

REMARKS BY SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON  
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Lyndon B. Johnson: My fellow countrymen.

Henry Ford's first motor car and the Wright brothers' first airplane touched off revolutions that have, in less than a lifetime, remade the world.

No nation today is untouched by these contemporary inventions.

But, what was the reaction of people to these history making events?

It has been recorded that the automobile was noisy and caused undue commotion.

The airplane was seen as a progress instrument in the hands of daredevils.

Little can be seen as worth while beyond this point and very few took them seriously or the inventive genius behind them.

A PATTERN OF COMPLACENCY

Is the American community taking the advent of the Space Age seriously?

Are we, in fact, dismissing the firing and the orbiting of space searching vehicles as having little or no consequence in our earthly activities?

The reaction of many Americans to the Space Age follows too closely the pattern of complacency in years past.

Too many of us do not realize that the Space Age which began only a few years ago, is probably the most historic event in world history since that famous voyage of Christopher Columbus and the subsequent discovery of North America and the New World.

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THE NEW WORLD OF SPACE

Outer space is, in fact, the New World of perhaps the next 500 to 1,000 years.

What we do now will have profound effect upon the earth for many years hereafter -- maybe forever.

In looking back we see the great impact the New World had upon the Old.

We see how governments which foresaw the meaning and the potential in the New World emerged to new positions of influence.

We must continue to be counted among the great visionaries of the world by recognizing the full meaning of outer space and its infinite frontiers.

But what of this Space Age?

Is it just another dimension of warfare, or is it an age in which contributions will have been made toward perfecting peace for the world?

We must be mindful of the first, of course, but, the consequences could be devastating if we compete against other nations in perfecting space weapons and we fail to realize the great peaceful potentials of outer space.

We know that our immediate decisions concerning the uses of outer space technology for the good of mankind can, and will, halt any advances into space as merely adding a new dimension to warfare.

COOPERATION NEEDED

But this is not a one nation job.

We are heading towards the axioms of outer space science and technology, but again this cannot be done by one nation alone.

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There must be a world-wide organization of technical and scientific information on outer space, a cooperative, international excursion into this vast, unknown area.

At this early period in the Space Age such organization, such an excursion, will contribute immeasurably towards focusing the world's attention on the peaceful uses of this international resource --space.

#### IMPACT OF SPACE EXPLORATION

We have seen the two great technological revolutions of the 20th Century -- the automobile and the airplane -- change the character and the purposes of government on all levels throughout the world.

Both of course have added new burdens, but both have brought so vast an array of capabilities to the people and their governments that burdensome technicalities are forgotten.

So it is now with outer space.

The most powerful revolution of all times has begun in our own times and we are both witness to it and eternally responsible for giving it direction.

Direction that will mean peace, that will mean freedom, that will mean fulfillment for all those who follow after us.

#### A NEW WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION

The Space Age revolution will change the rules and responsibilities of governments more than anything in a meridian.

There are many reasons for saying this and here are just a few examples.

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First, we have been assured that in the 1960's, satellites will bring a new world-wide system of communication.

Using earth circling satellites as relays for example, telephone communication between continents will become as casual and perhaps as inexpensive as some long distance calls in our own native land.

Since the world system of national governments can be likened to isolation booths, walled off by physical and legal barriers, a simple means of international communication will allow peoples of all nations to communicate freely and easily with one another.

This space technology development alone could be one of the most powerful forces the world has ever known for bringing men together and for crushing the barriers that have hindered world understanding.

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION THROUGH SPACE SATELLITES

Second, in much the same manner, intercontinental radio and television broadcasting will be made possible through space satellites.

Nations half a world away will begin to transmit broadcasts easily into our living rooms and the living rooms of the world.

When this happens the barriers of world government will be made transparent.

The eyes of television upon the earth -- God willing -- will bring understanding instead of suspicion, cooperation instead of frightened isolation. They will bring a free exchange of knowledge between all nations and all peoples.

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CHANGES IN MAIL DELIVERY, NAVIGATION, WEATHER

No nation then will be invulnerable to the eyes of the world.

Science also assures that by 1970, satellites may well be able to deliver inter-continental mail in minutes, and space satellites, and even perhaps space stations, will help provide navigation guidance for our air and sea lanes.

Weather control techniques employing outer space technology will someday modify the earth's atmosphere so as to change deserts to gardens and jungles to paradise.

THE CHALLENGE OF SPACE

This power -- sufficient to rule the earth presents a dramatic challenge to America which we must be ready to accept and accept today.

Together these few examples show us the task we have before us in America in this primitive period of the Space Age.

They also show where the collective talents of the world must be employed in the next several years.

SPACE AS A NEW FORCE

Space you see is not merely a vast empty frontier which governments can explore or ignore at will.

Space and space exploration constitute a new force which will require many changes especially among free governments if our enduring values are not to be sacrificed and lost.

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Positions in space will be won by brains not brawn.

Because of this space presents the first real opportunity in mankind's history for men of all nations to work together in a common purpose for common gains and common goals.

#### A COMMON DENOMINATOR

Until now we have had wars on earth largely because there was no such common denominator for joint effort among nations. Now we have something tangible upon which our joint efforts may be given.

The result of this effort will bring peoples on earth closer together through working together for the development of the still untouched potential that awaits mankind in space.

#### AMERICA'S PROGRAM FOR OUTER SPACE

At the request of the President of the United States -- President Eisenhower, and the Secretary of State, Secretary Dulles, I appeared at the United Nations on November 17, 1958, to present America's program for control of outer space for peaceful purposes by all nations of the world.

At that time, I made the following statement which expresses my own beliefs and those, I hope, all Americans will hold for the future:

"Today outer space is free.

"It is unstarred by conflict.

"No nation holds a concession there.

"It must remain that way.

"We of the United States do not acknowledge that there are landlords

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of outer space who can presume to bargain with other nations on the price of access to this new domain.

"If we proceed with this joint venture in this new realm, we must not, and we need not, corrupt this great opportunity by bringing to it the very antagonisms which we may by courage overcome and leave behind forever."

A NEW HISTORY FOR THE WORLD

Men who have worked together to reach the stars are not likely to descend together into the depths of war and desolation.

I cannot help but think that when this new dimension becomes a reality we shall find ourselves devoting our efforts to making of government a far better, a far more constructive, a far more useful instrument for expressing the true values of mankind.

I cannot help but feel the hungry people of the world in which we live are now keeping their eyes fixed on the example that we set.

I cannot help but hope that nation after nation will emulate the example set by these United States of America.

The Space Age is truly the beginning of a new history for the world.

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