

2832 St. George Street, Apt. 6
Los Angeles, California 90027

June 10, 1974

Dr. William Pickering
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, California 91103

Dear Dr. Pickering:

Professor Hetherington of the University of Kansas has informed me that a paper he authored concerning the historical development of Gravity Assisted trajectories entitled "Gravitational Thrust: The Development and Application of an Idea," has been accepted for publication in Aerospace Historian. The paper contains much information supplied by JPL and, in particular, by Mr. Victor Clarke, Jr., which he knows to be false and totally misleading. Last year I supplied Professor Hetherington with detailed information on the historical development, but he has apparently decided to disregard it and accept Clarke's version.

If the paper is published I have decided to initiate a law suit that will involve JPL and Clarke in particular. I have been extremely patient for several years hoping that certain supervisors on your staff would recognize that they can not distort history to suit their own needs. However, it seems that the situation can only be rectified by a law suit. I have hired an attorney, and he has in his possession certain documents which will prove my case in the event a law suit is initiated.

I am enclosing copies of correspondence between myself and Hetherington for background information. My latest letter to Hetherington contains a very detailed personal account of the historical development, of which you are probably not aware.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael A. Minovitch

MAM:mbh

ENC.

CC: Dr. Harold Brown