

WASHINGTON REPORT

SPACE
Last week, the House of Representatives passed legislation providing direction for the space program in the years ahead. This debate was carried out against the background of public satisfaction stemming from the return of the Apollo 13 Astronauts. Clearly, the bravery of the Astronauts in the face of adversity and the enormous ingenuity of NASA's Mission Control personnel were as spectacular as any aspect of the many fully successful missions in the nation's probe into space. These recent events had created a favorable atmosphere for the legislation and probably accounted for some of the lopsided vote by which the bill passed. In general, I have supported the space effort. However, I feel we must analyze the long-term effort in the sharper perspective of our present needs here on earth and that more reductions than this bill contains should be planned.

After a decade of a costly crash program to put a man on the moon, our space program has stimulated fantastic advances in technology which enabled the suc-

cessful completion of the mission. At the same time, these new discoveries have spread throughout our economy to change the lives of the American people more than they may realize. Once the moon landing occurred, however, the American people found themselves facing a decision about what proportion of our national resources should be allocated to future space efforts.

Some Americans suggest that we forget about the bleak and forbidding reaches of outer space and that we concentrate on the problems of our own planet. They argue that so long as we have poverty, war, injustice, and the need to repair our environment at home, space exploration is morally questionable and economically unjustified. I disagree with that conclusion. Human progress does not flow evenly and the fact that mankind continually faces unsolved problems has never justified a refusal to explore the unknown. The challenges to our era in this regard are no different, than those that have gone before. A lower priority for the space program in the next decade, nevertheless, is dictated by other needs and problems and we should change our thinking from the crash-program philosophy of the sixties to a level that can be sustained over the long-term.

Spending in the space program has been declining. In fact, the budget request of \$3.3 billion submitted by the Administration is the lowest figure to appear in a budget since the mid-sixties. Insistence by the House that this figure be raised by \$300 million was wrong and I opposed the bill. Rather than increase the authorization as the House did, I feel that some shaving of the Administration's original request was desirable. There is a good chance that this bill will happen when the House considers the actual appropriations legislation later.

Briefly, this measure contains the essential thrust the country will follow in its space effort in the next ten years. The bill is divided into 18 parts which provide a glimpse of what is to come. Further lunar exploration, space stations, new space transport vehicles, research into the evolution of the universe to better understand the physical principles that prevail upon the earth, planning solar system exploration, applying space technology to the study of weather problems upon our planet, developing new propulsion systems, and studying the application of space technology for general use are some of the plans proposed in the bill.

So far, \$50 billion has been invested in the space effort and the scientific fall-out the country has obtained from it makes an impressive list. From these side-effects have come benefits that will return billions of dollars from ap-

plications in agriculture, forestry, geology, weather prediction and control, and the entire field of conservation and environment improvement.

A few days ago, I received a thoughtful letter from a constituent who was struck by the fantastic and single-minded efforts to save the lives of the Apollo 13 Astronauts. He asked the philosophical question which many of us have raised. Why cannot the same constructive energies be applied to the resolution of the challenges which confound and divide us here? While there may be no clear answer, the achievements of the space program demonstrate once again and in dramatic terms what this nation can achieve when it is determined to succeed. Regardless of whatever else it may accomplish, the symbolism of the space program has real value in a nation whose problems may be so trying that Americans tend to lose sight of the magnificent challenges they have met and mastered.

Grapes are grown at El Cajon, California.

Lunch Programs Give Food Help To Many Needy

School lunch and breakfast programs provide nourishing meals for many needy North Carolina children.

But what help is available to their brothers and sisters who are too young for school, or to these children when school is not in session?

One source of help is a U. S. Department of Agriculture food program called the Special Food Service Program for Children.

This program, administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service through the North Carolina Department of Education, helps nonprofit public and private day-care institutions provide food for children from low-income areas or from areas with many working mothers.

Day-care centers, settlement houses and recreation centers are among those eligible to take part in the program. Special emphasis is being directed this year to summer day-camps, recreation programs and other supervised pro-

grams offering developmental experiences.

What kind of assistance does this program offer?

Institutions participating in the program may receive cash reimbursement for food purchased, up to a maximum rate of 15 cents for each breakfast, 30 cents for each lunch or supper and 10 cents for each supplemental meal.

And institutions taking part in the program may also receive USDA donated foods and up to 75 per cent of the cost of buying or renting necessary equipment.

To take part in this program, institutions must agree to serve food on a nonprofit basis to all children, regardless of their race, color or national origin. And they must supply free or reduced-price meals to children unable to pay the full price.

All meals served must meet the minimum nutritional requirements set by the Food and Nutrition Service.

To find out more about the program, any interested group or organization in North should contact Mr. Ralph Eaton, Director, School Food Services, State Department of Public Instruction, P. O. Box 12197, Cameron Village, Raleigh, N. C. 27615.

Auto Dealers Take Honors

PINEHURST — The North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association presented 50 Year Awards to two of its members at a Banquet last night concluding the 33rd Annual Convention of the Association at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst.

The awards given "in recognition of half-a-century of service to the automotive industry" were presented to John R. Beatty, Beatty Motor Company, Midland, and William V. White, Sr., White Motors, Inc., Roanoke Rapids.

Each of these gentlemen has been in the automotive business since 1920. Each has been active in associations and organizations affiliated with the industry and has taken part in community and civic activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Dixon of Dixon Chevrolet Company, Inc. are local dealers attending the convention.

A new steam electric generating plant of the TVA scheduled to begin operations next year, near Oak Ridge, Tenn., will consume 316 tons of coal an hour.

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