

## Editorial

### *Toward a century of science*

If we get through the present crisis, mankind is about to enter the most glorious century of our history—a century in which the previous boundaries of human dwelling, on Earth, and the temporal boundaries of the human lifespan, which have not gone much beyond the Biblical threescore and ten, will be surpassed many times over.

**Space:** President Ronald Reagan's National Commission on Space has set forth a bold vision showing that man can begin colonizing Mars by the year 2015. This challenge will go far beyond the Apollo program of the 1960s in its economic, scientific, and educational impact. The report, released on May 23 in Washington, commits the United States to continue the accomplishments of Apollo, by making first the Earth's Moon, and then Mars, a permanent home for mankind.

Commission chairman Dr. Thomas O. Paine, who headed NASA at the time of the Apollo Moon landing in 1969, said that the Commission's study confirms that "a reasonable rate of investment" can establish a step-by-step effort to "open the inner Solar System for scientific inquiry, exploration, and enterprise." This will lead to permanent human outposts on the Moon in less than two decades, and on Mars by the year 2015.

Dr. Paine added that revolutionary spinoffs of the new technologies in super-computers, robotics, and closed-cycle life-support systems to be used in the colonization effort, will also help to transform our Earth.

As is well-known, today's medical frontiers received a major stimulus from the space program of the 1960s. That brings us to our second point:

**Medicine:** As *EIR*'s medical editor, Dr. John Grauerholz, reports on page 17, an ongoing revolution in medicine promises to open up the prospects of conquering deadly diseases and, also, overcoming the problems of aging.

In Japan, an all-laser hospital has opened, where by November 1985, forty major surgical operations were performed using the laser system. Laser surgery can reduce operative and post-operative bleeding from ma-

ior procedures and reduce post-operative pain and the time spent in the hospital.

Also reported at the recent Washington conference of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, was a leap forward in photodynamic diagnosis and therapy, which can be used to identify tumors, relieve arthritis, and potentially treat arteriosclerosis, among other applications.

**Fusion energy:** We are on the threshold of achieving commercial fusion, the cleanest, safest source of virtually unlimited energy, which will be essential to the space program and indispensable to developing the Third World. In the latest evaluation of laser fusion by the National Academy of Sciences, carried out at the demand of Congress, there are no physical obstacles to achieving commercial fusion power. The only obstacles now are the lack of funding, and classification.

Nothing of what we have listed here is speculative. Nothing is included of the nonlinear, unpredictable breakthroughs which will certainly result from the space program. What is certain, is that these programs will pay for themselves many times over and very quickly. But, they must be funded.

More broadly, we need many more astronauts, scientists, and engineers. That means we need more people in the world—well-nourished and well-educated people, equipped for long, creative lives.

*EIR*'s latest Special Report, *The Libertarian Conspiracy to Destroy America's Schools*, addresses the method by which we can rescue our youth from the cultural pessimism that has produced the "Green" phenomenon: a return to the Humboldt system of classical education, pioneered in Germany nearly 200 years ago. Humboldt's formulation of the purpose of the school is still valid today:

"The true purpose of the human individual—not what is dictated by passing fancy, but rather by eternally unchanging Reason—is to achieve the highest and most well-balanced development of all his powers into a whole person."