

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

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: BOB ORBEN
SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR SPACE SHUTTLE
"ENTERPRISE"

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

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:
JAMES CANNON

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