

## Editorial

### *Our future in space*

How President Reagan will be remembered remains to be seen. If the Strategic Defense Initiative program gets back on track, and if the launch of the space shuttle Discovery is the successful beginning of a newly revitalized space program, then history may look kindly on him, despite other glaring shortcomings of his administration.

Between March of 1983, when he established the Strategic Defense Initiative as national policy, and the tragic Challenger accident of January 1986, the United States appeared to be on a positively vectored course, despite the weaknesses of Reaganomics. The kind of economic spinoffs which would have come from a vigorous development of the SDI and an ongoing space program, would have guaranteed a sufficient level of productivity to the economy to cushion the effects of otherwise bad economic policies.

Also not to be overlooked, the mood of the nation would have continued to be one of optimism. January 1986 was a turning point. It was followed by a catastrophic shift in foreign policy which began the next September with the Reykjavik summit, and a policy of appeasement to the Soviets. Now at the close of his eight years in office, Ronald Reagan has chosen to reiterate the best goals of his administration, in a speech before the workers at the Johnson Space Center. With the Vice President and the five astronauts who will fly Discovery, he has reasserted his, and implicitly Vice President Bush's, commitment to America's future in the space frontier, and coupled this with a renewed commitment to the SDI.

Calling the space frontier the United States' manifest destiny, he said: "In the next century, leadership on Earth will come to the nation that shows the greatest leadership in space. It is mankind's manifest destiny to bring our humanity into space, to colonize this galaxy. I say that America must lead. The nation that has achieved the greatest human freedom on Earth must be the nation to create a humane future for mankind in space, and it can be none other."

The theme was reiterated at a later point in the speech, where he referred to the aftermath of the Challenger disaster. "Our early settlers knew great risks,"

he said, "and made great sacrifices and moved the frontier forward to build a great nation."

The two policies of space colonization and the SDI, were both policies uniquely associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

While many scientists such as Dr. Edward Teller understood the need for what we now call the Strategic Defense Initiative, and like LaRouche believed that such this would best be accomplished by utilizing advanced physical principles such as the x-ray laser and other directed energy devices, it was LaRouche alone who understood the economic implications of the program.

He predicted that a crash development of the SDI, particularly if it were coupled with a vigorous development of the space program, would pay for itself ten times over by the increase in productivity in the U.S. economy which would spin off from the new technologies being developed. This was the lesson of the Apollo program. In contrast, LaRouche predicted, the Soviet civilian economy by its very nature, would be unable to incorporate new technologies at a sufficiently rapid pace to prevent SDI and kindred military development from becoming a heavy tax on its economy. This, of course, is the problem which the Soviets are faced with today.

The next administration will face some exceedingly ugly problems, both on the economic and the military side. The only hope for the West is if the LaRouche policies which were extremely influential in the early Reagan years are heeded once again. The Reagan speech is a very hopeful sign in that direction, particularly because he so closely paraphrased the closing lines LaRouche's March 3, 1988 national TV broadcast, "The Woman on Mars" in his closing remarks.

Reagan said: "Somewhere in America there is alive today a small child who one day may be the first man or woman ever to set foot on the planet Mars or inhabit a permanent base on the Moon." LaRouche's words were: "Already, the woman who will speak to you from Mars [broadcasting the news that a colony has just been established], has just recently been born somewhere in the United States."