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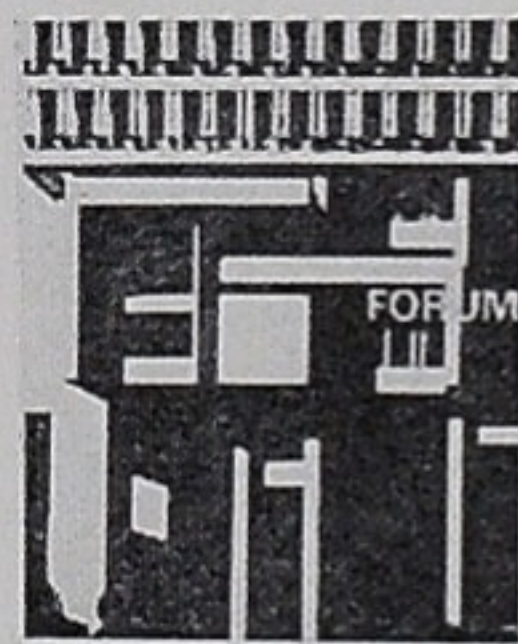
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

When, as the year just past was about to finish its course, astronauts Anders, Borman, and Lovell settled down inside Apollo 8 and left the environment of Earth behind them, they put too big an exclamation point to the 1968 sentence for us to ignore the event—or avoid conjecture about what it meant for our future.

The moon is ugly beyond earth's experience; bone-dry, pock-marked with craters, and smothered in dust. It has no water, no forests, no wind, no sound, no movement and no life. Yet this bleak globe is inspiring man to create a highly efficient environment.

The space program is a technical triumph. 300,000 engineers, technicians and workers, 20,000 contractors and 33 billion U.S. dollars went into Apollo 8, and much more effort and money will go into building lunar space stations.

This means that 250,000 miles from home the astronauts can drink unpolluted water and breathe an atmosphere free of ash, soot, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide or any of the other eye-watering pollutants that threaten us here. NASA has even solved the sewage problem. On manned lunar stations, all organic matter will be re-cycled and put to new uses.

It seems as though in creating a new environment where none exists, we will care for it better than the one Created for us here. Maybe Apollo 8 is really man's first practical probe for an escape from the desolation he is creating on earth through his own folly.—

L.W.M.