

Editorial

NASA and national security

As the Voyager 1 spacecraft sped past Saturn Nov. 12 and headed out on its infinite journey beyond the solar system, it left behind a wealth of scientific data which has already begun to overthrow accepted theories of physics and celestial mechanics.

Meanwhile, among Americans gathered before their television sets to watch the results from 1 billion miles away, an excitement and joy over man's infinite potential, not seen since the Apollo moon shots of a decade ago, was rekindled.

The flawlessly executed Voyager flyby was a technological achievement for America which ranks with NASA's finest hours.

The Voyager 1 space probe has opened new vistas for science, providing more direct observational data about the nature of the universe than all of man's previous researches taken together. The evidence recorded by Voyager shows that the movement of celestial bodies cannot be explained by scientists working within the framework of the reductionist Newtonian system.

Voyager has also uncovered information about hydrocarbons that is extremely important for identifying the origins of life on Earth. The discoveries regarding hydrocarbons, complex molecules of hydrogen and carbon, will also provide a major boost to organic chemistry.

Following the results of the NASA probe, Democratic political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued a proposal for the "Earth-forming" of Titan, Saturn's largest moon, now known to possess an atmosphere comparable to that of the Earth in its earliest stages of evolution.

"With aid of the new plasma physics technologies now emerging on the horizon, by early during the next century, we should have developed breakthroughs in applied relativistic physics needed for rapid intrasolar transport of vehicles carrying pioneering human populations, and for transforming a cold body such as Titan into a habitable environment," LaRouche said.

"However, the proper development of a new

technology requires the kind of leading political support which President John F. Kennedy gave to support the NASA effort," the Democratic political leader continued. "Objectively, Earth can begin the 'Earth-forming' of Titan beginning the geophysical year of 2057-2058 A.D. provided we dedicate ourselves to such accomplishments beginning now," LaRouche said.

The Voyager mission reminded us all of the America dedicated to limitless progress and the necessity of scientific discovery.

Over the past decade, NASA budgets have been slashed, scientists have been idled, and U.S. military preparedness has collapsed along with the educational level of the population. Soviet expertise and broad-based scientific education has allowed them to outrun America in key military-related fields.

As the nation looks forward to a new administration, let us ensure that the triumph of the Voyager mission sets the tone for the decade of the 1980s. That means tripling the current meager budget of the space program. Inspiring our youth to dedication, to scientific excellence, and to the necessity of progress is the only way to guarantee the nation's security.

The near-perfect technological feats of the Voyager mission and the public enthusiasm it inspired, gives cause for encouragement that these national goals can be met.

Dr. Bruce Murray, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory from which the flight was directed and monitored, summed it up this way: "In the middle of the 1970s we became distracted as a people. We who created a society based on excellence and achievement lost that concept. We dropped the ball. The real question is: Do we want to continue in the path of excellent? Do we want our children to do things for which they can take pride? If we intend to excel, to do things we can be proud of, space exploration should be among them."