IDAHO CITY — U.S. Sen. Frank Church and his wife, Bethine, greet a crowd of nearly 5,000 who congregated at the historic mining town of Idaho City Thursday for Church's announcement for the presidency. Mrs. Church is daughter of the late Chase Clark, former Idaho Falls mayor and later Idaho governor and federal judge. (Post-Register staff photo)

Church candidacy applauded, chairman expects uphill fight

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IDAHO CITY, Idaho— U.S. Sen. Frank Church's historic announcement for the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday was met with repeated thunderous applause.

Carl Burke, Boise attorney, and Church's National Campaign Committee chairman, agreed with Church it would be an uphill fight but one worth taking. It springs Idaho into national prominence on the political front, the first time an Idahoan has announced for the presidential nomination.

The setting of this old mining town emphasized the pioneer spirit which he has left no doubt will be the theme of his late campaign. Close to 5,000 attended the memorable event.

Some dozen buses, plus scores of cars made the trek over a narrow but paved road to this city located some 45 miles northeast of Boise. The town was decked out for the occasion, with patriotic buntings and numerous "Frank Church for President" signs. Some of the natives were attired in the pioneer dress to lend a pageantry air.

More on the U.S. Sen. Frank Church announcement appears on page B-12.

Bulldozers had previously cleared some two feet of snow from the street for the influx of the visitors. The weather was cloudy but comparatively warm. It stayed that way and then later in the afternoon, heavy clouds began to form an ominous canopy of snow and rain threats.

Main issues

Church's formal announcement, of course, had been well publicized but Church outlined a platform that touched on the main issues.

These included the return of the government to legitimacy and that no one, not the President or any high government officials, have the right to break the law; endorsement of federal funding to match state and local money; no government handouts for huge corporations in financial distress; and to halt the movement of American capital to foreign lands at the expense of loss of employment for American workers.

He also supported adjusting tax rates to help small business, drastically reduce paperwork imposed by the federal bureaucrats; encourage free enterprise by retaining only those controls essential to the public interest; update and vigorously enforce anti-trust laws but abolish those which stifle competition and dismantle commissions that enforce them.

Church emphasized the importance of conserving resources, curbing waste, and to continue championing the cause of the senior citizens, many of whom are encountering hardships.

To remain strong

As ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he urged that this country remain strong against foreign threats and to stand fast in Western Europe and the Middle East where the stakes are large. He lamented "subsidizing a half a hundred foreign governments scattered all over the globe."

Church also called for no more reckless intervention in new countries and societies in Africa and Asia, adding "We cannot successfully serve as trustee for the broken empires of Europe."

He jokingly remarked he had to turn around a couple of blocks to get his glasses from his home in Boise enroute, saying "it was part of my late strategy."

He remarked that for Nampa High School to play at his arrival at the Boise airport Wednesday evening and Boise High School to play at the Idaho City event was remarkable in getting these two arch rivals to join in a common cause.

Most of the Democratic legislators were on hand and even a dozen of Republican state representatives. Gov. Cecil D. Andrus introduced Church; Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon led in pledge of allegiance; Lt. Gov. John V. Evans, Auditor Joe Williams and State School Supt. Roy Truby, who heads the Idaho committee. A half dozen Secret Service men surrounded Church while delivering the talk and will be assigned to him permanently during the campaign.

Church left in the afternoon to continue his campaign to Portland, Los Angeles and Sacramento in his early tour.