



News Release

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McClure Announces Electric Vehicle Demonstration
June 24, 1977

PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON--The XDH-1 Experimental Electric Car will be brought to the United States Capitol on June 28, 29, and 30, announced Senator Jim McClure (R-Idaho) today. A Press Conference has been scheduled for 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 28, directly across from the East Senate steps.

The XDH-1 is one of the most advanced applications of electric vehicle technology, and is capable of speeds and the range required for normal commuting or around-town driving.

Calling electric vehicles "one of the few realistic solutions to the transportation problems of today's cities," Senator McClure and Senator Dick Stone (D-Florida) have arranged for the vehicle to be displayed and demonstrated across from the East Senate steps during the three days. Members of Congress and the Press are invited to view the car and test drive the vehicle.

The XDH-1, developed and constructed by Sears, Roebuck and Company, is powered by 20 DieHard batteries. Sears is not attempting to sell the vehicle but is interested in promoting the concept of electric vehicles.

The XDH-1 has been extensively tested in city and freeway traffic. It will travel for 94 miles at an average speed of 47 miles per hour on a single charge. It has been tested at a top speed of over 75 miles per hour and will reach that speed in a quarter mile.

"The concept of electric vehicle transportation for our cities is now at the take-off point with our current technology," stated McClure. "The XDH-1 is a good example of the possibilities of a new transportation system which is economic, non-polluting, and energy efficient."

Sears, Roebuck and Company engineers used a standard Fiat 128-3P hatchback sedan and converted it into an electric car using a rewound World War II vintage 27 hp aircraft starter generator motor, a solid state speed control married to the Fiat's own front-wheel drive transaxle unit. The car contains the standard 4-speed transmission and drives very similar to a gas powered automobile.

Noting that urban commuting accounts for 25% of all passenger car usage, McClure said, "A large number of this country's population now lives in urban areas which suffer the most from the fumes, noise, and the unwieldy size and shape of the big gasoline car. Those who refuse to listen to reasonable remarks about electric vehicles like to picture people making coast-to-coast ventures in something powered with C batteries. They don't stop and listen to our assertions of what we are trying to get them to picture. It is an urban area, with people going to work and to school, making deliveries or shopping and keeping appointments in electric vehicles--not exploring the mountains and crossing the deserts."

McClure has been a strong supporter of electric vehicles. Last year he delivered the keynote address to the International Electric Vehicle Symposium in Germany.

A press conference will be held directly across the street from the East Senate steps at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 28. Senators McClure and Stone along with the engineers and creator of the XDH-1 will be present. Following the short press conference, and during the next two days, Members of Congress and the Press are invited to test drive the vehicle.