

## STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR PAUL E. TSONGAS (D-MASSACHUSETTS)

All of you must know by now the reason for this news conference. I am today endorsing my Senate colleague, John Glenn, for President of the United States.

By the usual timetable of Presidential endorsements, I know mine is early. But I have reached this decision only after long and hard thought.

These are unusual times. The pressing needs of our nation are going unmet. We must have a President who can and will govern. Of all the candidates running, Senator Glenn offers the greatest promise not only of winning the Presidency, but also of governing once elected. His background as a space pioneer and as a respected political leader gives him the potential for inspiring our country and getting it moving again.

On the three major issues facing this nation, John Glenn stands ready and willing to go forward.

First, arms control. I believe John Glenn is deeply committed to stopping the arms race. True, at first he wrongly opposed SALT II because of concern about verification. He has since gone far beyond that position. He supports the nuclear freeze. He voted against the MX missile. And he is a recognized leader in the effort to curb nuclear weapons proliferation around the globe. He is our best hope for an arms control commitment that can be translated into arms control reality. Given President Reagan's penchant for arms escalation, progress on this issue is paramount.

Second, industrial competitiveness. The nation urgently needs an industrial strategy both for our traditional industries and our emergent high tech industries. Our economic survival depends on our getting serious about taking on the Japanese and our other industrial rivals. President Reagan's neglect has hurt America badly. John Glenn's feelings on this matter are intense. Coming from a smoke-stack state and having a high tech background, he is uniquely positioned to lead the way toward an aggressive, coherent national industrial strategy.

Third, traditional values. John Glenn personifies the basic American values of family, hard work, patriotism and religious conviction. I see no reason to abdicate these fundamental issues to right-wing Republicans. It is time for a genuine renewal of the traditional values under Democratic leadership--without the dark and reactionary trappings of the New Right. John Glenn's candidacy offers the prospect of reviving the American virtues--and the American spirit--in the most positive way.

His candidacy deserves support--not just by moderates and Midwesterners and Southerners--but by liberals as well. Liberals who want to win and don't feel guilty about it ought to rally around John Glenn. And so should liberals who seek desperately needed change and recognize its precondition: a President with the capacity to govern.