

Red Bell

Quarters 811
Redstone Arsenal
Huntsville, Alabama
March 28, 1957

Dr. A. V. Grosse
Director
Temple Research Institute
4150 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Grosse:

Your letter of January 21, 1957 to Dr. Wernher von Braun has been sent by him to me. Your offer of assistance is very gratifying. One of the really heartwarming things about my current situation is the fact that my friends have been willing to help out wherever possible.

As you know, the decision has been made to proceed with the court-martial charges that have been preferred against me. Many of these charges are virtually unsubstantiated. The investigating officer recommended dropping the most serious of these, including the one about passing a document to Drew Pearson. I, therefore, do not expect more than a five hundred dollar fine.

In your letter you mentioned some very nice things concerning my character and ability. In all kinds of trials it is important that the witness have presence and that his testimony carry punch. Unfortunately, scientists in general are not too good along these lines; however, you and Dr. Dunning and Dr. von Braun have these qualities in large measure. Therefore, my attorneys think that you would make a big contribution to the defense if you would consent to appear as a witness. It would be very helpful if in addition to character you could cover my ability to coordinate development and operational matters. It would be helpful if you could mention my work with Temple Research Institute and American Cyanamid Company in getting the cyanogen high temperature facilities started. In addition, there was some work with your organization concerning advanced fuels for rocket propulsion.

Thanks again for your very fine moral support.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Nickerson

P. S. It is expected the trial will take place sometime in May, possibly around May 14th. Your turn on the witness stand would come probably around May 17th or May 18th. When these details become more firm we will inform you immediately.