Las Vegas. Elvis hadn't appeared before a live audience since March, 1961. He has been making movies and TV specials ever since.

The personal pique of baseball's Horace Stoneham and Frank Lane was showing in their haste to blast Leo Durocher, the nation's oldest camper, for his weekend contretemps.

Eartha Kitt has her heart set on bringing Ethel Waters' "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" to the screen.

Moviemaker Stan Kramer, ever in the forefront in tackling social issues, is readying a film on campus turmoil. It's "R.P.M.," starring Tony Quinn.

★ ★ ★

THE PRESS BOX: Newsmen still pressing for more details on the Ted Kennedy case report the one last hope for a thorough investigation may come if and when the senator puts in a claim for the insurance on his car, which was damaged in the accident that cost the life of Mary Jo Kopechne. Insurance firms are noted for their extensive investigations before paying claims. The reporters are keeping an eye out to see whether Sen. Kennedy will file such a claim.

Shame on Yale U. for barring a gal sportswriter, Elinor Kaine, from the press box when the N.Y. Jets play the N.Y. Giants on Aug. 17. How can Yale justify barring Elinor when it now admits women to its college?

The kibitzers are saying Joe Namath's next movie will be titled, "Can Namath Ever Forget Bachelors III and Find True Happiness With the Jets?" . . . Namath proved his acting ability in "Norwood." He is not just another pretty face.

Richard Brooks, who produced-directed "In Cold Blood," is weighing an estimated \$1 million offer from CBS-TV for the film. But Brooks has stipulated that the last scene, a gruesome one which shows the hanging of the two men responsible for the slaying of the Clutter family, must not be cut. CBS execs are hedging.