Editorial

A post-Malthusian era

Inauguration Day 1981 will go down in history as a day of hope for the American people. President Ronald Reagan reminded us all of the national purpose set down by the Founding Fathers: to be a moral light and an engine for human progress throughout the world.

"It is time to reawaken this industrial giant," said the President in his call for "an era of national renewal." Mr. Reagan called on his fellow citizens "to believe in ourselves and in our capacity to perform great deeds."

The spirit of President Reagan's address was in sharp contrast to Jimmy Carter's inaugural message four years ago. Carter then called for energy conservation and sacrifice, and he continued during four years in office to implement a policy of Malthusian zero growth in the name of the post-industrial society.

For the United States this meant the degradation of our industry and our work force, the stagnation of scientific research in many fields, and the destruction of our youth. For the Third World, the postindustrial United States meant genocide.

This is the case because the future of the developing sector depends on the industrial strength of the advanced sector and continuing scientific revolutions that will aid in the rapid industrial development of the Third World.

The question of progress, which is ultimately a question of the advancement of science, must be defined in moral terms. The advancement of science and technology for the benefit of all mankind is the moral responsibility of the United States.

The day of hope we experienced, in truth, was also a day of uncertainty. For Americans must ask themselves, do we have the moral fitness to survive? Can a nation recover that was so degraded by four years of a Carter presidency, a nation that has accepted the destruction of our educational system, the near dismantling of the space program, and the drug plague against our children that led directly to the White House? Can we face the ugly truth of the moral degeneracy and the economic ruin of the

nation, with the will to create an era of renewal?

Lyndon LaRouche, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee's advisory board and former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, has put forward this challenge to the American people in a recently released State of the Union message titled, "A Day of Wonderful, If Uncertain Hope." LaRouche states that "our nation and the world" have been "freed at last from the worst presidency of our once powerful and great republic. Let us rejoice at our own liberation from the petty, sly, grudge-seeking meanness and insolent rampaging hypocrisy which characterized that administration." Yet, LaRouche continues, "We must not be blinded by that joy." The nation is "still floundering" with a half-destroyed economy and an eroded national morality.

We must face the cold truth of the present emergency, and mobilize the capabilities of the population to "perform great deeds." Such deeds must begin with the implementation of immediate measures to halt the present depression collapse, Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker must be shown the door, and the credit policies of the nation must be changed to service industrial growth. The Congress is already at work preparing legislation to accomplish this. Senator James Sasser (D-Tenn.) has sponsored legislation to create a two-tier credit system and penalize speculative and nonproductive investment. Similar legislation is being prepared for the House.

Along with facilitating the growth of industry by ending the credit crunch, the nation's moral commitment to science must be renewed. The belief in progress and the determination of our youth to excel in scientific studies can be rekindled through the rebuiding of NASA and a renewed dedication to the exploration of space. We must massively fund the fusion energy research effort; the advent of a fusion power based economy will give us the capability of ending hunger and scarcity for good.

It will take a great mobilization of moral and political will to carry this out.