

TALKING POINTS - U.S. SPACE POLICY

- 0 In less than two years, America will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Apollo 11's landing on the moon. We will soon mark the second anniversary of the tragic Challenger explosion that has stymied America's progress in space.
- 0 Next February, a Soviet astronaut will mark a continuous year in space - a crucial step in long distance space travel. The American record is 84 days, set in 1973 aboard Skylab 4.
- 0 What can America do to recapture the lead in space exploration and research? What are America's goals for the 21st century and beyond? How will America be judged if we abandon our leadership role in space?
- 0 Effective Management: We need a single manager who can oversee both civilian and military space programs. Possibly a Cabinet level post that will define, coordinate and implement our long-term space goals.
- 0 Aggressive commitment to long term projects: Exploration of Mars and Venus, establishment of a permanent station in space. Renew our purpose in space.
- 0 Counter the Soviet threat: The Soviet Union has not waited for the United States to make progress in a space program themselves. The Soviets operate about 50 types of space systems for civilian and military uses. We operate one, DOD's Titan system. NASA does not have any operating now, until the Space Shuttle is back in operation, now predicted in June 1988.
- 0 The Soviets conduct approximately 100 space launches annually. This compares with one DOD launch this year, and no NASA launches, and only one DOD and NASA launch in 1986.
- 0 Let there be no mistake, U.S. quality, is much better than Soviet quantity. However, it is clear we have fallen behind in quantity, and the Soviets are catching up in quality.
- 0 Diversified access to space: The United States needs a reliable mix of Space Shuttles and unmanned vehicles to assure national needs are met and to prevent future delays in pressing space programs.
- 0 Avoiding duplication: A strong manager can ensure that all agencies work together. NASA and DOD should not be working on similar research independently. Better coordination will result in program savings and greater productivity.
- 0 In Kansas we have a motto: Ad Astra Per Aspera - To The Stars Through Difficulties. Together, with a renewed commitment to a strong space program, America can regain its leadership role in space.