

Issue 62

## American Space Program

America's space program is bound to have important effects on the taxpayer (you), on science and industry, on our foreign policy, and on our collective imaginations, energies, and national character.

1. What should be the goals of our space program?
  - a. Construction of a habitable Earth-orbiting space station
  - b. Construction of a permanent moon base (to do what?)
  - c. Human exploration of Mars
  - d. Earth-orbiting satellites to monitor the Earth-surface environment
  - e. Search for rare or valuable minerals on the moon or asteroids
  - f. Other
2. Should the goal be international or exclusively American? Why?
3. If "international," should the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. cooperate?
4. Is our present radio astronomy "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (SETI) a worthwhile expense of taxpayers' money?
5. Is it important the U.S. remain in the forefront as a space-faring nation?
6. Should taxpayer money now being spent on space projects be sharply reduced and put to "better" use here on the earth?
7. Should we pursue military uses of space?
  - a. "Star Wars" (SDI) is at best a practical shield against nuclear surprise attack and at worst an impractical "make work" project to create jobs and lucrative contracts at taxpayers' expense. Should it be continued? Slowed? Stopped?
  - b. Do surveillance satellites provide stability to volatile international political situations? In 1961, satellite photographs of Soviet missiles and bomber facilities dispelled the idea of a U.S.-Soviet missile gap and averted an expensive U.S. catch-up program.
  - c. Would U.S. nuclear missiles orbiting the earth and available for instant call-down enhance our security or diminish it?