

Fair Campaign Practices Statement

I am signing the "Fair Campaign Pledge" today. I do this not only as a token of my commitment to a campaign fairly conducted, but also as an expression of concern about the declining public confidence in our governmental institutions.

Without clean campaigns, we are undone. Questionable activities surrounding the presidential election of 1972, followed by the resignation of the Vice President and his conviction for a felony, have shaken confidence in our democratic institutions to a point where the Nation verges on a constitutional crisis. It is urgent, therefore, that measures be taken to restore and maintain the public's trust.

To function effectively, our system of government requires "the consent of the governed"; without it, the system is crippled in its ability to respond adequately to the needs of the Nation and to secure the cooperation of its people.

Cynicism about the American political system is not a new phenomenon. It was responsible in part for the violence and discord that marked the 1960's. It has troubled the Nation many times. But the inability to remedy past deficiencies should not be an excuse for apathy today.

It is an irony of politics that the power to reform governmental institutions is in the hands of those who have gained their positions under the prevailing system. The burden of correcting present defects in the election system falls largely on Congress and congressional candidates in 1974.

So far as my campaign for the United States Senate is concerned, our motto will be: the only good politics is clean politics.