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IN REPLY REFER TO:

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SPACE AGE

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The Space Age clocks on. Never before have basic alterations in fundamental knowledge, in practical engineering, and for an universal perspective been thrust so quickly upon mankind.

Within the past three breathless weeks, RANGER IX made the third historic picture-taking strike on the pockmarked surface of the moon, Cosmonaut Leonov made the first ten-minute "walk" or "swim" in hostile space outside of VOSKHOD II, and, by Gemini, MOLLY BROWN was piloted into three different orbits by Astronaut Grissom. MARINER IV, now over half-way to the planet Mars, will report in on July 14th. I do not know what these events in space mean to you but I am glad for the opportunity to share my observations.

What is the confrontation presented man's ideas, institutions, and capabilities by the wholesale challenge of space science and technology? Tersely, it can be said that space mobility is at once a revolutionary tool of the sciences for evaluating extraterrestrial nature, a national instrumentality for power and prestige, an international impetus for both cooperation and competition among the technically-advanced nations, a new medium for projection of man's historic quest to express his insatiable curiosity and to explore his accessible environment, and, perhaps above all else, an innovation expanding and thus challenging man's traditional thoughts concerning his place in a dynamic and shrinking universe.