

February 18, 1971

*Space Program*

Mr. Joh Josserand  
P. O. Box 220  
Johnson, Kansas 67855

Dear Jon:

Thank you for your letter of February 13.

I am pleased to know of your outstanding background, particularly the honor of representing Kansas at the Space Seminar last summer. Judging from your highly perceptive comments, you made the most of this excellent opportunity to learn about the space program.

Needless to say, I share your interest in the success of the space program. While there have been cutbacks in funding for NASA, I expect space exploration to continue as scientists attempt to answer many unsolved questions. Also believe that those who advocate abandoning the space program now that we have placed men on the moon fail to recognize the many advancements made in the field of science as a result of the "fall-out" from this program, particularly in the field of medical knowledge.

Our mailing list is in the process of being computerized and it will be some time before we will be able to publish a newsletter. The only suggestion I have regarding obtaining of current information on legislation regarding the space program would be to subscribe to the Congressional Record. Enclosed is a page from the Record, containing the necessary information for ordering.

Also enclosed is information concerning the student intern program.

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Thank you again for sharing your views on the space program,  
and if I may be of assistance in any way, please let me  
know.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
U. S. Senate

BD:em

Enclosures

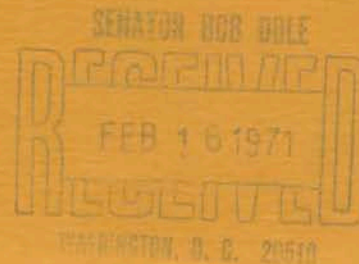
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February 13, 1970



Senator Robert Dole  
United States Senate  
New Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Dole,

I am a junior in high school this year and I am very concerned over the controversy of the space program. This summer, I had the honor to be selected as the outstanding sophomore and represent the state at the Hugh O'Brian/Pepsi Cola Space Seminar at Kennedy Space Center. During the week of the seminar, we were given an intensive look at the space program and were informed that we were the first group ever to be so completely briefed and toured.

I am concerned because of the general ignorance of the American public as a whole over the benefits derived from space. A popular cliché seems to be "If we can put a man on the moon we can surely . . .". My support of the space effort is based on the following reasons:

- \*The space effort is an effort in peace.
- \*Up to now, the technological benefits derived from research have been the results of funding of war research. It is wonderful that the main spearhead of government research funding is that in the interest of man instead of the conquering of one another.
- \*In indirect and direct benefits, space can virtually pay its cost back, if not refunding some. In communications, land evaluation, computer creation and engineering alone, space has become the prime creator. Medical research has saved hundreds of lives and a price can't be put on that. The public in general hasn't the least idea of just how much good the amount of research has done them or the amount of research that is funded by the space effort. I like to view the putting of a man on the moon as a by-product of this research. Space technology has touched every major industry, making products cheaper to produce, or of better quality.
- \*The space program creates a sense of national unity in supposedly troubled times.
- \*Nobody will ever be able to stop the human from exploring the unknown. That is part of our innate nature. If space isn't explored now it will someday so why argue on the validity or

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value of research. Why wait to explore them later if you have the capability to do it now.

I suggest that proper funding be provided for the two apollo launches that were canceled. The amount funding the launch these vehicles is peanuts compared to the amount it took to create them. Also, the amount of scientific knowledge acquired from the moon with each additional landing is tenfold to the landing before it.

Funding should be provided for the space shuttle and space station projects. Indeed, these projects have been designed to reduce the cost of the overall study of space.

I remember well what we were told by an engineer one evening. "All scientific research passes through three stages. The first is planning and initial testing for the feasibility. The second is actual research and evaluation. The third is application to technology. With the end of the apollo launchings, we will have completed the first step."

I would like to be put on the mailing list for any youth type publication that you might have. I would also like to be put on any type of mailing list that would tell me of current legislation in Congress concerning the space program. I have heard of your student internship program and would like to know more about it.

Incidentally, even though I am Student Council-Student Body President for my school, I am still against the 18-year old vote but I will accept the responsibility of it and exercise it.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

