

The election eye . . .

Symms' formal entry assures torrid race

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The formal entry of Rep. Steve Symms into the U. S. senatorial race gives Idaho a contest that will attract national attention.

Symms is challenging Democrat Frank Church, who says he expects to file for re-election for his fifth six-year term, likely sometime next month.

Symms was plagued by problems in his announcements last week. He was troubled by phone problems in his statewide radio broadcast, but the television transmission was satisfactory Wednesday night.

In his scheduled aerial jaunt Thursday, he arrived 30 minutes late in Idaho Falls, and, because of icy conditions, skipped Pocatello. He appeared at Twin Falls and Boise, but had to cancel the remainder of his trip to North Idaho.

Symms made an effective presentation in his Wednesday night television and radio broadcasts, and he handled himself well in his Idaho Falls press conference Thursday, fielding tough questions on both foreign affairs and domestic issues.

He said he was enthusiastic entering the race, and he looked the part.

His entry confirms it will be one of the toughest Senate races in the nation and likely the most challenging that Church has ever faced, since elected 23 years ago.

It will be one of the costliest races in Idaho political history, with each expected to spend close to \$1 million. Neither is expected to face a primary challenge, which means they can throw all their resources and efforts into the Nov. 4 general election.

One of the disturbing statements that Symms made — and which he will have difficulty proving — is the one that was bandied about by the now discredited Anybody But Church (ABC) Committee. This was the charge that Church votes and speaks differently in Washington from what he says in Idaho. It's a popular catch phrase, but it's hardly true.

— depending on whether they really undercut the U. S. sanctions. But behind their attitudes, however ambiguously stated, is a growing defiance of the United States by Latin America's non-communist leaders.

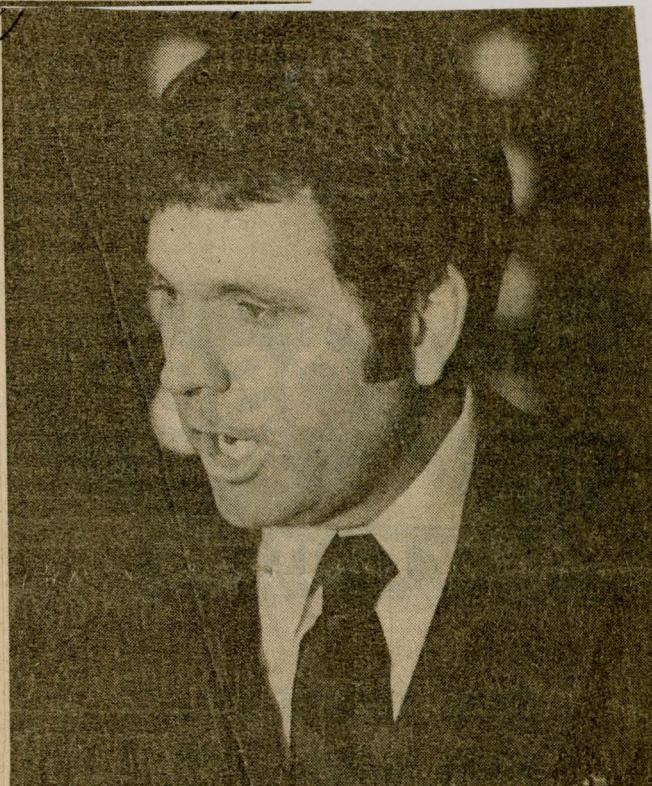
Resentment has grown as successive U. S. administrations failed to satisfy Latin Americans' demands for preferential treatment of their exports, and as the Carter government used economic and diplomatic pressure to push its views on nuclear non-proliferation and human rights.

As a result, Latin leaders struggling to lift their nations' economic fortunes no longer view the United States automatically as the best market for raw materials, the most reliable source of loans and technology, or even an ally in big-power showdowns.

"A country doesn't have friends; it has interests," said the Rio de Janeiro newspaper Jornal do Brasil in backing Brazil's refusal to cooperate fully with the U. S. grain boycott. It attributed the statement to the late U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

A similar editorial in the Buenos Aires magazine Gente, reflecting official resentment here of Carter's human rights campaign, asked: "Since when is the United States an ally of Argentina?"

"Besides fighting subversion," the magazine said in a reference to guerrilla warfare here during the 1970s, "Argentina had to fight against a lack of understanding by other countries, especially the United States."



Post-Register/Don Skitt

Senate challenger

REP. STEVE SYMMS announced his candidacy challenging Democrat Sen. Frank Church when in Idaho Falls this week, during scheduled statewide aerial press conferences.

integrity and honesty of all candidates in the coming contest — for U. S. Senate, Congress and others.

In the past, most Idaho voters have been able to distinguish facts from fiction. Personal attacks have generally created a backlash, as was apparent in

the Second District Congress race in 1976, the Republican gubernatorial primary in 1978, and the U. S. Senate race in both 1974 and 1968, just to mention a few in recent years.

This should be a lesson to be learned by the candidates and their supporters in the 1980 elections.