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A Manned Space Program Is Our Future

Unleashing the power of the atom, and lifting man into space are the keys to a science-driver economic recovery for the United States and the world. The alternative is a Dark Age collapse of globally extended civilization, and decline of the human population from the present 6.7 billion to the 1 to 2 billion as prescribed by Britain's Prince Philp and other leaders of the Nazi reincarnation known as the environmental movement.

On July 20, mankind will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the greatest technical achievement of the 20th Century—the first landing of men on the Moon. For the first time, man expanded his sphere of activity beyond the Earth, demonstrating dramatically that, as there are no limits to man's creative capabilities, there are no limits. Period.

But before the first American astronauts had even left Earth orbit, the manned space exploration program was facing a crisis. Consumed by the cost of the failing war in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson would make no commitment for a post-Apollo space exploration program. When the development of the Saturn V Moon rocket was essentially completed, in 1965, layoffs began at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in "Rocket City," Huntsville, Alabama.

President Nixon threw away the heritage of Apollo, just as he threw away President Franklin Roosevelt's Bretton Woods system. The United States was put on the road to economic catastrophe.

After the last Saturn rocket flew, in 1975, and the launch pads at Cape Canaveral fell silent, thousands lost their jobs. The cost, in human terms, was one of the highest rates in the country of divorce, alcoholism, and suicide, the waste of a generation of the country's most precious scientists and engineers.

For six years, until the maiden flight of

the Space Shuttle in April of 1981, the country that had landed men on the Moon could not launch astronauts into space.

Continuing Bush's Flawed Space Program

Today, the space program again faces an existential crisis. As things now stand, there will be a continuation of the flawed Moon/Mars program of President George W. Bush. The Space Shuttle will be retired in 2010, and in order to "save money," the next-generation manned space vehicle, Orion, will not be ready until 2015. And while many pledged that there would not be a repeat of the post-Apollo destruction of the space program, that is exactly what is unfolding. Over the next few years, the workforce that has made it possible to launch human beings into space over the past quarter century will, in large part, disappear.

So far, the Obama Administration has taken no steps to either preserve the infrastructure that exists, by extending Shuttle flights past 2010, or to ensure that there will be a continuity of exploration missions, by increasing funds to accelerate the Orion program.

Rather, the fiscal year 2010 budget submitted to Congress in early May, calls for yet another in a long line of "space policy reviews," which will further delay a reversal of a long line of failed policies.

Why does this matter?

Every civilization has progressed by undertaking great projects. These challenge a society to mobilize its scientific, technological, and material resources for new breakthroughs, creating economic and cultural quantum leaps into the future.

Such were the great astronomical observatories of the ancient world, the Renaissance cathedrals, and the exploration of space, all of which lifted man's



eyes toward the unknown, and beckoned him to discover the fundamental principles of the universe.

There are many reasons to explore space. One, often cited, is the array of new technologies that then are deployed in to the economy. More than half of the real growth in the physical economy over the period of Apollo development, and through the 1970s, is attributable to advances in science and technology, for the most part, through the space program.

The Surest Path to Growth

How foolish, therefore, to argue that there is “not enough money” in the deficit-ridden Federal budget for space exploration,” when it is our nation’s surest pathway to economic growth. Even leaving aside the trillions of dollars of bank bailouts, which will lead to a hyperinflation not seen since Germany in the 1920s, there is *nothing* that Federal tax dollars can be spent on that will have a more dramatic, and long-lasting positive impact on the economy today, than space exploration.

But even more crucial than the economic benefits of such a national great project, is the philosophical and cultural paradigm shift that it creates.

Former NASA Administrator Mike Griffin has pointed out that exploring space requires the same “constancy of purpose across years and decades” as that of the cathedral builders, 600 years ago. Work on space exploration missions require

that “you have to be willing to defer gratification, and to spend years doing what we do, and then stand back and see if it works. We learn how to leave a legacy,” he continued, “because we work on things that all of us will not live to see—and we know it.”

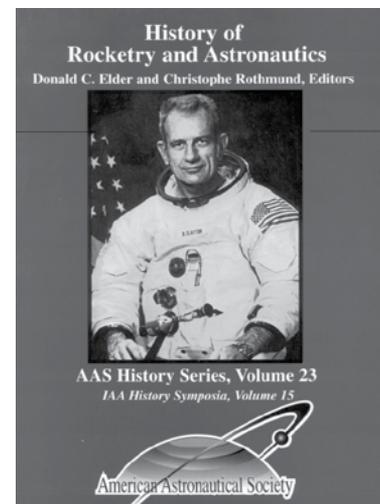
As economist Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly stressed, unlike any other species of life on the Earth, man is immortal. This is so, because, in a life well lived, man leaves behind the creative contributions he has made, to be built upon by his posterity.

The present policies of the Obama Administration not only will rob the majority of Americans of their present livelihood (through cuts in health-care services, Social Security, and other benefits, and energy shortages that are promoted under the guise of “saving the planet” with 17th Century technologies, and overall hyperinflation), but also they will rob us of our future.

No nation has achieved greatness by conserving, tightening its belt, or turning back the hands of time. These are prescriptions for disaster.

There is precious little time to stop in midfield, make a 180-degree turn-around, and return the United States to a commitment toward great projects. And the greatest great project for humanity in the 21st century, is the exploration of space.

—Marsha Freeman



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