

## HUMPHREY ANNOUNCES FULL SUPPORT OF SPACE SHUTTLE

Titusville, Florida January 14--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today that he would give his full support to the \$5.5 billion authorization requested by NASA for development of the space shuttle.

"The space shuttle will provide this nation with a reusable manned space system at a reduced cost. It will have a tremendous impact on space exploration and the utilization of space for earth-related needs," Humphrey said.

Humphrey brought his presidential campaign to this space town located next to Cape Kennedy to announce his support for the shuttle project which could provide as many as 50,000 aerospace jobs throughout the nation according to NASA officials.

The Senator said that "development of the space shuttle is a question of priorities. And if this country is properly run we can afford to have a low-cost manned space program."

"Manned space flight is not a pork barrel give away," Humphrey said. "It is the utilization of the talents of millions of highly skilled Americans."

"Over the last three years nearly 21,000 persons working in Florida aerospace industries have lost their jobs. Employment at Cape Kennedy has fallen from a peak of 25,000 during the height of the Apollo program to 15,000 today."

With only two more Apollo flights remaining followed by the Skylab program, the Space shuttle is essential to prevent further aerospace unemployment in Florida, and other states.

Humphrey said that "Cape Kennedy is being considered as a prime candidate for the major shuttle launch site. NASA has told my office that if the Cape is designated to serve this function, 9,000 people will be needed there for shuttle operations with an additional 1,000 needed in the Cape Kennedy area to handle the shuttle payloads. And if shuttle development proceeds NASA expects that there will be at least 3,000 jobs created in Florida directly attributable to shuttle development."

"I am not pretending that the development of a space shuttle is an answer to the critical problem of aerospace unemployment. It is only one step. There is an urgent need for realistic programs that redirect the talents and skills of the unemployed aerospace workers and scientists to other industries."

The Senator said that "Wednesday's announcement that the Nixon Administration has shelved an ambitious program designed to put unemployed scientists to work solving problems of health, nutrition and food safety was an example of how the administration has neglected to utilize the talents of a valuable national resource; the unemployed scientist and engineer."

"And what has happened to the President's \$42 million Technical Mobilization and Re-Employment Program to assist unemployed scientists and engineers launched at San Clemente last spring?"

The answer to that question, Humphrey said, was "very little."

"The track record for this program is poor. As of this November, 24,000 persons had registered with the program and only 2,700 had found employment. We also hear very little about the famous Computerized Job Bank established by the Administration in Sacramento, California as a clearing house for unemployed scientists and engineers."

"I understand that as of this fall, the Computer Bank had registered 12,500 applicants and had notifications of 2,200 job openings. Referrals to jobs totaled 9,000. But only 22 people have actually found employment through the Computer Job Bank."

The Senator said that "the Nixon Administration's performance in the area of providing jobs for highly skilled workers and scientists follows a pattern which we find in other areas: there is much rhetoric and fanfare, with little substance and great tendency to use the budgetary scalpel to kill worthwhile endeavors."



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