

**LES AuCOIN  
SENATE ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH  
FOREST GROVE  
MAY 28, 1991**

Peter, thank you -- for that introduction, for your Democratic loyalty -- and most of all, for your incredible friendship. Governor Roberts and Governor Goldschmidt, we have fought many fights together for Oregon -- and I deeply appreciate that you are here to stand with me today. To Ron Wyden, the next "Dean" of the Oregon House delegation, and to that talented newcomer, Mike Kopetski -- it is magnificent to have a united delegation behind me.

And then there's my family. I can't think of doing anything in my life without them behind me, as they've always been, and are again today.

Twenty-one years ago, Sue and I ran our first campaign here while I was working at my alma mater. We ran our organization out of our house right over there across College Way. I remember my mother helping with two toddlers and with meals and with campaign chores while Sue and I and our colunteers fanned out each night across Washington County.

Now we are back, where it all began. Our sense of high purpose still burns... Our values are unchanged... and our energy is greater still.

Though we're here to look ahead, it's also a day for memories. Of early lessons learned from a working mother, a waitress who raised two children on her own. She always told me that it doesn't amtter where you start in life -- if you work hard you can beat the odds. Well, we did it, Mom -- and I'd like to say "thanks."

But our purpose today is to launch new great expectations, to declare high purpose, and to define a new beginning for Oregon.

THUS, I DO HEREBY DEVLARE THAT I AM A CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES!

This is Wayne Morse's seat. It's been occupied by someone else for over two decades, but in the hearts of Oregonians, it still belongs to Wayne Morse. I'm going to take it back! For the people of Oregon!

Wayne Morse had a slogan: "Principle Above Politics." Hearing it again makes us realize how much we've lost on another man's watch. In tribute to Wayne, let me tell you now: I'm making his slogan mine, because it defines what this race will be all about.

My mission is to move the Senate, not to join it. Today the Senate is filled with "elected leaders" who are afraid to lead those who elected them. Before most Senators raise their hands to vote their conscience, they raise their fingers to test the wind.

Oregonians are paying dearly for this -- especially the middle class.

Take medical care. Life and death decisions used to refer only to whether you could get to the hospital on time. Now they're about whether you can afford treatment once you do get there.

Or good schools. Some Senators have never met a weapons system they didn't like. I think it's time for Washington's charity to being in our classrooms -- where one-half of a B-2 bomber could finance basic school support for the entire state of Oregon.

Or economic fairness. The paychecks of middle income Oregonians have actually lost buying power over the last 12 years - - but taxes on them have actually been increased. At the same time, the richest 5% of the people of this country have doubled their share of the national wealth -- while getting tax cuts to boot! That's Robin Hood in reverse -- and I say the party's over!

I intend to be a different force in the Senate: a newcomer who knows how to produce results. I will be a fresh face, but no rookie when it comes to getting things done for Oregon.

This is going to be an exciting campaign. Oregonians are already joining our cause because they want a new senator who'll start shaking things up. There'll be time enough in the months ahead to detail all the differences between myself and the incumbent, but let me make one thing clear from the start: I will never -- at any time, under any circumstances -- cut any deals with extreme right-wing groups and anti-abortion groups like the Oregon Citizens Alliance, in order to save my skin.

With me, as I've said, it's "Principle Above Politics."

Finally, I have noted that some, including the incumbent junior Senator, who has held his post for nearly a quarter of a century, have said that I am giving up power to make this run. That's right, and that means two races will result: one for my seat and one for Bob Packwood's. He seems to think that's bad.

But I suspect Oregonians agree with me -- turnover is good for democracy. Harry Truman said, "There's nothing wrong with democracy that a little more democracy won't fix." And with the help of Oregonians, we're going to have ourselves a brand new Senator for the first time in a quarter of a century!