Launching New Technologies and Social Programs

**SPACE**

In 1964, nearly half of a $3 billion increase in national defense purchases is for space exploration. NASA devotes two-thirds of its $5 billion 1966 budget to fund programs for manned space flight, like the Gemini and Apollo missions.


**MEDICARE**

Medicare hospital insurance begins July 1, 1966, and in 1967, 92 percent of those 65 and older enroll. Medicare’s supplemental plan costs $3 a month; by June, nursing homes admit 200,000 seniors.


**MISSILES**

Missile production numbers 565,000 jobs in 1961 as the military shifts from steel-using materiel to fissionable-metal missiles. Antiballistic and land- and sea-based intercontinental ballistic missile orders rise substantially in 1969.


**GREAT SOCIETY**

To combat poverty, 1967 funding increases $1 billion for educational and economic opportunity programs, like Head Start and Job Corps, and reaches 1 million young people.

Photo: A youth program participant from Harlem, NY (pictured right), prepares for medical school at Wesleyan University. Charlotte Brooks, LOOK Magazine Collection, LOC, 1968.

Find more Survey history at www.bea.gov/scb/centennial/decades/1960s.htm