

Editorial

Your Future Determines the Present

It is in the very nature of man, a creature of reason, that his future—and his idea of his future—determines his present actions. While animals respond to their momentary sense perceptions of danger or delight, and simply struggle to exist from day to day, mankind lifts his eyes to the stars, and to the future, and works to develop the concepts and the social preconditions to meet his chosen objectives. As humans, we act for our posterity—an idea memorialized in our U.S. Constitution, as well as our very being.

If this metric appears too abstract to you, let us bring it down to Earth for a minute.

Start with President Obama, that failed personality who is often falsely praised as a “visionary.” What is his concept of the future?

As it happens, he gave us a very direct indication of his thoughts on this in a little photo-op charade he held with some families in Fairfax, Virginia on Sept. 13. Asked about his view on historical preservation, Obama went into a riff on energy policy: “Now, one other point I want to make, though—and you were mentioning how renovation oftentimes will actually generate more jobs than new construction. A related idea is what we can do to make our existing buildings and housing stock more energy efficient, because it turns out that we could probably cut about a third of our total energy use just on efficiency. *We wouldn't need new technologies. We wouldn't need to invent some fancy new fusion energy or anything.*”

We don't need new technologies? We don't need to invest in the most efficient, cleanest, high-energy-flux-density fuel in existence, nuclear fusion power? These are the sentiments of a virtual caveman, not a President of the United States.

Compare his outlook with that of President

John Kennedy, with his Moon landing program—a program, by the way, which gave us the last great technological boost in productivity in our economy. Compare it with Abraham Lincoln, and his initiative in building the Transcontinental Railroad, or George Washington, with his plans for colonizing the West and building the western canals.

Obama's idea of the future is one that will actually *kill* the future for billions of people—hunkering down to save, reduce consumption, and die.

Obama, and his close collaborator Congressman Barney Frank, have a similar outlook on another frontier, that of manned space exploration and colonization. Barney, of course, is more “frank” on the subject, indulging in raves about how the U.S. just can't afford to invest in programs such as Constellation and Orion, much less a full-fledged mission to Mars. Frank even sponsored a Congressional amendment in 2006 to ban NASA funds for manned flight to Mars—and a bill including such a prohibition was passed in 2008. Obama just eliminated manned space flight from his 2011 NASA budget.

We know, of course, what Barney's and Barry's alternative priority for spending money was—in the trillions spent on bank bailouts over the past two years. And we know what kind of future such a policy is creating, in the devastation now taking over our cities and states, which are told to survive without jobs, fire services, libraries, and police.

To avoid these present horrors, we, the citizens of the United States, have to be inspired for and fight for a really human future, a future epitomized by great human undertakings such as space flight, and conquering nuclear fusion. Embrace that idea of the future, one worthy of human beings—and the fight for long-term survival can be won.