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to the editor

Benefits of space program

There are currently two great obstacles to the space program and its supportive funding. 1) False identification, in the public mind, of military or defense spending with aerospace spending. 2) The notion that money is being wasted on tilted priorities. That, in fact, more should be spent on social problems and less on space.

Both of the above attitudes constitute an unfortunate and erroneous judgment, on the part of the American people, against our fine scientific endeavors and achievements. In the case of the second obstacle above, the people fail to fully realize the amount of good the space program does them.

NASA has done so many wonderful things for all of us that it is a tragedy to abort so many of the programs described in Everly Driscoll's article "The story of an evolving shuttle" (SN: 4/1/72, p. 220). People seem to quickly forget the many good things that have come to us in the last decade due to the space program. A few: 1) Weather satellites which now make your weather forecasting a more exact science. One can remember in 1955 when the forecast on the news was no better than a look out the window. Today we get a one-week projection. 2) Communication satellites enable us to see China clearly on TV. One can pick up a telephone now and call anywhere in the world expecting to get a clear, crisp response on the other end. 3) Medicine has been pulled up "by its bootstraps" by the aerospace industry. The incorporation of integrated circuitry, computers, nuclear devices of all kinds, lasers, micro-miniaturization, new pressure chambers, and a whole new world of monitoring and patient surveillance systems constitute only a small part of a constellation of direct spin-offs from our space involvement. Science fiction? Only for those doubting Toms who sit on their haunches and resist progress in its most beautiful form.

All one has to do to see the benefits of the space involvement, in our everyday lives, is to read SCIENCE NEWS, which has done an admirable job of reporting these benefits.

J. T. Kessler
Hollywood, Calif.

Science and the military

I think it is time that reasonable scientists, science teachers, etc. express their views on military use of science discoveries. For example, I enclose a clipping about the application of lasers. \$70 million will be spent for development of military laser devices and only \$9 million for laser development for medicine. This and all the horror we are hearing about antipersonnel weapons that are being developed should bring a general outcry from the science community. May we hear it?

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Weintraub
North Valley Stream, N.Y.

films OF THE WEEK

WE GREW A FROG. 16mm, color, sound, 13 min. Presents the activity of growing a frog from eggs in an aquarium. The children are told how and where to gather the eggs and how to prepare the aquarium. Explanations about the development of the eggs and the different stages of the growing process are shown in closeups. These include the changes seen as the gills appear and disappear, the development of the back legs and loss of the tail, and the development of the front legs. When the frogs are fully developed, the children return them to their natural habitat. Audience: elementary. Purchase \$150 or rental \$9 from International Film Bureau, Dept. SN, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

INNER CITY DWELLERS: HEALTH CARE. 16mm, color, sound, 23 min. In a simulated portrayal designed to give the perspective of an inner city resident, a young mother attempts to receive routine medical treatment for her child and encounters red tape, long periods of waiting, and other dehumanizing procedures that a welfare parent must go through. The woman is then offered a job as an aide in a neighborhood health clinic. She makes home visits and acts as liaison between the community and the professional staff of the clinic. Animated charts show that although the urban center of a city is most densely populated, it is the outlying areas which have the most health care facilities. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$315 or rental \$10 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

WELCOME ABOARD. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. It's not unusual for a firm to spend hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars to carefully recruit the right candidate for a job. Then, after a hasty "indoctrination" the first day, the new employe suddenly discovers that he is a forgotten man. Neither supervisor nor fellow employes seem able to spend time to help the new man get off to a good start. Film emphasizes the importance of positive, helpful orientation. At the same time, it reveals the high costs of neglecting new employes in terms of lowered morale, reduced personal and departmental efficiency and increased employe turnover. The film also points out that the "first day" syndrome is not limited to newly employed persons. It can also happen to old hands when they are transferred to new departments or new locations. Audience: supervisors, managers, employes. Purchase, rental and preview information from Roundtable Films, Dept. SN, 113 N. San Vicente Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90211.

EAST AFRICA: ENDS AND BEGINNINGS. 16mm, b&w, sound, 48 min. An investigative report on the political, economic and social development in Kenya and Tanzania, including an extensive interview with Tanzanian President Julius K. Nyerere. In Kenya, under capitalism as implemented by President Kenyatta, business and trade are largely controlled by foreigners. There is increasing unemployment and poverty with life "not all that different from the way it was before independence." In Tanzania, people are working together toward socialism as outlined by the Arusha Declaration. Foreign investors must invest their profits in Tanzania so that Tanzanians may benefit. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$235 or rental \$11.75 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.