

Time for a Super-NASA

The warning bell has been struck. With the Feb. 15 close asteroid flyby, and the meteorite explosion in Russia, we have been given notice by the universe that we had better look to the future, and prepare to expand man's power out into space, or else.

That means an immediate reversal of the policy enunciated by President Barack Obama in his 2010 budget message, which eliminated the manned space mission and any long-term vision for mankind's role in space, in favor of privatization and green research. NASA, which has been chronically underfunded since the time of the anti-science paradigm-shift in the mid-1960s, has to be rebuilt into a Super-NASA, with the means for not only protecting our planet, but driving a global recovery for decades to come.

And, as Lyndon LaRouche said at the time, Obama's attempts to kill NASA in its true mission are contrary to our Constitutional commitment to progress. This President must be removed from office.

When NASA was founded in the late 1950s, under President Eisenhower, it clearly had a mission of national defense. But it was with President John F. Kennedy's May 1961 declaration of a mission to land a man on the Moon (and bringing him back safely) by the end of the decade, that NASA took its rightful place in establishing a national mission of a new scientific frontier for the nation—one that addressed the need for progress, not only for our nation, but all mankind.

President Kennedy took on the pragmatists (and budget-cutters) right from the start. This is going to be expensive, he said. It will cost tens of billions, eventually more than 50 cents a week for every man, woman, and child in the nation. But it's

not worth doing if we are not going to commit ourselves fully to the challenge of solving the mysteries of space travel.

NASA's budget grew dramatically in the first years, from .2% of the total Federal budget, to a height of 5.5% in 1965, after which, it precipitously collapsed. From that expenditure, the United States created a generation of scientists and engineers who made a technological revolution, and fueled the only leap in productivity in the U.S. economy since the period of President Franklin Roosevelt. Indeed, every major invention of the last 50 years—lasers, computers, you name it—have come from what could be called the NASA Revolution. In the end, as a 1976 study by Chase Econometrics famously concluded, every NASA dollar “paid back” \$14 in new jobs, factories, and technologies—and more rapidly than other Federal expenditures.

More importantly, the NASA mission infused the nation with a sense of purpose, a commitment to developing minds and science for the benefit of all mankind, as astronaut Neil Armstrong so eloquently put it in his statement as he put the first human footprint on the Moon's surface.

Today, with mankind facing an unprecedented threat of economic and/or thermonuclear death, we desperately need to turn our eyes to the heavens, and embrace a national mission of Defense of Earth from space. That will require a dramatic expansion of NASA, as well as collaboration with other leading space-faring nations, especially Russia and China. As soon as we put our current bankrupt financial system in the trash can, and implement Glass-Steagall and national banking, we will be poised to invest the resources we need for this vital science-driver.

Dump Obama and build a Super-NASA, now!