JAMES M. BOGGS
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THERE IS A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN
WHICH, TAKEN AT THE FLOOD, LEADS ON TO FORTUNE;
OMITTED, ALL THE VOYAGE OF THEIR LIFE
IS BOUND IN SHALLOWS AND IN MISERIES.

ON SUCH A FULL SEA ARE WE NOW AFLOAT,
AND WE MUST TAKE THE CURRENT WHEN IT SERVES
OR LOSE OUR VENTURES.

IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION, LET
ME SAY THAT THOSE ARE NOT MY WORDS.
I TOOK THEM, AS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE,
FROM SHAKESPEARE'S JULIUS CAESAR
BUT I BELIEVE THE QUOTATION TO
BE PERTINENT TO OUR SCENE.

FOR IN 1957 INDEED A STRONG TIDE WAS RUNNING. ON OCT 4 SPUTNIK HAD BEEN ORBITED, A DRAMATIC TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT REVEALING THE HIGH STATE OF RUSSIAN COMPETENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THEIR CLAIM OF AUGUST THAT THEY HAD AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE WAS CONFIRMED.

THE UNITED STATES WAS CHALLENGED. OUR PRIDE, AND OUR SECURITY WAS AT STAKE. IN WHAT DIRECTION WOULD THIS TIDE OF EVENTS MOVE? WOULD WE, COULD WE TAKE IT AT THE FLOOD, TAKE THE CURRENT WHEN IT SERVES

FIVE MONTHS AFTER SPUTNIK, IN MARCH OF 1958, A WHITE HOUSE DECISION WAS MADE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIVILIAN SPACE AGENCY. AND ON OCT. 1, 1958, ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR AFTER SPUTNIK, THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION WAS ESTABLISHED.

NASA WAS NOT AN ENTIRELY NEW CREATION. THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS WITH ITS WORKING LABORATORIES WAS THE FOUNDATION. HOWEVER, THE CHALLENGE FACED REQUIRED ENLARGEMENT OF THESE INTERNAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, THE INCORPORATION INTO NASA OF EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE CREATION OF NEW LABORATORIES AND NEW FACILITIES WITH AWESOME MISSIONS. A NEW CAPABILITY DESIGNED TO CARRY THIS NATION INTO SPACE WITH MANNED AND UNMANNED SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS WAS REQUIRED -- WITH ALL THAT IS IMPLICIT IN THAT SIMPLE STATEMENT.

IN THIS PERIOD, 1958-1961, KEITH GLENNAN, AS ADMINISTRATOR, HUGH DRYDEN AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND RICHARD HORNER AS ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR COMPOSED OF CONSTITUTED NASA'S TOP MANAGEMENT AND SKILLFULLY LAYED THE GROUND WORK FOR THE GREAT UNDERTAKINGS THAT WOULD FOLLOW.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WITH VISIONS OF MISSIONS NOT YET ANNOUNCED, INITIATED WITH VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON, A SEARCH FOR THE MAN WHO WOULD LEAD NASA IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

ONE GROUP OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS ADVOCATED
2 A SCIENTIST. OTHERS, INCLUDING SENATOR KEFAUVER, FELT THAT THE SPACE VENTURE REQUIRED A MANAGER WITH CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE, A MAN CAPABLE OF MOLDING THE U.S. EFFORT IN SPACE INTO A NATIONAL UNDERTAKING INCORPORATING GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND THE UNIVERSITIES, IN FACT THE WHOLE OF THE AMERICAN STRUCTURE.

AS WE ALL KNOW, JAMES EDWIN WEBB WAS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S CHOICE, AND HE WAS SWORN IN FEB 14, 1961

WHO WAS JAMES E. WEBB? —