

moon's airless surface would be very useful to us. Such a condition is difficult to achieve and even more difficult to maintain on a large scale at the bottom of this sea of air upon our earth. A number of industrial processes, however, depend upon and operate more efficiently at a near-vacuum condition. We can therefore imagine that the moon might at some future time become a center for vacuum research and processes. This and other natural advantages of the moon to industry are fascinatingly detailed in an imaginative and ingenious book, *The Case for Going to the Moon* by Neil P. Ruzic (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1965).

Apart from this we voyage to space for intangible reasons that in the long run could be even more important, indirectly, than the most immediate ones. The Age of Space is perhaps the most exciting time in human history since the Age of Discovery that followed Columbus' voyage. What intuitive inspiration was Queen Isabella's when she offered to pawn the crown jewels to finance the poor mariner's voyage! We have no visions of gold and the riches of the Indies before us, but we have long since learned that there are things more valuable than gold.

We have a pioneering heritage. Our forebears were adventurous people who broke with old ties to come to the New World and to conquer a new continent, and we have continued these traditions in science, industry, and technology. When it was possible to explore the atom, we did not hesitate. It has now become feasible to explore space. We dare not shirk the adventure. We cannot draw a curtain over a New World that is within our grasp. We cannot sit at home, so to speak, and hear secondhand of new wonders that men have pondered through the ages. Our enthusiastic participation on the frontier, wherever the frontier exists, is necessary for our continuation as a dynamic and creative people. If there were no other reason for space exploration—and there are a great many more—this one would be good enough for me.

We have entered what is truly a new age of discovery. We who are living in it and are privileged to take an active part in it can look forward to exciting and rewarding days ahead.