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## Down to Earth in Space

There is nothing out of this world about the task facing Dr. George E. Mueller, who has been chosen to succeed D. Brainerd Holmes as head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's manned space program. His first assignment should be a realistic, down-to-earth re-examination of the cost and potential value of the flight to the moon. Beyond that, there is need for a thorough review of all the activities and outlays carried on by NASA.

This would not be necessary if Congress had been exercising ordinary supervision over our space efforts. But, goaded by Mr. Kennedy's determination to beat the Soviet Union in the race to the moon, Congress has permitted NASA to lead a charmed life, providing what amounted almost to a blank check for its operations and a free hand to its managers. NASA, it seemed, could do no wrong.

Congress is now rectifying its mistake. As a result of its belated probing, it has cut NASA's mushrooming budget. The reduction includes shelving of plans for a \$50 million research center that NASA had sought for the President's home state.

NASA still has to exert a greater degree of self-discipline. Its important achievements have occasionally been marred by sloppy practices, including a wavering ethical attitude to the commercialization of the astronauts. Despite Mr. Kennedy's position on the moon race, the wisdom of the current "crash program" to that end — with its accompanying massive diversion of human and economic resources — is highly questionable.

There is no doubt that false starts and dead ends are inevitable in exploring the unknown frontiers of space. But NASA's effectiveness will be enhanced by tighter controls over spending and greater coordination of its activities, including a more sober evaluation than we have yet had from it of the entire moon shot program. The space agency needs a solid foundation on earth.

## and in Science

The vastness of the Government's research activities has prompted a demand by members of the House Rules Committee for a broad inquiry into the character, cost and conduct of federally financed programs in every research field.

mier Adoula to speed urgently necessary fiscal and economic reforms.

The Congo has made progress and it is still making progress; certainly there is no promising alternative to the Adoula Government. But the country faces disaster unless that Government curbs the intolerable budget deficit, stops printing money to cover it and stems the soaring inflation that is making people idle and hungry and imperils economic recovery. Premier Adoula is fully aware of the need for reforms.

The United Nations cannot undertake to cope with new Congos. Neither can the African states, whose efforts to force a premature independence on the unready Portuguese colonies are endangering the United Nations itself.

## Atlanta's Mayor Speaks

On rare occasions the oratorical fog on Capitol Hill is pierced by a voice resonant with courage and dignity. Such a voice was heard when Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. of Atlanta testified before the Senate Commerce Committee in support of President Kennedy's bill to prohibit racial discrimination in stores, restaurants and other public accommodations.

On the basis of the very substantial accomplishments that his city of a half-million, the largest in the Southeast, has made in desegregating publicly owned and privately owned facilities, he might have come as a champion of "states' rights" and of the ability of localities to banish discrimination without Federal law. Certainly, he would have had much more warrant to espouse that view than the Barretts, the Wallaces and the other arch-segregationists who raise the specter of Federal "usurpation" as a device for keeping Southern Negroes in subjection.

But Mr. Allen was not in Washington to boast. He was there to warn that even in cities like Atlanta the progress that had been made might be wiped out if Congress turned its back on the Kennedy proposal and thus gave implied endorsement to the concept that private businesses were free to finish the job started with the Emancipation Proclamation a century ago: "Now the elimination of segregation, which is slavery's stepchild, is a challenge to all of us to make every American free in fact as well as in theory—and again to establish our nation as the true champion of the free world."