

Phony 'Concession' by McGovern a Joke

11/5/72
Special to The Washington Post
DETROIT, Nov. 4—A phony press release labeled as an advance copy of Sen. George McGovern's election night concession speech was mailed to Detroit's two major newspapers this week

as a joke by an aide to Michigan Committee to Re-Elect the President.

The release, sent anonymously and marked "personal and confidential" to the political writers of the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, was traced to the Nixon committee by postal authorities from a metered stamp on the envelope.

Jack Gibbs, chairman of the Michigan Committee, dismissed the release as a prank produced by one of his office staff.

"It's a joke, that's all," Gibbs said. "We certainly

would not authorize the sending of it to anyone—and we did not."

Typed in a fashion similar to all campaign press releases, but with additions that clearly indicated it was a false "text," the release began:

SENATOR MCGOVERN
CONCESSION S P E E C H
FOR RELEASE NOV. 7,
1972, 10:05 P.M. (Mc-
GOVERN ENTERS HOTEL
BALLROOM ELECTION
NIGHT TO THE SOUND

OF WARM APPLAUSE
AND LOUD SOBBING.)

Gibbs said the release had apparently been written and mailed by Doris Peterson, an aide who works on the voter canvass and computer operation for the Nixon campaign in Michigan.