

October 5, 1978

When I announced my candidacy last May I said that I believe that I could do a better job as U.S. Senator than the Republican incumbent.

Throughout the primary campaign and since, I have talked about my record as a U.S. Congressman and my plans if I am elected to the Senate.

I have come here today to talk about some of the ways in which I believe Paul Tsongas can make a difference as a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts.

I intend to be a vigorous, dynamic and accessible Senator for Massachusetts. As a Congressman, I have earned a reputation for meeting with and listening to the people who elected me and for candor and openness with the public and the press.

I believe in citizens having access to their elected officials. As a Senator, I will continue this policy through a number of practices which I established as a Congressman.

My opponent claims that I intend to concentrate on Massachusetts while he would focus on national issues.

Let me say that I don't believe a Senator must choose between the two. I believe a good Senator from Massachusetts should do both.

As a Congressman, I have built a reputation on the critical national issues-- on energy, on the environment, on the economy, and urban revitalization-- and I have addressed international issues as well-- the Middle East, the future of American relations with the Third World, international trade and human rights.

The people of Massachusetts, I believe, want and need such a Senator, one who appreciates the broad issues which affect us all.

They want a Senator who has ideas about how to address the problems of the future. They want a Senator who will stand with Ted Kennedy to fight for a universal comprehensive national health plan. They want the kind of Senator who will put forth an agenda to focus national resources on revitalizing the cities; the kind of Senator who will speak out for the protection of our last great wilderness lands in Alaska; the kind of Senator who will stand up to special interests and fight for a national energy plan to cut reliance on foreign sources of energy and battle inflation in the process. They want a Senator with innovative ideas and the vision to provide national leadership through new concepts like the first-in-the-nation urban park, and the concept of a regional approach to focus on the issues of commercializing solar energy. I have been in the forefront of all of these national issues and if elected, I fully intend to be a national Senator.

But that's not enough. A Senator must be responsive to the special needs of Massachusetts. That means being here, not just every election year, but at every opportunity. It means working with people in the community whether in Boston or Quincy, or Medford, or Worcester or Brockton or the other cities and towns across the state. It means being available.

As a Congressman, I have always been accessible to the people who elected me. I want to talk about some of the specific ways that I will continue to be available as a Senator.

- 1- I will institute a mobile van Senate office for Western Massachusetts so that I can be a more effective Senator for all of the people of the state. I used a similar mobile office in my Congressional office to bring the services

which my office provided to all of the people of my district.

- 2- I will hold open town meetings, at least two times every year, in each area of the state. These meetings provide opportunities for any citizen to ask questions, challenge my positions, discuss issues or complain about policies. I have found such meetings which I hold in every city and town in my district to be very instructive for me and useful and popular among constituents. These meetings give me a special opportunity to face the citizens directly on a regular basis.
- 3- I will return to Massachusetts during Congressional recesses and district work periods as I have done as a Congressman and will continue to return and travel the state, meet with state and local officials, business and labor leaders, public interest groups and individual constituents on a regular basis as I have done throughout my Congressional career.

As a Congressman, I have worked to develop a special relationship with the people I represent. I established a Job Resources Section as a permanent feature of my Congressional office to focus on the economic development of my district. I established science and business advisory groups to serve as sounding boards and to raise issues of particular importance to my attention and I used the town meetings and mobile office, which I mentioned, to remain close to the issues which most affect the people I represent.

I want to do that as a U.S. Senator. That special perspective has played a critical role in my approach not only to local issues, but to the great national issues as well. After all, everything your Senator does in Washington affects you here in Massachusetts.

The issues which I have addressed throughout this campaign-- energy, urban revitalization, inflation and taxes-- I am convinced these are the issues that people are concerned about.

My approach to solutions has a common thread whether reflected in my energy proposals or my approach to urban revitalization, whether addressing inflation or government reorganization.

That thread is a theme which I have heard again and again from the people of my district at town meetings, and all across the state as I have campaigned during the past five months. I am told: cut the waste! To me, that's another way of saying let's use the resources we have.

Cut the waste in energy. I will continue to fight for a vigorous energy conservation program and to harness the energy of the sun. It is a national scandal that we still lack a comprehensive national plan to reduce energy waste and develop renewable resources.

Cut the waste in government. I will continue to be a strong advocate of government reorganization as reflected in my authorship of the plan to consolidate emergency disaster relief agencies into a more efficient single agency which saves \$15 million and produces a more responsive system for responding to natural disasters.

Cut the waste of precious natural resources, the waste of cities and the great resource which they represent, the economic backbone of our region. Cut the waste of billions of dollars of private investment in industrial and commercial buildings, left idle, the waste of underutilized and abandoned housing, and the waste inherent in non-sensical, and insensitive red-tape and bureaucracy.

I believe that the people of Massachusetts want a continuation of basic and compassionate government services-- but they want

quality services-- and an end to the waste of their tax dollar.

I am proud of my record as a Congressman. Two principle reasons for that pride I think underline the difference I would make as a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts.

I have always remained in touch with the people who elected me, accessible to constituents and open and candid with the public and the public media, and I have worked hard to apply my energy and insight to the great challenge which I believe government now faces-- to address some of the most serious problems which America has ever had to confront. In the area of energy, health care, urban revitalization, and the delivery of government services in an era when we no longer have endless resources to absorb the excesses of a wasteful government or a wasteful style of life, we must meet that challenge.

I hope to continue to apply my energy on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts in the United States Senate.