

# Congressional Subcommittee Recommends Cutting Manned Space Budget By \$250 Million

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A congressional subcommittee has recommended cutting the manned space flight budget by about \$250 million, it was learned today.

The subcommittee's recommendations now go to the full House Space Committee, which is expected to endorse the panel's action.

A house space subcommittee voted unanimously to trim by about 7 per cent the \$3.7 billion the administration requested for the manned space flight activities for the fiscal year starting July 1.

Most of the reductions took place in the Apollo program to put a man on the moon by 1970. Additional cuts were made in the development of the M-1 engine. Still to be heard from are the committee responsible for the authorization requests.

The Senate Space Committee called more scientists today in an effort to evaluate long-range plans by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Opposing views were expressed Monday by physicists on one hand and a chemist and biologist on the other. But they agreed that putting a man on the moon would not materially help the nation's defense efforts.

Dr. Philip H. Abelson, a physicist who helped develop the atomic bomb, said man is a "poor scientific instrument" and the moon could better be explored by unmanned space vehicles. Abelson said the space program will divert scientists from other fields, causing a "damaging effect" on medical research and defense.

Dr. Harold C. Urey, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist, said the manned lunar probe may be necessary in proving his theory that the moon is older than earth. Only men, he said, can bring back a sufficient supply of rock samples for examination.

Urey said if the moon was created before the earth, as he believes, man can learn much from it about the nature of the universe beyond.

The House manned space flight program, the biggest chunk of the manned space flight budget.

The M-1 engine reduction came as no surprise. A powerful engine that was to have powered the up per stage of a Nova vehicle, its immediate importance diminished when NASA decided to reach the moon through a lunar rendezvous method instead of the direct ascent technique. The latter would have utilized the Nova. NASA is still keen on using the M-1 for the post-moon era.

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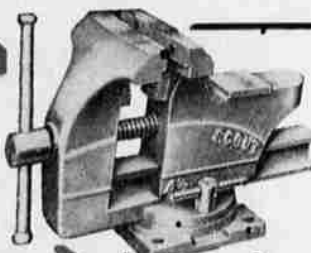
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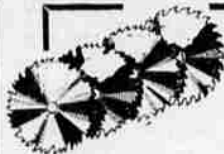
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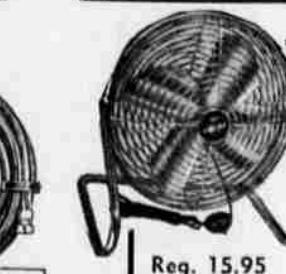
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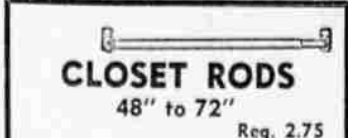
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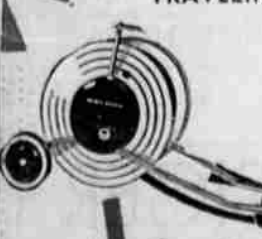
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