

# Kennedy Puts Earth Needs Ahead of Space Program

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WORCESTER, Mass., May 19—With the Apollo 10 spacecraft racing toward the moon, Senator Edward M. Kennedy called today for a slowdown in the space program so that funds could be diverted to such "pressing problems" as poverty, hunger, pollution and housing here on earth.

Once the "lunar landing and exploration are complete," then "a substantial portion" of the space budget can be diverted, said the Massachusetts Democrat, whose brother, President Kennedy, set the moon-landing goal.

It was an unlikely platform the Senator had chosen to revive the space controversy. He spoke at the dedication of the futuristic \$5.4-million Robert Hutchings Goddard Library at Clark University. The library is named after the physicist who launched the first liquid-fueled rocket 43 years ago in a cabbage patch not far from here.

### For This Year's Flights

However, Mr. Kennedy was not calling for the slowdown after this July's planned lunar landing by Apollo 11. His Senate office in Washington indicated that he wanted the several flights planned to explore the lunar surface to go ahead as scheduled. Funds have been allocated for three more manned moon flights if Apollo 11 succeeds.

"We need not try to get to Mars or Venus merely because the Russians might get there first," Senator Kennedy told an enthusiastic crowd of 3,000 gathered under tents as a heavy laden sky darkened the Clark campus.

"I am for the space program. But I want to see it in its right priority, one which will let it continue into the future and not have to be cut back or abandoned because the nation that supports it is hobbled by internal disorder.

"We should develop a plan for an orderly programed exploration of outer space. But

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## Kennedy Asks That Earth Needs Get Some of Outlay for Space

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we no longer need an accelerated program."

Not everyone at the ceremony was pleased by the Senator's words. The guests included Col. Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. of the Air Force, an astronaut who is likely to fulfill Professor Goddard's long-harbored dream of reaching the moon by becoming part of the crew of July's mission, and Dr. Wernher von Braun, the rocket expert.

"I hope there will not be too

much budget cutting," Dr. von Braun said in an interview later. "If you want to stay in the space business, there's a certain minimum level." He added, however, that he recognized that the country was faced with conflicting demands on its resources.

Colonel Aldrin did not answer questions put by newsmen. The headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington refused comment on the Kennedy speech.

Before the red, white and blue ribbon strung across the library entrance was cut, Senator Kennedy and Colonel Aldrin received honorary doctorate degrees from Dr. Frederick H. Jackson, president of Clark.

Professor Goddard spent 29 years at Clark as a professor of physics before his death in 1945 at the age of 63.

His rise to fame began on a cold clear day in March of 1926 on his aunt's farm in Auburn, Mass. There, on snow-covered ground, he set up his homemade 10-foot-high steel rocket.

The primitive gasoline and liquid-oxygen motor was ignited with a \$15 blowtorch. The craft soared off at "express train speed," landing 184 feet away after 2.5 seconds of flight. "It looked almost magical as it rose," the physicist wrote in his diary.



Associated Press

Col. Edwin A. Aldrin Jr., left, and honorary degrees yesterday. Down in the space program.

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