

# HOUSTON JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

---

---

VOLUME 2

AUTUMN 1979

NUMBER 1

---

---

## SYMPOSIUM

### THE ROLE OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN OUTER SPACE — INTERNATIONAL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

#### INTRODUCTION

*James A. Michener\**

Enemies do not destroy nations; time and the loss of will brings them down. Therefore we should be most careful about retreating from the specific challenge of our age. We should be reluctant to turn back upon the frontier of this epoch. Space is indifferent to what we do; it has no feeling, no design, no interest in whether we grapple with it or not. But we cannot be indifferent to space, because the grand slow march of our intelligence has brought us, in our generation, to a point from which we can explore and understand and utilize it. To turn back now would be to deny our history, our capabilities.

Each era of history progresses to a point at which it is eligible to wrestle with the great problem of that period. For the ancient Greeks it was the organization of society; for the Romans it was the organization of empire; for the medievalists the spelling out of their relationship to God; for the men of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the mastery of the oceans; and for us it is the determination of how mankind can live in harmony on this finite globe while establishing relationships to infinite space.

All the thoughts of men are interlocked, and success in one area produces unforeseen successes in others. It is for this reason that a nation is obligated to pursue its adventure in space.

---

\* Author, historian, and Pulitzer Prize winner. A.B., 1929, Swarthmore College; A.M., 1937, University of Northern Colorado.