FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston 9/7

CONTACT:
Dick Dougherty

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN
AT THE MANNED SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

I believe in the space program.

I believe in the kind of space effort which will yield a maximum return for science and the economy from every dollar that we spend.

The question is not whether we are for or against the space program, but what kind of space program best serves our national priorities and best realizes our scientific potential.

The manned space program has marshalled the country's scientific genius in pursuit of a single goal and has brought us additional benefits from the spin-off of space technology into other civilian fields. But the program has proven to be too costly, as even Mr. Nixon has conceded--and it provides too few economic, social, and scientific benefits, even with all of its spin-offs.

I am convinced that the future American space effort should focus on unmanned exploration and on the Earth Resources Experimentation Package--a satellite designed to monitor natural resources, natural disasters, agricultural blight, and forest fires, and to improve arms control inspection capacity. These are now our most important goals in space--and they can be met for an expenditure of approximately $2 billion a year.

This kind of program does not have to lead to the unemployment of skilled scientists, engineers, and production workers. It has during the Nixon years, because the Nixon administration has never planned for the transfer of aerospace skills to other high technology areas. They have eliminated 500,000 aerospace jobs since they took office. They have eliminated 1.8 million jobs in defense-related industries. And they have done this without even thinking about new jobs to replace the ones they have destroyed. Richard Nixon's entire answer to the need for economic conversion and adjustment is a penniless and powerless federal committee which has only ten employees, which meets only quarterly, and which has absolutely no field offices. As a result, record numbers of space personnel are out of work in 1972.

A McGovern administration will make economic conversion a top priority. I have already called for a new federal investment of $10 billion to apply aerospace and defense capacity to different challenges --for example, the production of space-age medical equipment, the development of computer operated mass transit systems, and the control of pollution. I make the same commitment to aerospace workers that I have made to all American workers: Under a McGovern administration, you will have a job opportunity consistent with your skills and your experience.

No aerospace or defense job will be eliminated until a comparable civilian job has been created in a full-employment, peacetime economy.

It is time for a space program that is reasonable, and for a rational plan to adapt the genius of space technology to more of our needs here on earth.

#######

NASA - Houston

1- Bldg 5 and then Bldg #7

In 7 where pictures were filmed showing Skylab experiment where 3 Astronauts in Tank for 44 days in Simulated Skylab Mission - Will stay in 56 days. Raining hard now into Holiday Inn for MCB talk to Unemployed Engineers at 2:00 PM Films were taken & Robert interview now putting me on a Spot. Prior Auto MCB Board Meeting at 245 for Trip to Augusta and on to Peoria