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Jack Corette named campaign chairman of the Montana State University's Computer Center Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jack Corette, president of Montana Power Company, will be campaign chairman of Montana State University's Computer Center Committee, it was announced by D. Gordon Ronglein, president of Montana State University Endowment Foundation Board.

Appointed to serve with him on the committee were: A. T. Hibbard, Helena; Oakley Coffee, Missoula; Warren Vaughan, Billings; and Ted Hodges, Great Falls. All are trustees on the Endowment Foundation of Montana State University.

The $131,000 Computer Center project, approved recently by the Foundation Board, will be utilized for instructional purposes as well as in University staff research. The fund campaign is expected to receive support from foundations, Montana businesses and individuals, and the computer equipment manufacturer, Ronglein said.

"The high speed computer is one of the key tools in the latter half of this century, not only in the field of business, but particularly in the fields of education and research," Corette said. "It is vital to Montana State University that it have such facilities, both from the standpoint of the student and the state. In our studies of the problem at MSU, we arrived at the conclusion that every single department of the University can make use of Computer Center services as a means to advance its programs. Naturally, some departments can make more use of it than others. It is in the nature of studies related to the sciences and economies that high speed computation is an extremely important factor. However, the computer has demonstrated its value as an adjunct to historical research, political science, and every other phase of University work that benefits from statistical analysis.

"As an example of the uses to which the Center will be put, in all probability the MSU Law School would plan to tape Montana statutes and court decisions. This material would be available not only for law school students, but for members of the bar throughout the state. The computer's speed would result in a saving of thousands of research man-hours, and also have the effect of extending in the individual lawyer's
library to the full capacity of the MSU Law School Library.

"A computer system such as we have in mind for the University has the capacity to do pedestrian chores, such as payroll computations, and some jobs that are rather esoteric. I understand that it is even possible to program such a machine so that it will compose music. However, in daily use at the University, the Center equipment will undoubtedly be more concerned with problems such as data analysis of timber growth, studies of the business patterns, scientific and other research matters," Corette said.

The chairman indicated that fund raising for the Computer Center will begin in the near future. "With the interest that has already been shown, we are convinced that this project will have wide support from Montana business organizations and individuals," he declared.