

MAYA MILLER FOR U.S. SENATE

Maya copy
ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. SENATE ANNOUNCEMENT

February 19, 1974

Today I am announcing my intention to seek the nomination of the Democratic Party to the United States Senate.

I am running because 1974 is the year for ordinary citizens to begin to take back their government---to make that government serve, not complicate their lives---and to see that the process of governing is accomplished in a spirit of common decency, sound management, and above all, trust.

Over the past year, we have watched our national government collapse before our eyes. The economy it was supposed to manage and hold in check is out of control.

We have been through Phase I, Phase II, Phase III, and Phase IV, and nothing changes for the better. Each phase brings a new shortage---meat, wheat, housing, oil, gas, energy of all kinds---and, always, prices go higher and higher.

How can the average person plan for these things, if our government does not? The President promises from Washington that there will be no recession. That's not how it looks in Nevada.

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The main shortage in Washington seems to be a shortage of good sound management—planning that puts the needs of the American wage-earner and taxpayer ahead of the special interests that oil the wheels of the political process.

I think we could use some economists in Washington who know how to read a family budget and understand how hard it is to meet that budget these days. I believe there needs to be a change in the look of the Senate.

I think I qualify.

I have not sought public office in the past, but for 29 years, I have worked as an outspoken, independent citizen—both in Nevada and in Washington—on issues that affect the lives of the citizens of this state.

I expect to continue my involvement with Nevada by devoting the next six months to walking throughout the state, meeting and listening to the voters. There is more—much more—to being a Senator than merely voting on national and international issues. If I am elected, Washington will not seem so far away to many Nevadans.

I expect to sustain my effort with many co-workers and no very large financial gifts. Our campaign will be totally free of quid-pro-quo financing, and conducted according to the best principles advanced thus far in proposed reform legislation. All contributions will be fully disclosed, and we will accept none over \$3,000.

I have a very clear understanding of what is wrong and of where in government and business the corrosion lies.

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The main national issues as I see them are: prices, political campaign financing, and an unfair national tax system.

These three are all tied up together---as we know so well after the past year. We see the officers of huge corporations like ITT, the airlines, the international oil companies, give huge campaign contributions, make huge profits, and pay a tiny percentage in taxes.

We must cut the cord between campaign contributions and public policy. Its costs are intolerable.

After elections are over and government concessions to corporations are secure, ordinary working families are left with runaway costs for ordinary needs---food, fuel, rent, gas, medical bills. The 77¢ a half-gallon for the milk our children drink, the 50¢ a loaf for bread, and 50¢ a gallon for gas, the \$15 prescription drug, and the \$100-a-day hospital bed---we know now that these costs are related to our present system of campaign financing.

We still don't know everything about what favors are bought with campaign gifts and what costs are passed on to the consumer.

But we know enough now to begin on campaign reform.

We know enough to begin to close tax loopholes for the corporations and the rich and redistribute the tax burden off the backs of middle and lower income families.

Presumably we know enough also to manage the economy in such a way that Americans will know from month to month what food and gasoline are going to cost.

In 1974, the choice is ours. We can simply opt out---and many, many voters may choose that path. America these days is half-promise, half-threat,

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and the feeling that all politics is the same, that you can't beat the big money, that the "Old Boys" have it all sewed up, is very widespread.

But elections are the only means we have to reclaim our government. The only way to begin to do what needs to be done is for the voters to hold our national leadership accountable.

Accountable for unnecessary shortages.

For a cost of living index that knows only one direction--up.

Accountable for increased unemployment, higher credit rates, medical care too expensive to afford.

And, yes, for a system of national priorities that permits the most powerful, most continuously prosperous nation in the history of the world to rank 8th in doctor-patient ratio. And 14th in literacy and infant mortality. And 25th in the world in life expectancy.

Richard Nixon once remarked that, "This country needs new leadership."

I agree.

I do not pretend to know all the answers, but I do know how to find a high order of help.

I am free of entanglements and political indebtedness.

I think I qualify.