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A Division of Northrop Corporation
Huntsville District Office, 3322 Memorial Parkway, S.W.
Holiday Office Center, Huntsville, Alabama 539-4481

NORTHROP SPACE LABORATORIES

Office of the Manager

PERSONAL

23 May 1963

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1962
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor George C. Wallace
Governor's Mansion
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Governor Wallace:

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet you personally last night while you were in Huntsville. It was also reassuring to hear your affirmation of your belief in the free enterprise system and your assurance of a cooperative welcome to new industries coming to Alabama.

One of the tasks which we in the Aerospace Industry must face in building sizable operations in Huntsville is to lure experienced people from their present location, and, as you are well aware, this means luring them from California to Huntsville. One of the difficulties which I have encountered is that the image of Alabama to the uninformed non-resident is not good because of the racial problem which is currently receiving so much attention outside of our State. As an illustration, on the day following publication of your inaugural address in Los Angeles, two engineers with graduate degrees who had agreed to move to Huntsville changed their minds with the explanation that "they didn't want to get into a racial mess such as occurred in Mississippi".

In this morning's mail I received the enclosed clipping from the Los Angeles Times which is further evidence of the extent to which Alabama's national image is being distorted. You are certainly entitled to your opinions, which you have often publicly stated, and I fully recognize your obligations as the Chief Executive of the State. It has been said by a philosopher wiser than I that, "one cannot by reason change another from conclusions which he has reached without reason", and I will not attempt to do so. May I suggest, however, as a representative of the Aerospace Industry and a resident of Alabama, by choice, that this problem be handled within the laws of our Nation and

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with the dignity and wisdom which the citizens of Alabama have a right to expect from their Chief Executive. I offer for your review the following well known prayer:

> "Lord, give me the courage to change the things which ought to be changed, the serenity to accept those things which cannot be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other."

I write this letter to you personally and in confidence, with the interests of the State of Alabama and its industrial growth in mind. Recognizing your heavy and diverse responsibilities, I trust that you will produce a climate which will distinguish Alabama as being as progressive in the social field as it is now known to be in the technical and space fields.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

J. A. Barclay

JAB:cp
Enclosure

J. A. Barclay, Manager
Northrop/Huntsville Dept.