

Editorial

Colonize space!

Among the more bizarre responses reported to Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's March 3 national television broadcast, "The Woman on Mars," was an editorial that appeared the following morning in the *Roanoke Times and World News* (Virginia). In dismissing the candidate's proposal that the United States establish a permanent Mars colony by 2027, thereby providing the "science driver" for gearing up the economy as a whole, the paper wrote: "A Mars colony would only complicate our lives. If we established it, we'd have to defend it. Eventually, the colonists would consider themselves Martians not Americans, and we'd have a revolution. After Independence, the country would demand foreign aid."

Although we suspect these words were penned tongue-in-cheek, they do express the ideological response of the "Adam Smith" crowd internationally to LaRouche's economic ideas—exactly like the original Adam Smith and the East India Company's responses to the establishment of a republic in the New World over 200 years ago. For our part, we are thrilled to endorse the program LaRouche put forward, for the reasons he stated at the end of the broadcast:

"The Mars project uses every frontier technology we might expect to develop during the coming 50 years of scientific research. That means, that the space program would be supplying our civilian industries with the most advanced technologies possible at the most rapid rate, putting the United States permanently in first place in technology."

"By putting all of these technologies into a single mission-oriented research and development project, we are able to ensure that the United States will be first in technology for 50 years to come. With this Mars program, we can assure every one of you that your children and grandchildren has the opportunity for a bright future. That, in my opinion, is the true mission of government."

Earlier in the broadcast, LaRouche stressed, "This is no Jules Verne dream," after an animated sequence showing a specially designed rocket plane, piggy-backed on a "scramjet" taking off from a lighted run-

way. At the top of its flight, the scramjet releases the shuttle which then flies on its own power into low Earth orbit, reaching Mars in less than 48 hours. "Every step is based on technologies we shall have ready at the times this Mars project requires them."

The key to restoring to the Western nations a common purpose also lies in this program. LaRouche reports that the first problem in getting to Mars is to build a replacement for the present NASA Shuttle system that can put a ton of payload into geostationary orbit more cheaply, is safer and easier to launch and maintain, and can be made operational in a few years. This, he showed, will require the collaboration of German and Italian aerospace firms as well as our Japanese allies, to build the German-designed Sanger scramjet.

The development of this new shuttle system, noted LaRouche, means the early development of several new industries, and major improvements in the construction of ordinary automobiles as spin-offs, in addition to designs that would make civilian and military aircraft capable of reaching the most distant points in the world from the United States within a few hours. LaRouche also applied his professional skills as a physical economist to work out preliminary designs for the new cities to be built on Mars.

"With this kind of power, we can be assured of increasing the average output of wealth per person about ten times today's level, within a period of between one and two generations. As a result of this and other features of the project, we may expect to increase the average income of the United States by up to 10% per year average by some point during the coming years, with about 5% average growth in real income during the coming 10 years."

Without a science-driver project, such as this Mars project, the U.S. economy will not become competitive again, and will stagnate at levels reached by about 1994-95. The Mars project is also necessary to spearhead scientific breakthroughs needed on Earth, in areas such as astrophysical research, optical biophysics, plasma physics, as well as in basic industrial technologies. Let's get to work.