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THE VICE PRESIDENT
 WASHINGTON

Statement by
 Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
 Vice President of the United States
 On Film
 To Banquet Presentation of
 1966 Ivan C. Kencheloe Award
 September 24, 1966

Society of
 Experimental Test
 Pilots

This is a salute from afar. It would
 have been a joy to be with you -- in person -- to
 greet many old friends in the aerospace industry
 and to say hello to new acquaintances. But it
 is appropriate -- across the barriers of time
 and space -- to honor the far-flung Society of
 Experimental Test Pilots. For it is these men
 who have so courageously conquered -- for us --
 so many technical barriers of flight.

Throughout our history, all of our
 people have on many occasions been indebted to
 a few of our citizens.

To those pioneers who have led many a
 hard way, to those brave hearts which have been
 willing to risk so much for so many, to those
 superior skills which have taken on such diffi-
 cult tasks, we do owe so much.

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To such leaders, we have been indebted for the defense of our country, for the fulfillment of vital foreign policies, for the carrying out of burdensome but crucial tasks in city, state and nation in the building of America.

A prime example of the nucleus of courageous leadership is the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. Its members are responsible for forging ahead through unknown areas of flight, so that others may follow. It is they who are largely responsible for initial evaluation and development of our high quality aircraft and space vehicles.

It is upon them that the Free World depends for knowledge of the basic techniques and procedures essential to our manned space flight capabilities.

What memorable achievements have been recorded by members of this organization: -- our nation's first orbital space flight, the longest flight time in space, the first supersonic flight of very large aircraft.

In addition, they are responsible for first flights and development flight testing on prototypes of military aircraft and jet transport fleets which span the world.

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Time does not permit enumerating many individual achievers by name.

One man does deserve special honor, for it is in his worthy memory that I am sharing with you this significant experience.

I refer, of course, to Captain Ivan C. Kincheloe, Jr.

A United States Air Force engineering test pilot, he was a pioneer in the truest and bravest sense of the word.

Flying the Bell X-2, an experimental rocket-powered aircraft, he established, in September, 1956, an altitude record of 126,200 feet. During his distinguished career, he flew and tested 70 different types of new aircraft. At the time of his death in July, 1958, Captain Kincheloe had been assigned by the Air Force to the joint NASA-Air Force X-15 project. He was cited by the President of the United States for his technical skill and selfless dedication to his country.

And now it is my honor to confer/for the ^{on this occasion}
9th time the Ivan C. Kincheloe Award.

Mr. Milton O. Thompson of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in recognition of your outstanding accomplishment as the pioneering pilot for an entirely new class of flight vehicle

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the wingless lifting body, it is a pleasure to present to you, on behalf of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Ivan C. Kincheloe Award for 1966.

My congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

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