"ON THE CHAMPAIGN TRAIL
WITH A PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL"

September 5th, 1972 begins a week in my life that I will never forget. As the DC10, United flight #109 ~~rolls~~ TAXIS unto the runway to take off from O Hare Field, Illinois at 1pm in the afternoon, ~~begins~~ STARTS this exciting experience of being with Senator Mc Govern and his campaign party for approximately 1 week.

As the plane ~~taxis~~ ROLLS down the runway, for a person who had never been an AN airplane before - aside from approximately 20 years ago, riding in a Piper Cub, the thought entered into my mind "What ~~was~~ IS going to happen?" What, with all the meeting of the press, talking with Senator Mc Govern, skipping through out the country - what would all this bring - and what kind of an impression it WILL leave me as a so called average voter from Rolling Meadows, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago here in the great mid-west of the United States.

I am to be a subject of an up-coming TV show which gives an average middle American in the income class, an opportunity to describe his views concerning what he sees and hears while he accompanys Senator Mc Govern on his tour throughout the midwestern states and to the northern part of this country. ~~The campaign is gaining speed now as I~~

The plane is gaining speed and ~~now~~ as I observe the ground swiftly moving by, I suddenly realize that the airplane is now off the ground. For the 1st time in my life I get the sensational feeling of being uplifted. My stomach is a bit tense, as would be expected - and for those of you who have ever been on the Bobs at Riverview in the old days in Chicago, you know exactly how I felt if you were climbing the 1st hill.

The music on the loudspeaker in the plane plays "Beautiful Ohio" and as we proceed west in route to Los Angeles, California, where I will pick up the rest of our team that will produce this show, I look to my right and down and behold I can see the very house in which

I live. Just a little dot litterally hundreds of feet below. The DC 10 is climbing high now, as we preceed westward I begin to realize WHAT a real opportunity I have right before ME. The plane is completely filled with over 250 passengersand of course with our seat belt fastened, there really isn't an opportunity as yet to move around and get to know anybody.

Shortly the captain is to say that we are flying at 35,000 feet and crusing at approximately 600 mph and as I look below the Kansas fields of wheat are seen ~~below me~~ and shortly now the captain will tell us that we will be flying over the rim of the Grand Canyon. The weather is beautiful and when we approach the eastern edge of the Grand Canyon, quite a sight is to be beheld. I am amazed at the smoothness of the ride - thinking that I might just as well be riding in a car.

Dinner is now served and what a meal it is - consisting of pork, fish salad, augratin potatos, cheesecake, peach and for dessert we had some chocolate pudding. We are allowed, of course to roam through the aircraft and I have an opportunity to talk to some of the people telling them that very shortly, upon MY ~~our~~ arrival in Los Angeles, a team of camera men, sound men, news correspondent, and other people of the N-Pact group will be awaiting my arrival. I Noticed as we are desending into the area above the landing field in Los Angeles that a slight pain has occured over my right eye due to the decrease of pressure throughout the cabin as we are starting to descend for our landing. However, this is just a momentary thing and just before we arrive at the Los Angeles International Airport, a stewardess so kindly comes through the plane and gives everyone a hot towel to wipe and freshen our face.

As we land on schedule, the thought comes into my mind, just what is going to happen when I get off the airplane, and who will be there to GREET ~~meet~~ me. The plane lands on time and with the number of people on the plane there is a great crowd awaiting our arrival.

As I ~~ran~~ WALK through the ramp, leading from the plane, being pushed along with the crowd, I suddenly make a left and before me in the arrival room I see many people among them being some cameras and lighting equipment. I hear the news correspondent of the show announce that "There he is" - and immediately all light turned on and cameras are grinding. The news correspondent meets and greets me with the usual "How was the trip west" and "Did you enjoy it" - small talk. However, as I move forward everyone is wondering just who am I?

An amusing incident takes place ~~happens~~ NOW when an elderly woman who was standing there waiting the arrival of one of her loved ones, notices all the cameras attention to myself and in turning to the producer of our show, she asked the question, "who is that man?" The producer of the show wanted to go along with her and said to the elderly person, "why that is MR. Richard Johnson. What an impression this must have made with her because she immediately went Ohhhhhhh! And of course ~~the~~ SHE didn't know me from the man in the moon.

After obtaining my luggage ~~off the plane~~, we preceeded to 2 cars where upon the news correspondent of the show interviewed me regarding how I felt concerning the election up to this point and also a few impressions that I had as to what was to be expected during the on-coming week. This interview ~~took~~ TAKES place in the car as we ~~were~~ ARE proceeding to our hotel in Los Angeles which is the Hilton and when we arrived, ~~of course~~ we checked in our baggage and ~~were~~ ASSIGNED ~~assigned~~ to our rooms.

That evening, which was a Tuesday, Senator Mc Govern was to give a short speech ~~there~~ at the hotel, however, I was advised that I would be unable to attend due to the fact that they wanted me to be fresh in the morning whereupon we were going to have the opportunity to listen to the Senator speak to a group of Rabbis that were going to be assembled in the ~~Wil-shire~~ LOS ANGELES Room of the hotel.

Due to the fact that we had nothing to do for the rest of the evening, the producer and myself had supper on the top floor of the Occidental Hotel overlooking the expansive city of Los Angeles. After returning to the hotel at about 11pm in the evening, we retired to bed awaiting the dawn of Wednesday, ~~of~~ September 6th which was to be something quite different in my life.

DAY 2

At 7 o'clock in the morning I was awakened ~~with~~ by the hotel phone to let me know that I must get up in order to meet the press and obtain all my credentials and passes because at 9:45 in the morning , we were going to be present at a talk in the ~~Wilshire~~ L.A. Room. Senator Mc Govern was to give a talk speaking to a group of religious ~~rabis~~ Rabbis. This was my 1st exposure to an actual ~~Rally.~~ SPEECH. And after the room was filled with the ~~rabis~~ Rabbis, their wives and families and the press, the doors were closed and then entered Senator Mc Govern. I listened attentively as he discussed briefly the problems of the Olympics - whereas, some members of the Israeli wrestling team were killed by ~~some~~ Arab fanatics and in this conversation to the ~~rabis~~ Rabbis, Senator Mc Govern places the blame solely on the 2 countries of Egypt and Lebanon.

What seems to impress me the most at this meeting was the fact that it was so disorganized to begin with, It appeared that more people were invited to attend then there were seats for them at the breakfast. However as I later describe this continual action as ~~disorganization~~ DISORGANIZED organization things seem to be accomplised and in about 1/2 hour the Senator was through and an answer and question period then took place ~~for approx 15 min~~. Upon completion of this, I was then interview by the N-Pact people relating to them my observations and impressions of the Senator Mc Govern talk. I was a bit upset at the loudness of press row when Senator Mc Govern was speaking, however I found out later that this was not unusual. It seemed to me that ~~it could have been~~ a little more courtesy could be given to the Senator as he was speaking to the public.

Shortly thereafter, we all went aboard the chartered buses to take us down to the Los Angeles convention center to hear the Senator speak to a convention of IAM Machinest Workers. I was surprised when they seated me right below the podium where the Senator was speaking and again I was amused at the fact just prior to the Senator speaking the convention had listened to the opening speech by Ronald Reagen of Calif. After the completion of the speech by Senator Mc Govern, a roll call was taken by the convention to see if they could get a majority to endorse Senator Mc Govern for Presidetn. However up to the time we had left they were still debating the issue and it seemed that the convention was split down the middle. After we left the convention hall, the news correspondent of the N-Pact program interviewed me on my reaction to

what ~~my-reaction~~ was going on. At this point I seemed to be utterly confused. First hearing 1 side of the coin and then the other and then to climax everything, people at the convention were undecided on which way to turn. At the convention hall we had some light finger sandwiches for lunch with coffee and immediately we returned by bus tothe airport for take off to our next city that afternoon which was to be San Diego, Calif.

At the San Diego Airport we were to visit a Tel~~adine~~ TELADYNE Plant of aerospace workers upon which Senator Mc Govern was just to ~~had~~ have a hand ~~shakeing~~ SHAKING and a general talk with the workers. It was here at the ~~Teledine~~ Teladyne Plant that, of course, being given the opportunity to come quite close to Senator Mc Govern at all times, I had the opportunity to shake his hand for the 1st time. And this was quite an exciting experience for me. Very unusual experience happen to me however. It seemed that I made an attempt to get around to the other side of the Senator to get closer to him and in moving over to the other side, one of the secret service men grabed my arm and held ~~be~~ me and I quite couldn't understand ~~that~~ what the problem was. This happened 1 other time shortly thereafter and finally the producer of the show had to warn me that the secret service did not like anybody to move fast. So consequently, from that point on, I did not move in a hurried fashion whatsoever.

After completion of the stop here at San Diego, we ~~order~~ boarded the charter United 727 and upon being seated we had our usual 7 & 7 to relax a bit and then we were headed for Dallas, Texas. The trip to Dallas should take about 1 1/2 hours and we are advised that we will be going over some beautiful sceanery of the mountains of either Arizona or California and therefore we have time to take pictures out the window after we have climbed through the clouds. We have had our 1st experience with rainy weather, but once we get above the ~~clouds~~ CLOUDS the sun is shining brightly and it is a fantistic sight. I have time now to take notes and write in by book and as I am doing this, the cameras are again grinding and it seems kind of unusual for me that they would waste, as I call it, film on scenes such as this. Oneof the unusual impressions that is left with me at this time is the vast amount OF YOUTH that are working with Senator Mc Govern on this campaign tour. I have just had a talk with one of the young ladies in charge of making reservations

throughout the cities visited during the tour and also keeping up with the releases and statements regarding speeches of the Senator. And I am greatly impressed with the fact that being so young she has such a responsible job.

The stewardess now comes and askes if we are interested in supper and if we care for another drink. And this is the continual pattern of service that they give to you. They always ask of what service they can be.

After completion of supper the producer of the show informs me that they are using about 12 to 1 footage on the film which is just about average. He states that things are going along fine. The pilot of the charter comes down through the aisle and askes if anybody would be interested to see the plane fly from the captain's chair. I immediately arose, and since I was given the opportunity, I went down into the cockpit of the plane and believe me, the impression I was left with was the fact that the plane truly flys itself. There were 4 dials that were in an "on" position and it seemed that all 4 people that were to be flying the airplane, a pilot, a co-pilot, flight engineer, and I don't know who the other fellow was, were just sitting there talking with each other.

It is about 8:15pm now and what a beautiful sight to see the big "D" at night. After landing on schedule we went immediately to the Fairmont Hotel where Senator Mc Govern had a speech and Rally. There was a Dixie Land Band there, and I would say approx. 2,000 people but the speech itself was rather dull. An amusing incident happened while I was again standing right beneath the podium where Senator Mc Govern was standing, there was a gentleman to my right who was reciting along the speech with Mc Gover After a couple of paragraphs had been completed, this man said a different word than Mc Govern, and he immediately made the remark that "Oh, the Senator goofed it up again." In asking the gentleman if he was a writer for Senator Mc Govern, he replied to me that "No, he was just a regular press man, after you become acquainted with listening to as many speeches as I have, you begin to learn them by heart." It appeared to me that the reaction of the people present AT Senator Mc Govern's speech was quite cool. As far as I was concerned, it appeared that again it seemed the people listenening were split regarding being

~~split regarding~~ for or against the Senator.

Upon arrival in our Hotel room we set up the cameras and light for what we referred to as "the tel ephone seeas." ~~The scene~~ This was the scene nightly at all the hotels where I would call ~~by~~ MY wife back in Rolling Meadows and let her know what happened to us during the day. This conversation was to be the narration for the TV program. Finally, about midnight, we completed the call and it was quite interesting because Mary Ann, my wife, did not realize that her part of the conversation was being taped for use on the TV ~~program~~ SHOW. After saying "Good night" to everyone, I was advised that we were again to be awaken at 7am because we were going to have another full day, beginning at a supermarket in downtown Dallas.

DAY 3

Thursday morning, September 7th, was a beautiful day as it dawned over Dallas, Texas. Senator Mc Govern was scheduled to visit many people at a supermarket in downtown Dallas at about 10am. So it meant that I had a few hours to do some sightseeing and to take a few pictures and buy some gifts for the kids before we were to leave.

The buses finally arrived at about 9:30am and we all boarded from the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel to take us to the supermarket. As we all managed to get through the doors and get into the supermarket, and they were finally closed, it appeared to me that I was in the middle of a football stadium with such a great crowd present.

Senator Mc Govern was shaking hands with everyone, asking them ~~different~~ questions concerning different problems they may have such as food pricing or general ~~ware~~ WORS in connection with the economic squeezes of today. People were ~~also~~ discussing ~~their~~ problems concerning taxes and in response and dialog of the Senator and the people, I got the impression that he was sincere in trying to tell them of his plans of how he could help them if he were elected in November. In questioning an 86 year old negro, Senator Mc Govern asked him if he were still working. The negro replied, "I sure am" but he said that "everything was out of sight, man, and something will have to give somewhere." The Senator assured the gentleman that he would do what he could if he was elected to alleviate this man's plight.

After being pushed and shoved around and in close quarters for approx. 45 minutes we finally made a complete tour of the supermarket. Upon finally arriving outside, we were ~~all~~ relieved that we were still all alive. I sincerely believe that Senator Mc Govern made a good impression with the majority of the people ~~he that~~ he talked with - and ~~I do believe~~ that this visit was quite successful.

Again we board the buses for the ride back to the airport ~~inas much~~ as our next destination is Houston Texas - about 200 miles to the south and east. On the airplane to Houston, I had the opportunity

to converse with some well known newspaper men who gave me a little insight on what this activity of a campaign tour was all about. As we were discussing the subject matter, it appeared that the weather became quite rough and the trip from Dallas to Houston was a little bumpy.

It has just been called to everybodys attention that we are running a little bit late due to the fact that Senator Mc Govern had a personal call with former President Johnson this morning. I'm sure that this talk helped Senator Mc Govern as he proceeded on the campaign trail.

Upon arrival in Houston it was raining off and on and inasmuch as we had to wait about 10 minutes at the airport for the arrival of the Senator's plane "Dakota Queen II", we all got quite wet. However this did not distil the enthusiasm of the people at the airport. Upon Senator Mc Govern's ~~ar~~ arrival the usual "fence scene" took place and upon completion of this in a few moments of introductory talk with some local officials, we all boarded buses to take us to the ~~Nassau~~ NASA Center where we were going to view a sky lab experiment of 3 astronauts that were being assimilated in one of the vast warehouses, in preparation for an actual flight next year.

As the Senator viewed the experiment on closed CIRCUIT TV ~~circuit~~, we all had an opportunity to witness ~~to~~ this. After talking with the ~~Asnt~~ astronauts in side the vat, Senator Mc Govern proceeded to talk with some of the workers at the space center. After completion of this conversation we again boarded the buses and went to a Holiday Inn close by where the Senator was to talk to some unemployed engineers regarding what he could do for them if he were elected President. The short speech centered around the fact of conversion ~~to~~ FROM military to civilian jobs and my impression was that not too many of the engineers or other people present could quite accept what he had to offer.

Some of the comments overheard were; "I don't see how he could possibly do this. If there is a reduction of the spending of military monies, how can we expect to have jobs on a civilian basis." There again, I feel that upon leaving the Holiday Inn that there was a mixed emotion regarding

Senator Mc Govern's conversations. And once again we boarded the buses to go back to the airplane because now we are headed for Peoria, Ill.

An RARE incident happened on this flight from Houston to Peoria, as the two planes jockeyed back and forth very close to one another and it gave the people in the airplane a chance to take pictures of each others plane. Of course I don't think this is general in air flight, but it gave all of us an opportunity to get some excellent pictures.

The flight from Houston to Peoria took a little over 1 hour and an unusual thing happened as we approached the Peoria airport - believe it or not - we were put into a holding position and it took about 10 minutes before we could finally land. This is most unusual for a small airport.

While in Peoria, Senator Mc Govern will visit with some night shift workers who are eating supper. And at this time he will talk and visit with them, asking various questions concerning some of the programs he will stand for in this election year. We have just been advised that our East St. Louis stop has been scrubbed because of the lateness of our schedule.

Upon arriving at the lunchroom of the Caterpillar Tractor Works, Senator Mc Govern immediately started to converse with the workers there. Taxes, food prices, and the Viet Nam War seemed to be the main issues and once again I left with the impression that there were mixed emotions concerning the reception of Senator Mc Govern. One of the questions that stuck in my mind was the Eagleton affair and it appeared to me that many of the workers present were most upset with the fact that Senator Mc Govern had dropped him from his ticket. We have just been advised that tomorrow we will be able to fly with Senator Mc Govern in his plane and we are all looking forward to that.

Upon leaving the Peoria Airport we are now headed to Rockford, Ill. to the extreme northwest part of the state of Illinois. We land in Rockford at about 8:15pm and for the 1st time in the

whole campaign up to this point, I get the feeling that I am really on a campaign tour during an election year. The crowd that greeted us at the Rockford Airport was quite substantial and with the band playing and the banners waving in thewind it seemed to stir all of us into a feeling of actually BEING in an election year campaign. Senator Mc Govern was received very enthusastically here and I honestly believe that this stop in Rockford was the most successful one in the whole tour while I was with him.

Upon arrival at the Hotel which was about 10!;5 pm I made the usual telephone call to my wife to let her know what an exciting day I had. After completeingthis, being quite tired, I decided to retire - but some of the N-Pact team wanted to get something to eat and asked if I would like to come along. I was glad I went because while eating and conversing with some of the reporters accompanying us on the trip, I heard many stories from the past in which only pressmen who were present at the events, could relate. Finally about 1:15am we all said our ados and went back to our Hotel to be awakened the next morning again at sunrise for the beginning of a new day.

DAY 4

As I awoke at 7:30am on Friday morning, September 8th, the thought entered into my mind - "What would I say to Senator Mc Govern when I have the opportunity to be on his plane today, if perchance I would meet him." After having the usual breakfast of orange juice, Canadian bacon and eggs, we boarded the buses in Rockford to proceed to an elderly peoples home in the suburbs of the city. Here Senator Mc Govern was to have a short speech and discuss issues with the senior citizens concerning those things that pertain to their station of life.

Just prior to boarding the buses, one of the aids of Senator Mc Govern stated there would be a short press conference at the hotel as Senator Mc Govern wanted to issue an announcement in connection with his stand concerning President Nixon's wheat deal with Russia.

On the trip to the old peoples home I again was again interviewed by 2 or 3 reporters asking the usual guestions. What my reactions were to being chosen as the average middle american - being able to take this trip with Senator Mc Govern, etc.

After this short visit we again board the press buses and moved on to the airport. The N-Pact team and myself now had the opportunity to fly with Senator Mc Govern in the "DAKOTA Queen II" and as I boarded the plane, at once I could sense a complete different atmosphere was taking place. As things were quite relaxed and informal on the press plane - upon entering the "Dakota Queen II" an about change was made. Everyone seemed so formal. I felt an air of importance about me and as I look into the airplane, I could see that approximately half way down the center of the plane was a big curtain and evidently Senator Mc Govern swite was just beyond. I noticed a group of hotel room keys fastened unto the ceiling of the airplane and I was told that it was a customary practice that the pressmen take a key from each hotel room where they stayed on the tour.

We were all immediately given a "cooks tour" of the plane and watch the reporters and pressmen in action as they were going about their duties of filing reports. After getting back to my seat to relax

an aid of Senator Mc Govern came down into our section of the plane and asked the producer of our show if I would like to have an informal chat with Senator Mc Govern. Of course the producer was elated and advised the aid we would see him in about 10 minutes. And I was promptly advised of what was to take place. Shortly thereafter I was summoned and upon entering into the Senator's quarters I noticed he was sitting in a breakfast nook awaiting my arrival. Upon completion of the usual formalities of introduction, we discussed in brief non-political issues and I found it quite easy to be able to converse with the Senator as he made me feel quite at home in his presence.

Every day on the tour a "pool report" was prepared concerning the various activities that the Senator was going to discuss or depending on the time of the pool report, what had already occured. Shown below is a copy of the report of Sept 8th in part. (POOL REPORT) From this a short resume of this informal conversation is seen. Of course, there are a couple cameras grinding and still pictures being taken and I was surprised when someone mentioned that the interview took approximately 20 minutes. I thought it was just about 5 minutes.

Upon arrival in Duluth, Minn. we boarded the buses for the trip across the state line into Superior, Wisc. where the Senator was to have a short talk and informal greetings with workers and people at A local Grainery in Superior. I was notadvised that for the rest of the afternoon visit at Superior, I was to play reporter. A mike was hooked UNDER COAT my and as we were at the grainery I visited and talked with people asking them questions about this visit of Senator Mc Govern and what chance they think he has in the upcoming election.

Again the air was crisp, the scenery hilly, and this part of the good old USA is really beautiful - truly the old description of "land of sky-blue waters" appropriate.

At approx. 2:30pm we left the city of Duluth and while flying entoute south to DES MOINES, Iowa, lunch was served and as I always say, the food was excellent on the plane.

Upon the arrival at DES MOINES Demoines Airport we were again visited by some local prominant people. However a change of pattern was ~~not~~ to take place. Instead of having the speech and rally upon arrival - the plans were set that we were 1st to go visit a farm in Waukee, Iowa which is about 10 miles west of DES MOINES ~~Demoines~~ and visit a farm ~~the~~ at which time the Senator was to chat with farmer Broderick and discuss issues with him concerning the problems of being a farmer and in this occupation. It seems that the jest of the conversation centered around the excessive taxation and also the great expense of replacement of machinery. The Senator assured Mr. Broderick that if he were elected that he would do everything in his power to help him.

While on the farm in DES MOINES ~~Demoins~~, I had the opportunity to be intereviewed by one of the Chgo newspapers and I was happy to find that when I got back to Rolling Meadows, a very nice article concerning Senator Mc Govern's trip to ~~Demoines~~. TO THIS IOWA City.

Upon arrival back at the airport, Senator Mc Govern had a post-airport rally and this was quite lengthly inasmuch as his speech lasted almost 45 minutes. Here again he duscussed the issues ~~of~~ utmost in his mind . Some of them being the "Watergate bugging", the grain sale to Russia, and the possibility of having debates with President Nixon. We had the opportunity to meet the Senator's sister and also some of the political figureheads here in the DES MOINES ~~Demoins~~ area. The reception to Senator Mc Govern was just luke warm and though it was a lengthly speech, I was impressed by the fact that people were becoming a bit nonchalant about the whole affair towards the end of the speech.

After boarding the planes and now, I am again on the press plane, we were advised that out next town was to be Albuquerque, New Mexico and we had an approx 2 1/2 hour flight ahead of us .

We landed in Albuquerque about 7pm mountain time, and what a beautiful sight to behold. The city is located on a flat area surrounded by a group of mountains which are called in part "The Watermelon Mountains." Although dusk was just SETTL setteling, I said I could hardly wait for the following morning to

view this beautiful country in the sunshine. It was amusing that only about 100 to 150 people were at the airport when we arrived - but the local paper in the morning screamed the headlines that a great reception received the Senator upon his arrival at the airport yesterday. We were motored to the Hilton Hotel there in Albuquerque and upon arrival ~~was~~ assigned to our rooms - and sure enough - there ~~were~~ was our baggage awaiting our pick-up after being delivered from the hotel we stayed in the previous evening in Rockford, Ill.

It has been called to my attention at this time that a great emergency has just arose. It seems that one of Senator Mc Govern's aids has informed the producer of our show that the ~~sech~~ scheduled interview with the Senator for tomorrow has been canceled. All efforts by the producer of our N-Pact show failed to change the aide's mind and it seems that the focal point of our TV program would be centered around this interview.

This morning in Rockford, the news correspondent of our N-Pact team had left for Washington DC because he had a Friday evening program which he must moderate. It appears our only hope at this point for this interview tomorrow would have the correspondent return again to Albuquerque adn see if he could use his influence to persuade Senator McGovern's aid to change his mind. Therefore a phone call will be necessary to ask our correspondent To return via a new plane tomorrow. The only business left to do tonight was to have our usual phone call with Mary Ann to relate to her the events of the day. After the phone call, being quite late, I left word with the hotel to call me at 8am the next morning and off to bed I went.

DAY 5

Saturday, September 9th, the usual phone call awoke me at 8am and after having my shower and not having to dress up in formal today, I went down to the lobby of the hotel where I was advised that Senator Mc Govern was to have a breakfast press conference at 10:30am and everyone was invited to be present. The main thought on all of our minds in the N-Pact team was - are we going to be able to have our interview this afternoon or are we going to leave Albuquerque 1 day earlier than planned. My hotel room here at the Hilton was located on the top floor and what a beautiful view of the mountains in the distance could be seen. I took a few pictures and wrote some more information in my diary and about 10:30am we all went down to breakfast in the Bolero Room. What a spread this turned out to be.

At the completion of the breakfast, Senator Mc Govern gave a short talk regarding political issues within the Democratic Party. In New Mexico it seems that the party is split down the middle between 2 various factors. He made every effort he could possible to attempt bringing them together.

After the ~~short~~ speech was over, Senator McGovern went ~~to~~ table hopping saying good morning to everyone present. All people in the room were advised at this time that the "lid was off" meaning that no more interviews or conferences would be further conducted that day as Senator Mc Govern was tired and needed a day of rest.

You can imagine the thoughts going through our minds when this bomb was dropped. We had nothing to do but await the arrival of our news correspondent who was our only hope to see if our interview could still be carried out.

Mc Govern's aid was very persistant stating that if there was any political questions on Mr. Johnson's mind, he should have asked the Senator these points yesterday while he was talking with him on the plane. But in that interview, I had made mention of the fact that we were going to have another interview today and that was the reason I had saved these questions until ~~Saturday's~~ TODAY'S interview.

DAY 5 - 2

As soon as our news correspondent arrived at the hotel, he was advised by our producer of the dilemma that existed. It was amazing how in the matter of 5 minutes, the interview was on after our correspondent had talked with the Senator's aid. And once again all our spirits were raised and the thought again went through my mind that I will have another interview with the possible president of the United States.

The interview was scheduled for 3pm in the afternoon therefore we had a few hours to ourselves. I went back ~~up~~ to ~~my~~ hotel room and itwas situatied ~~as~~ THAT ~~AS~~ we could look down below, the swimming pool of the hotel WAS in full view. A most interesting sight was to be beheld as when I looked down upon the swimming pool, I noticed Senator Mc Govern sitting all by himself in a pair of swimming trunks, putting suntan lotion on himself like you or I. However at all the ~~talbes~~ TABLES surrounding the poot were seated the secret service watching over the Senator. A most unusual scene it was.

I played a little ping pong and just relaxed until just about 2:30pm at which time I put on my finery again and the correspondent and I were awaiting the arrival of Senator Mc Govern for the interview which was to be conducted in approximately 1/2 hour. ~~in my hotel room.~~ This interview was to be held in my hotel room and of course, by this time, the lighting and camera crew had completed their work and we were all awaiting the arrival of the Senator.

At about 3:15 pm there was a knock on the door and one of the Senator's aids came in and said there was a delay and that the Senator would not be present until approx. 5pm. So this just gave me 2 more hours of butterflies, however, what else could we do but wait. This went on a couple more times, this seeming delay. It was apparent to our producer that he thought the interview would never be consummated. However at about 7:15pm there was a ~~know and~~ knock at the door and a very big man came walking in, looked aroudn and signaled to the hallway and into ~~the~~ MY room stepped Senator Mc Govern.

The interview only lasted approximately 5 minutes, however, the 2 main issues that were on my mind were ~~disucce~~ discussed ~~and were~~ AND TO BE used later on the the TV program. The first issue had to ~~due~~ do with

what could Senator Mc Govern do for myself and others in my status of life as a middle income voter in the area of tax credits and tax relief. The Senator stated that his proposal would be to block the loop holes of big corporations and enforce them to pay to the government approx 22 billion dollars of ADDED taxes of which the Senator would give back to the people THRU the local governments, about 15 billion dollars. The other point I brought up was the impression of the young folk of today concerning the Senator's stand on draft dodgers into Canada and his position of amnesty for them.

The Senator responded that as long as the war in Viet Nam was continued that any draft dodgers should ~~be~~ ASSUME ~~bear~~ the consequences of their unlawful acts but if the WAR ~~way~~ was over, then they should be allowed amnesty.

As the interview was completed the cameras went off, the lights went out and upon arising I informally asked the Senator if he would sign my Memoirs to which he obliged. And immediately upon handing him my notebook, the cameras started rolling again, and after some small talk the Senator made the statement to me - "I understand, mr. Johnson that you are leaving us." I immediately assumed he was thinking about the fact that I was not leaning toward him as a voter and I replied, "No Senator, at this time I AM just uncommitted." He smiled and said, "NO, I don't mean that - I understand that you are leaving us and returning to Illinois tomorrow." Well I sure MISINTERPERTED ~~misinterrupted~~ that statement. Seems like I tipped by views however, it evidently gave the Senator his biggest laugh of the week, as later on we were told that while returning to his room, going down the elevator, the Senator burst out laughting and made the comment, "Here is a man that I gave 2 interviews to during the week, whereas many reporters got none. He was wined and dined with us for 5 days, and now he tells me that he is not sure if he is going to vote for me. What does a man have to do to get a vote?" Of course the Senator stated all this in a laughing way and I imagine it would give him some thoughts of concern.

After all of us breathed a great sigh of relief, due to the fact the interview was now over, we went downstairs and was to make a decision as to what we were going to do for the rest of the evening. It was about 8pm now and we decided to go and have supper at a quaint Mexican restaurant located outside the city.

We had a lovely dinner and upon return to the hotel we decided that since we had only 1 more day to go, and being very tired, that we would all retire early. Actually it was about quarter to twelve anyhow so upon hitting the pillow it didn't take me very long to fall asleep. The next thing I realized was the phone ringing and looking at my watch, I saw it was only 12:10am. At the other end of the phone was a voice stating that he would appreciate it if they could have an interview with me and as soon as possible. While I sure wasn't in the best frame of mind, I told him to give me 15 minutes and come up and we can talk. I decided to call the producer of the show and in awaking him outof his sleep, he came over to my room and in a few minutes there was a knock on my door and in stepped 2 senior students from New Mexico University located there in Albuquerque. They were cub reporters for the local newspaper and after giving them the interview they requested, I thought I would be able to go right back to sleep. But I was so wound up, and being 1am now, all I had on my mind was how early we had to get up in the morning.

We were to leave Alguquerque at 8am therefore, we were to be up at 6am which meant I only had 5 hours sleep. And I certainly felt it. I finally did get to sleep and the following day sure came upon me swiftly.

DAY 6

Sunday, September 10th, was a beautiful day in New Mexico. We were To leave the airport at 8am aboard Continental Airlines flight # 092. Actually I was beginning to become tired with air travel. It's hard to believe because only a short 5 days ago I had never been on one of the "big fellows" in my life. The trip back to Chicago took only a short due to the fact that we lost 1 hour going from mountain to central time. The captain told us that we were flying at 29,000 feet and because of the tail winds, we would probably arrive at OHare Field a little early. The ~~beautiful~~ Continental Golden Fan Jet was a beautiful plane and such comfort we had. Breakfast was served and it was just a time of relaxation and we arrived at O'Hare Field at 11:15am, ahead of Schedule.

Upon touchdown, we rented 2 cars and proceeded on to Rolling Meadows. The wrap-up of the TV program was now to be made and the correspondent and myself had numberous interviews while we encircled the streets of Rolling Meadows. In conclusion I was asked briedfly of how I now felt concerning Senator Mc Govern's and the possibility of him being elected president in November. I could not help but answer that after 5 days of being with the man, that some of my thoughts had changed about him, because previous to this time, I had known nothing of him. I found him to be a sincerely dedicated man, easy to talk with, seems quite interested in what you are saying, and of course having a religious background which I like to see in any person. IN summing up the 2 main problems that the Senator has as far as I'm concerned, I feel that #1: He has to make himself well known to the average voter like myself and perhaps the way to do this is by hop-scotching around the country, visiting people either at work or at the airport, and talking with them, discussing problems that the people may have. This is similar to the situation that Mr. Agnew had in in 1968, a relative unknown. But of course, He was carried along by Mr. Nixon whereas Senator McGovern is the standard bearer of his party.

The 2nd problem that the Senator has I believe is that at present he is so far behind with all the polls of judgement - I don't think he has nearly enough of the young vote which of course, he is striving to obtain. It seems to me at this time almost an impossibility to be able to catch up. Though I do believe that the gap will narrow in the future.

DAY 6 - 2

The experience that I have had this week is something that I wish every American would have the opportunity to do and to see what's going on behind the scenes of ~~the~~ a political campaign tour. I admit that I have not shown much interest in politics up to this time, you can be assured, I will keep my eyes and mind open to both sides of all the issues from henceforth till election day.

Upon arrival at home, I of course was greeted by my family and pictures were taken of me coming into the house. The N-Pact crew stayed for a bite to eat and we casually hashed over the weeks excitement. And I have to admit in so doing that it sure was a week that I will never forget.