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Editorial

Space Enterprises, Inc.

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but!

Whether the rocket power be for the Army's Sergeant, the Air Force's Minuteman or tomorrow's 50,000,000 lb. thrust motor it begins with globs and strands of fuel held in the asbestos-gloved hands of the research chemists.

For more than ten years the research scientists in THIOKOL's Rocket and Chemical Divisions have been continuously engaged in rapidly expanding programs of propellant development.

In these endeavors one fact is common: new propellants are cast into rocket motors only after many thousands of hours have gone into research and testing. For every successful propellant formula there are many, many frustrating failures. This is the way of research. Success, even though it comes slowly, is the reward.

Fortunately, success has come to THIOKOL research scientists in abundance and with regularity.

The variety of career opportunities at THIOKOL is large and expanding, including:

- Propellant analysis and formulation
- Polymer research
- Fluorine and metal hydrides synthesis
- Shock wave phenomena
- Combustion processes
- High vacuum techniques
- Fast reaction kinetics
- Servo system and electro mechanical design
- Instrumentation
- Ion and plasma propulsion
- Magnetohydrodynamics
- Thermodynamics
- Solid state physics.

There may be a place for you on the team, working on THIOKOL — developed-and-built rocket powerplants used in the Falcon, Sergeant, Matador, Nike Hercules, Lacrosse, X-17, Minuteman, Pershing, Nike Zeus, Sparrow III, X-15, Bomarc, Little Joe, and Bullpup.

For further information contact Personnel Director of any of these plants: Huntsville, Ala.; Elkton, Md.; Moss Point, Miss.; Brigham City, Utah; Trenton, N. J.; Bristol, Pa.; Denville, N. J.; Marshall, Texas.

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ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID?

The question that we should be putting to ourselves these days is the implication of the latest Soviet success in the rocket field (in which they excell so well). If we learned nothing else from Lunik I, II and III, we have learned that the Washington government has not been exactly truthful with its pronouncements of "closing the missile gap". Many will now insist that they suspected that we were further behind than was officially admitted, but all of us were taken in to some extent. We shouldn't cry over spilt milk but if we can't learn from the school of hard knocks that the Luniks' have taken us through, then we had better get out of the business.

Lack of a centralized Authority with a planned, sensible program is our problem.

The last football team that tried what the Washington government is trying in the Space race didn't fare any better than our space effort. The University of Miami (Fla.) tried to divide authority last season, different coaches were responsible for offense, defense, kicking, pass defense, etc. The result was that a team picked by many to go to the Orange Bowl on New Years day had one of their worst seasons on record. But, after all football is only a game and should be played as such, you can build character whether you win games or not. And, if winning games is important, you can always look to next year. But in the deadly serious business of ICBMs' with nuclear capabilities, the philosophy that you can run the scoreboard clock back and start again "all even" is a mistake that we cannot afford to make. In the nuclear game I doubt if our adversary will play according to our set of rules, even if he says he might.

We must consolidate our efforts and not have our potential divided between the NASA, ARPA, Air Force, Army, Navy and the Marines. We need a single agency with power of decision over all space activities. What would be wrong with giving NASA the teeth it needs and getting the show on the road. If we lose this game, we lose more than a New years bowl invitation.