

Romney Announces Decision To Enter Gubernatorial Race

Editor's Note:
Following is the text of George W. Romney's 7 1/2-page statement announcing his decision to seek the Republican nomination for governor at a press conference Saturday at Detroit's Veterans Memorial Building.

Several weeks ago, I stated that a decision as to whether or not I would become a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination for the office of Governor of Michigan would be reached and publicly announced on or before February 10, 1962.

That decision now has been made. I will be a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination but an active candidate only after I have completed my responsibilities as a Constitutional Convention delegate.



GEORGE W. ROMNEY

For some considerable period of time, it has been my conviction that any government bearing the brand of any single clique or class and thus deriving its strength primarily from one faction or special-interest group is doomed to eventual failure. Such a government tends to become subservient to a single faction or special-interest group for guidance. In the policy it makes and the action it takes, and such actions and policies designed for the benefit of the dominating group, must—of sheer necessity—bring harm and hardship to those members of the community who live and have their being outside the border of the privileged circle. When the volume of that harm and hardship reaches a certain level, its effects are felt throughout the entire community—even among those from the special-interest group—and actions were designed originally to benefit and to protect the best government, it seems to me, is government that says: "We will govern to the best of our ability, in the interest of all people—big and little, rich and poor, old and young, of every race and creed. In reaching solutions to the individual problems of some, we will take into careful consideration the effect those solutions may have upon others. And we will ask guidance from all."

It is my belief that this is the kind of government to which every one of us is entitled.

It is also my belief that, given the will, it is the kind of government we can have here in Michigan.

Because of the strength of my belief and the confirmation I have had in recent weeks that it is shared by others in all sections of our State, I have made my decision.

I First employed by Nash-Kelvinator in 1948, I was elected chairman and president of newly-formed American Motors and have served in those capacities since October of 1954.

It is inconsistent with my convictions that I become a candidate for public office and maintain my business responsibilities.

Therefore, on Thursday of this week, I again indicated my intention to resign as chairman and president of American Motors if I decided to announce my candidacy. The board again urged that, instead of resigning, I request a leave of absence. I will request an immediate leave Monday morning. I will receive no salary or bonus compensation from the company.

Working together, the employees, management, stockholders, dealers and suppliers of American Motors have been able to make and share significant progress in recent years. I am confident that this progress will continue under the company's competent, energetic and imaginative new leaders.

The Citizens For Michigan organization was formed on September 21, 1959, and on that date I became its chairman.

22 years, I have taken advantage of many opportunities to familiarize myself with the problems of our State and to recognize, as well, its tremendous potential and the great wealth of human and material resources.

Our farms and factories, our cities and towns, our forests and mines, our mountains and lakes and waterways, and most of all, our people—who represent every walk of human life and every strong strain of blood from mother countries overseas—make of Michigan an almost perfect cross-section of all America.

This unique amalgam and the richness of its resources combine to create a great potential that, fully realized, could well raise the sights and set the standards, by example, for every state in our Union.

It is a potential, however, that is not being fully realized. Quite the contrary, our State today finds itself in a sorry and tangled mess. How we got there is one thing, and to discuss only the whys and wherefores of that predicament is as great a waste of time as crying over a bottle of spilled milk. But why we have been unable to find a way out of the mess is quite another matter. And the responsibility for that must be laid, in part at least, at the doors of too many partisan politicians of both parties acting like narrow partisans first and Michigan citizens last.

I believe we can achieve our full potential and it would be my purpose, in the active political campaign ahead, to expose for citizen consideration the reasons why we have failed to use to the fullest here in Michigan the talents a gracious God has given us, why we have hidden deeper and deeper under a bushel a light that should be allowed to shine for all to see.

It would also be my purpose to indicate in some detail those courses of action that might be taken under government for all, to change, dynamically, the course of Michigan's progress and to improve dramatically, the welfare of her people.

VI As a gubernatorial candidate, I will have no interest in any other position in the State or nationwide, appointive or otherwise.

My first concern is to be of

assistance in the creation of a new Constitution that will fit the needs of our State and all its citizens, plus the citizens of some generations to come.

That accomplished, my second concern will be to gain the Republican nomination for Governor.

If my efforts there meet with success, my third concern will be the winning of the election in November.

And when elected, my only concern will be to conduct myself and the affairs of state with which I would be charged so that at the end of my term of office, Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike would be able to look at the facts and at the record and agree that the best job possible had been done in the best interest of all and that we, in Michigan, were rolling ahead once more.

In such a multiple endeavor, I would earnestly solicit the assistance and the counsel of men and women—Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike—across the length and breadth of our State.

Early Deadlines In Effect for Feb. 21 Issue

Because there will be no mail delivery on George Washington's birthday, The Birmingham Eccentric will publish Wednesday, Feb. 21, instead of Thursday, Feb. 22.

All deadlines will move up one day earlier than usual.

Therefore, all news and advertising copy should be brought in to our offices at 1225 E. Bowers as early as possible.

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