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The drought that has plagued North Carolina in recent months brings to mind a similar dry spell that gripped Tar Heels a third of a century ago. As the story goes, it got so bad in Johnston County that the Baptists were sprinkling and the Methodists used a damp cloth.

Unusual weather conditions do cause strange happenings. Nobody believes us when we tell of a hurricane we covered for United Press and State papers back in 1933. The wind was blowing so hard at the height of the storm that a hen at Smyrna in Carteret County laid the same egg three times.

During the same hurricane, a little old lady at Harkers Island reported to the Sheriff that she was having her troubles. The tide, she said, had come up in her garden, and the hog fish were eating up her collards. If you had been with us in the big blow that year, you wouldn't have doubted anything.

Before you write off America and the world at large as a hopeless case, reassure yourself that kooks and punks notwithstanding there are still some decent people around. They don't make headlines, but some of them ought to.

For example, there's an unidentified man in Boston who has his telephone listed in the directory as "Lollipop Foundation." He won't reveal his name, but for years he has been passing out all-day suckers to kids who need to be remembered when they are ill or injured.

It all started when this Good Samaritan discovered a little girl in a hospital who was getting no attention from her relatives. He brought her lollipops while she remained there, and extended his crusade to other youngsters who needed love as much as they needed medication.

This kind gentleman, and may his tribe increase, now gives 200,000 lollipops a year to children. A wholesale candy company delivers them to the institutions. Remember him the next time you get the feeling there's nothing left in the world but violence, hatred and greed.

Speaking of kids who are neglected, Milwaukee's Family Court has drawn up a "Bill of Rights of Children." Those rights include the following:

1. The right to be treated as an interested and affected person and not as a pawn, possession or chattel of either or both parents.

2. The right to grow to maturity in the home environment which will best guarantee an opportunity for the child to grow to mature and responsible citizenship.

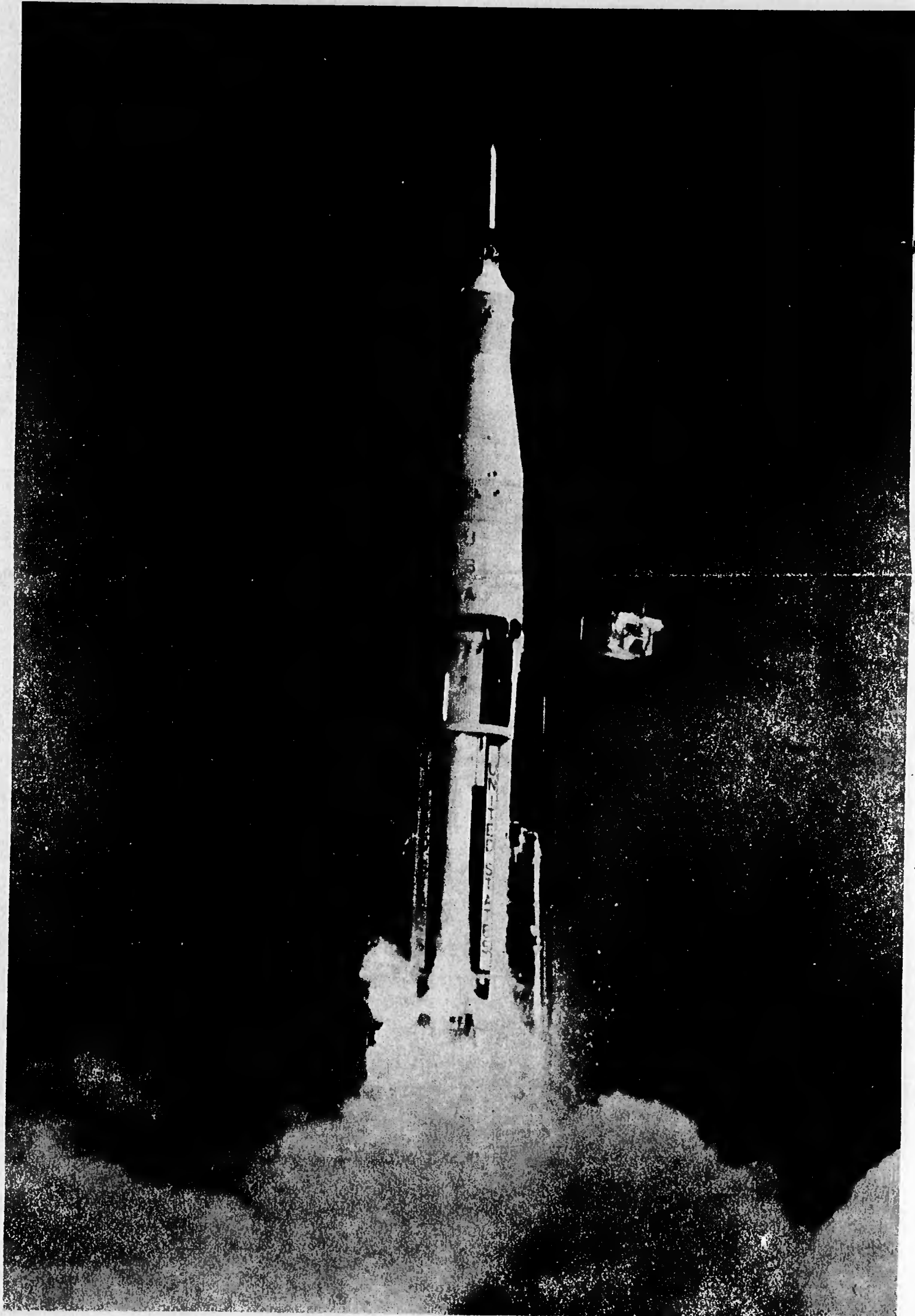
3. The right to the day-by-day love, care, discipline, and protection of the parent having custody of the children.

4. The right to know the non-custodian parent and to have the benefit of such parent's love and guidance through adequate visitations.

5. The right to a positive and constructive relationship with both parents, with neither parent permitted to degrade or downgrade the other in the mind of the child.

6. The right to have moral

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UP AND AWAY—Hopefully, at 11 a.m. today the Apollo 7 will shoot into orbit from Cape Kennedy, Fla., in the next step in our mammoth effort to put a man on the moon. It will be the first manned flight in the Apollo series, and the 10-day, 19-hour mission represents a number of firsts for the U. S. team. Following the mission that was aborted by the death of three astronauts on January 27, 1967, it is the first manned space flight in the U. S. involving three

astronauts. For the first time since Mercury 9, on-board television will be used in the new spacecraft. Throughout the mission, live television pictures will be sent back from the orbiting spacecraft. The pictures will show the activities of the three-man crew and the interior of the Apollo spacecraft command capsule. New Bern's television station, WNBE (Channel 12) will give the flight full coverage via ABC.