The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/8/76 - Remarks Dedicating the First Space Shuttle as the "Enterprise"” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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TALKING POINTS FOR SPACE SHUTTLE ENTERPRISE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1976
THANK YOU, DR. FLETCHER.

LET ME SAY FIRST, THAT YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES AT NASA,
TOGETHER WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND
ACADEMIC LIFE, HAVE EARNED THE PRAISE OF ALL AMERICANS
FOR YOUR MANY SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS IN SPACE. THE TWO
VIKING LANDINGS ON MARS ARE ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLES,
AND THE SPACE SHUTTLE MODEL YOU HAVE PRESENTED TO ME
REPRESENTS STILL ANOTHER EXCITING CHAPTER IN SPACE
EXPLORATION.

NEXT WEEK, NASA WILL UNVEIL THE FIRST SPACE SHUTTLE
ORBITER IN PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA. THE ORBITER REPRESENTS
A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY, BECAUSE IT IS
RE-USABLE.
Upon completion of its space mission, it will be piloted back to Earth for use in subsequent flights.

This major advance in the space program is the product of many years of hard work, experimentation and invention by thousands of dedicated Americans.

It represents the determination, the skill, and the quest for new knowledge which have always characterized Americans.

A great many people have written to me in recent months, suggesting one name in particular for this spaceship, which will carry us not only into space but into the future.
IT IS A DISTINGUISHED NAME IN AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY, WITH A LONG TRADITION OF COURAGE AND ENDURANCE.

IT IS ALSO A NAME FAMILIAR TO MILLIONS OF FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF THE SCIENCE FICTION TELEVISION PROGRAM "STAR TREK."

TO EXPLORE THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE, THERE IS NO BETTER SHIP THAN THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND NO BETTER NAME FOR THAT SHIP THAN THE ENTERPRISE.

SO WE AWAIT WITH SPECIAL INTEREST THE FIRST MISSION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE ENTERPRISE. I CONGRATULATE YOU ONCE AGAIN, DR. FLETCHER, AND YOUR ASSOCIATES FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

END OF TEXT
TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FRM: BOB ORBEN  
SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR SPACE SHUTTLE "ENTERPRISE"  

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE:  
4:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1976  

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JAMES CANNON  

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