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# Technical Workshop - Economic Aspects of the Space Age

Canaveral Council of Technical Societies

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SCHOLARLY COMMONS

Moderator - Mr. W. H. Allen, Pres., Central Brevard (Fla.) Comm. of 100

Panelists - Mr. Robert Alligood, Exec. Dir., Fla. Engineering Society, Orlando, Fla.

Mr. E. L. Johnson, Jr., Exec. V.P., Cocoa Beach (Fla.) State Bank

Mr. Robert A. Merrell, Pres., 1st Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Daytona Beach, Florida

Mr. Alan Wright, Vice Pres., Fla. Power & Light Co., Daytona Beach, Fla.

#### ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE SPACE AGE - WORKSHOP

Opening the workshop, Mr. Allen described the space program in Florida as one of permanency for several reasons: first, emphasis is shifting from relatively short-time development of defense systems to that of continuing peacetime exploration; second, the geographic location of the Cape makes it generally more suitable than other parts of the country for meeting the majority of space flight trajectories; finally, the Atlantic Missile Range is more completely equipped than any other national launch site.

Mr. Allen indicated that responsible sources had estimated that space program expenditures in Florida would be at the rate of 4 to 5 billion dollars per year by 1970, employment at the Cape would rise from some 30,000-plus now to approximately 40,000 by 1965, then decline back to 30,000 by 1970. During the same period, however, Brevard's population would steadily increase to at least 250,000. This would lead to many economic problems for the communities: more homes, schools, churches, industrial sites and their related effects on land, utilities, roads, stores, local government, taxes, and many others.

Following these remarks, the floor was opened for comment and a spirited discussion ensued. Throughout the workshop a recurrent theme emerged: the distinct need for coordinated, overall planning to anticipate and minimize the effect of the myriad problems being generated. Mr. Wright, using his own company as an illustration, pointed out that industry is constantly taking calculated risks and making certain expenditures in preparation for anticipated increases in demand. By the same token, given localities and the communities within must plan and spend for the future if they are to be successful.

To this end, it was pointed out, the East Coast Planning Council had been established to survey and assist in coordinating planning for the area. Mr. Merrell indicated Ormond Beach, by selecting and designating certain land for industrial purposes, had taken a specific step and, through its Committee of 100, was interesting industry in locating there.

Some of the more pressing problems for which good solutions are being sought are: proper zoning and adequate housing, water and sewerage facilities, transportation of all kinds, and educational facilities capable of producing skilled manpower. Compounding these problems is the difficulty of bringing many diverse interests together to work toward common good. In addition, as Mr. Alligood mentioned, the State has not yet passed a permissive law permitting county-wide planning efforts beyond a limited point.

Mr. Johnson, noting Florida's population and income had grown faster than predicted in the last ten years, also stated the upward trend was beginning to show signs of starting to flatten out. He indicated that this, combined with increasing national concern with amount of predicted spending for space activities, should be given careful thought by forecasters and planners.

The consensus was that timely, consolidated effort, with unity of purpose based on sound planning is the only way the economic problems of the area can be met and resolved. Further, although specific steps have been taken, they are not sufficient in themselves and represent only a small part of what must be done. Additional conferences and workshops of this type were recommended as an important means for getting more people to recognize and help in properly meeting the upcoming economic problems.