

McCARTHY FOR PRESIDENT
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Senator Eugene McCarthy

Leadership and Reconciliation



In these times of turmoil and uncertainty, the American people have expressed their desire for a candidacy of healing and reconciliation, a candidacy which will represent the principles of American decency and generosity, a candidacy unconnected with manipulation and political opportunism. In response to this need, Eugene McCarthy is running for President, not as the candidate of any special bloc or interest, but as the candidate who can unite America and get it moving again.

McCarthy on the Presidency

"I run because this country is now involved in a deep crisis of leadership—a crisis of national purpose—and a crisis of American ideals. It is time, I believe, to substitute a leadership of hope for a leadership of fear. This is not simply what I want, or what most of us want. It is, I believe, the deepest hunger of Americans.

"I believe our political institutions can be made to work. My hope is that my candidacy may alleviate the sense of helplessness that many Americans feel today and restore to the people a belief in the processes of American government.

"America is not a poor country. We have the means to create communities which are free from poverty, free from discrimination, free from physical poisons and free from bodily attack.

"A President of the United States must know the limitations of power, for there is no greater power or influence than that entrusted by the American people to their President. He should understand that in a free country the potential for leadership must exist in every man and every woman. He must be prepared to be a kind of channel for the needs and aspirations of the people, to give direction to the movement of the country largely by setting people free.

"What the country needs is a freeing of our moral energy, a freeing of our resolution, a freeing of our strength. The need now is not for division but rather for a great reconciliation, a reconciliation of the young and the old, of labor and management, of farmers and businessmen, and of race and race. There must be a reconciliation of the thought, the spirit and the best traditions of this nation with our most pressing need for action."



McCarthy on Vietnam

It is time to back every effort which might bring a peaceful solution to the war in Vietnam. Vietnam is not vital to American security. Americans can no longer bear the brunt of the fighting for a government that is unpopular and corrupt. We must bring the war to a halt. As long as the war goes on, its enormous cost distorts priorities on desperately needed domestic programs.

The American people have expressed their will toward peace in New Hampshire and again in Wisconsin. Partly as a result of this expression, our government seems prepared to enter into negotiations. These negotiations must be pushed. We should use every influence at our command, including a reduction of our commitment, to force Saigon as well as Hanoi to the bargaining table to agree to a coalition government acceptable to the Vietnamese.

McCarthy on Farm Problems

"The great failure of the Johnson farm effort needs no documentation. It is on the parity record and every farmer in America has read that record again and again.

"The parity ratio has not been at 100 percent since 1952. It fell last year to the lowest level since the Depression of the 1930s.

"It is not inflationary to permit farm prices to rise to parity. It is at least indifference to the claim of farmers for justice to freeze or roll back farm prices already below parity.

"The Johnson Administration has yet to face the dairy situation realistically or to propose the major revisions required. We need a voluntary dairy program for producers who agree to increase, maintain or reduce their marketings in order to keep a balance between supply and demand.

"We need new legislation in other areas. We need enactment of a strategic reserve for basic commodities such as wheat, feed grains, soybeans and cotton. And these reserves, which are in the national interest, should be insulated from the market and not permitted to be dumped on the market when prices are already depressed.

"We need legislation to give farmers more strength in collective bargaining and to provide procedures so farmers can bargain for fair prices.

"For more than three decades the workingman in the city has generally been accorded the right to bargain collectively and stake his claim for higher income and security. We must strengthen the collective bargaining position of farmers outside government as an integral part of the effort to secure parity income and to preserve the family farm as the great American institution that it is."

McCarthy on Taxes and Inflation

Over the past three years, inflation has taken its toll on the purchasing power of families. The price of food, the price of good medical care, the price of a home have risen sharply and are still rising. Even the dollar, in the wake of the devaluation of the British pound, is in danger.

Now it is proposed that we rush headlong into a ten percent increase in income taxes. Such an increase would be unwise, unfair and ill-timed.

It is unwise because it is likely to result in greater unemployment. Thousands of Americans would lose their jobs, or be unable to find new jobs because the economy had been restrained.

It is unfair because it will mean that the workingman's family will really be triple-taxed to pay for the war in Vietnam. Working people pay for it, first, as soldiers; second, as the principal victims of inflation; and now they are asked to bear the burden in higher taxes as well.

It is ill-timed because a tax increase in this session of Congress would not be made effective in time to dampen inflationary pressures in the next six months, but it would have a depressing effect in the second half of the year when the economy is likely to be sluggish.

McCarthy on Veterans

"Our men who are serving in Vietnam must be assured all the benefits and privileges of other combat veterans. My criticism of the Administration's policy in Vietnam in no way diminishes my admiration for the courage and patriotism of our soldiers. They are fighting under conditions which are more difficult and more treacherous than American fighting men have faced in a long time.

"What is at issue in this campaign is not the bravery and loyalty of American soldiers—which no one disputes—but the wisdom of sending so many hundreds of thousands of them to fight and die for a corrupt South Vietnamese government that is incapable of defending itself. I do not think it is the proper role for young Americans to serve as policemen for the entire world."

McCarthy on the Elderly

The sharp rise in prices over the past three years has been particularly unfortunate for our older citizens, many of whom depend on fixed incomes. This means that the cost of the war and failure of economic planning falls most heavily on those who are least able to afford it.

A nation can be measured by the honor it pays its senior citizens. Those who are over 65 have made a great contribution to the strength of America. During the hard years of the Depression they worked without either Social Security or adequate wages. Our society has a special obligation to their welfare in return for their faith in America and the work they have done to make it thrive.

McCarthy on Cities

"The Administration has been telling us that we could wage the war in Vietnam and move forward towards a 'Great Society' in America at the same time. They have assured us that it is possible to spend \$30 billion a year in Vietnam and still have safe and beautiful cities. The hard truth is that it cannot be done.

"Last summer and in summers before that, we witnessed violence and cruelty in cities throughout the land.

"It is estimated that there are 8 to 12 million substandard housing units in our cities, and more than half a million hard-core unemployed in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia alone.

"We need a vigorous national housing program

with a goal of at least one million more units a year than we are currently building. That goal should be met each year, regardless of whether the nation is at war.

"We must provide the money to finance our education programs more fully. Many of them are currently being funded at half the authorized level.

"The right to job opportunity must be made a reality. New public works programs must be advanced, and more workers must be hired by private enterprise, with the help of federal subsidies if necessary."

McCarthy on Civil Rights

We have a kind of colonialism in the United States. Almost 20 million Negro Americans are trapped in a cultural and economic ghetto. The Negro American, along with every member of every other minority group, must be allowed full citizenship. The rights of citizenship are not merely the rights to cast a ballot or voice an opinion. There are four additional basic rights which we must now fully acknowledge: the right to medical care and a chance at good health, the right to as much education as the individual can use, the right to a decent and useful job, and the right to his own home in a community and not a ghetto. These are the basic rights of every citizen, in line with the recommendations of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders. Only when these rights are a reality will every member of every minority group become a full and equal partner in America.

McCarthy on Pollution

"Every citizen has the right to live in an environment that is free from physical poisons, and with at least a gesture of defense against ugliness. Yet the pollution of our rivers and lakes and of our atmosphere becomes more threatening every day.

"The Administration has pledged a 'war on pollution,' but it is a war that is hardly being fought, much less won. In Congress we authorized \$450 million to help restore vitality to America's polluted rivers and lakes, but the Administration requested less than half that amount. We authorized \$90 million to combat air pollution but there is only \$30 million in the new budget."

McCarthy on Education

"Education has become a basic right of all citizens in America today. We must make sure that everyone, in keeping with his gifts, abilities and talents—whether the most gifted or mentally retarded—has the right to develop his intellectual capacity to the fullest.

"I believe that education must be adjusted to meet the special problems arising from advanced technology and automation. The traditional climb up the employment ladder has been jarred by new strides in machinery and new techniques. Along with Head-Start programs to make sure that the neediest youngsters get special attention, we need programs for the young, middle-aged and elderly to retrain them for a modern America. We need not only Head-Start programs, but Late-Starts, Middle-Starts and Better-Starts."

McCarthy on Crime

"Every government must maintain public order and create communities which are free from fear and free from bodily attack. Organized crime is a menace that must be dealt with harshly and firmly. But our attention must not be limited to police procedures or organized crime alone. We must deal with the more difficult question and the more basic problem of crime in the streets. To alleviate this sort of crime, we must alleviate the conditions in our cities which lead to crime: inadequate housing, poor education, limited job opportunities and inadequate, outdated welfare programs."

McCarthy's Labor Record

McCarthy has been a steadfast friend of working men and women throughout his long career. In his first year in Congress he fought against the punitive provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. Later, he led the battle for legislation to protect the rights of migratory workers.

In 1958, McCarthy introduced legislation to extend coverage and increase benefits of unemployment compensation programs. Since then McCarthy has been the Senate's leading advocate of improved unemployment compensation programs.

All through the years, McCarthy has been an unflinching defender of the rights of labor. According to the official AFL-CIO scorecard, McCarthy voted right on 69 out of 70 key issues from 1949 through 1967.



The McCarthys of Minnesota



The McCarthys outside their home.
Like her husband, Abigail McCarthy is a former teacher.



Margaret, 12, is the McCarthys' youngest child. Billed as the Senator's "secret weapon," she has not as yet been put to the test on the campaign trail.



The Senator's wife, Abigail, is a veteran campaigner and seemingly tireless in her support of the McCarthy candidacy.



A sophomore at college, 18-year-old Mary McCarthy has been an active supporter of her father's campaign.



Tall and active like his father, 16-year-old Michael McCarthy is an avid sports enthusiast.



Senator McCarthy's father, now 92, was until recently the overseer of the McCarthy family farm.



Ellen McCarthy, 20, is a junior at Georgetown University's Foreign Service school.



Back in the 1930's, McCarthy was a hardslugging first baseman in the semi-professional Great Soo League. At St. John's University in Minnesota, where he graduated in 1935, he was high-scoring captain of the ice hockey team which won the state championship.