

Editorial

Man in space

July 20, 2019 will mark 50 years from the day when the first man stepped upon the Moon.

Had the Paine Commission report of 1986 been implemented, we would now be on our way toward fulfilling the goal of a manned settlement on Mars within ten years of that anniversary—by 2029. Unfortunately, as with the Strategic Defense Initiative, the U.S. administration's commitment to a space program modeled upon the vision of the John F. Kennedy's Apollo program, was largely rhetorical.

Now Vice President Quayle's space council has come up with a new set of scaled-down proposals, which would place men on the Moon and have missions to Mars by the 50th anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landing. Since the report does not deal with the question of the cost of the program, and relegates implementation to somewhere "down the road," we are entitled to assume that this plan is intended more as a political distraction from the disaster of the unraveling domestic economic scene, than as a genuine vision of a new American scientific frontier in space.

Indeed one of the key elements in any serious project to colonize the Moon and Mars is the building of a space station, as a station in what is sometimes called a railroad in the sky. Yet this modest part of the infrastructure of space travel has been scaled down and redesigned almost into oblivion.

Space Station Freedom was announced by President Reagan in 1984. Since then it has been redesigned eight times in order to cut costs, and still has not *gotten off the ground*. It was originally planned to be operational by 1994, but we will now be lucky if it is permanently manned by the end of the century. These delays have added hundreds of millions of dollars to its cost, without any benefit whatsoever accruing.

In fact it was recently in danger of being canceled altogether. Only last-minute threats by the Japanese and Canadians (who have already invested heavily in the space station and are picking up half the tab for it) to take retaliatory action if the United States were to cancel the station, as Congress had wished, was appar-

ently sufficient to mobilize the administration to get it put back into next year's budget.

It is a bizarre feature of the budget process that funding for the space program is juxtaposed to expenditures for Housing and Urban Development and for the Veterans Administration. Clearly the kind of choices implied by this are unacceptable. The United States—indeed the world—needs a future in space if our culture is to survive. It was for this reason that Lyndon LaRouche made colonization of Mars a central feature of his 1988 presidential campaign.

The kinds of problems which are posed by placing a human colony on Mars are precisely the problems which must be faced here on Earth if we are going to undertake our God-given responsibility to provide a fruitful human existence for all men and women, and their children. Crucial in this is achieving controlled fusion energy so that we can increase the per capita energy available by a thousandfold.

If we do this, we can easily resolve any problems of apparent resource shortage—including water shortage—here on Earth, and we can replicate the biosphere in space.

A frontier in space is precisely the opposite of an empire here on Earth. It implies not the hoarding of technology for the privileged while the masses of people in the world are reduced to virtual slave status, but instead the outflow of a cornucopia of new technologies for everybody. It means—as we seek to stretch toward the vast reaches of space—that it will quickly become obvious that mankind's most precious resource is every man, woman, and potential child. It means not George Bush's new world order, but the kind of Christian world order envisaged by Lyndon LaRouche and Pope John Paul II.

In his recent trip to Poland, the Pope attacked the idea that there is a cultural dividing line between *eastern* and *western* Europe. Indeed, Poland gave us the great astronomer Copernicus, and for years Prague was host to Johannes Kepler, court astronomer to the Austro-Hungarian empire. Let us build a city on Mars in their honor.