

Church formally announces candidacy

Thurs. March 18, 1976

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register staff writer

IDAHO CITY— Under cloudy skies in historic Idaho City, U.S. Senator Frank Church of Idaho formally announced his long-expected entry into the race for the United States presidential nomination.

"In the spirit the west was won, I now declare my candidacy for the Presidency of the United States," Church told a crowd estimated at about 5,000 people.

It was a momentous occasion being the first time in history that an Idahoan has announced for the nation's highest office. Church will seek the Democratic Party nomination against six other candidates.

Sen. Church hit on a wide range of issues covering both the domestic and foreign fields in making his Presidential bid. He noted that he was making this announcement in this frontier city because it was the one that furnished most of the gold to preserve the union.

"These pioneers of the early West were men and women of uncommon strength and faith."

He then said there has been weakness and fear in leadership as witnessed by granting a full pardon to the former President for whatever crimes he committed in the White House. And the former President looked the other way while his subordinates committed wrong doings, he said.

"It is a leadership of weakness and fear which insists that we must imitate the Russians in treatment of foreign people, adopting their methods of bribery, blackmail, abduction and coercion as if they were our own."

He lamented the fact that the most powerful agencies of government, the CIA,

FBI and IRS ignore the very law intended to protect the liberties of the people.

He then contrasted this situation with the founding fathers who he said acted on their faith and not their fear.

"The first priority of our political agenda is the restoration of the federal government to the legitimacy in the eyes of the people. The vast majority of federal employees are honest, law abiding citizens, but nobody no matter highly place in government has the right to break the law, to open our mails, photograph our cables, to spread propaganda for the purpose of discrediting decent citizens in their own communities.

"Next, we must work for better, not bigger, government," Church said. Sen. Church called for federal funding to be matched by state and local money to finance housing and transportation. He said that under his administration, the doors of the U.S. Treasury would not be thrown open to handouts for huge corporations in financial distress. He said he would also stop stimulating the movement of American capital in foreign lands. He pointed out that during the last two decades, American multi-national corporations have invested \$200 billion abroad in the modern manufacturing plants that the American technology can design. He said that this has brought average 150 thousand jobs lost in America every year.

Church said he was not against big business, but that those kind of operations should be done in a wise way.

For a small business, he said he would prescribe a program to give it a fighting chance to survive and prosper. He would advocate adjusting tax rates to benefit the small business and reduce paper work im-

posed by federal bureaus.

He also called for conservation of the natural resources, pointing out that during his long years on the Senate Interior Committee he learned the importance of their wise use.

"We must curb our habits of waste in the cause of strengthening our country. He also called for easing the hardships of the senior citizens.

In foreign affairs, Church pledged to keep this country strong against any foreign threats, "but I would call for a discriminating foreign policy which recognized that the post-war period is over. We no longer are the once rich patron of a war-wrecked world. We should stand fast in places like Western Europe and the Middle East where our stakes are large.

Regarding Africa and Asia, Church called for caution in any compulsive intervention and against involvement of "so many futile foreign wars."

"I rejected the siege-mentality that kept us locked so long in a straight jacket of the cold war. I would work diligently to bring an end to the insanity of the nuclear arms race which makes both sides potential targets of mutual extinction. I would observe one cardinal standard, that we get in return fully as much as we give."

Gov. Cecil Andrus of Idaho, also a Democrat, introduced Sen. Church.

"It is appropriate that this historical event should take place in this historic town. Much of Idaho history started here, and it is fitting that this announcement should be made by Church, the pride of Idaho."

The Boise High School band played and the Idaho City school children sang at the occasion.