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NATION



Senator Arlen Specter, R-Pa., made his announcement at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Specter Announces His Presidential Candidacy

6th GOP candidate claims middle ground

By Thomas B. Edsall
Washington Post

Washington

Senator Arlen Specter, R-Pa., formally declared his presidential candidacy yesterday, stressing his commitment to abortion rights, a flat tax on income and to a reform of the Republican Party that would combine the values of Abraham Lincoln and Barry Goldwater.

"Let me say it as plainly as I can: Neither this nation, nor this party, can afford a Republican candidate so captive to the demands of the intolerant right that we end up by reelecting a president of the incompetent left," the 65-year-old, three-term senator told audiences on the Mall here and in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania capital building in Harrisburg.

Specter acknowledged at a brief post-announcement news conference that he faces tough competition for the GOP nomination. Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, commentator Patrick J. Buchanan and radio talk show host Alan Keyes have already announced their bids, and two others are scheduled to join the race soon — Senate majority leader Bob Dole of Kansas and Governor Wilson of California.

A central pillar of the Specter campaign is a challenge both to the ascendant power of the Christian right within the Republican

Party, and to social-issues conservatives who are pressing for the maintenance of a strong anti-abortion plank.

The Republican Party is in a position to take command of both the Congress and the White House, Specter said in his announcement speech, but "there are those in our party who would lead us down a different path, and squander this unique moment in our nation's history, by using our political capital to pursue a radical social agenda that would end a woman's right to choose and mandate school prayer."

Specter received support yesterday from Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights League, who said in a statement: "His presence in a field dominated by staunch anti-choice candidates may help the pro-choice Republican majority reclaim their party."

The expected entry of Wilson into the competition will, however, add a second abortion rights candidate to the GOP field. Specter and his chief political strategist, Roger Stone, both addressed the threat posed by Wilson by challenging Wilson's credentials as a fiscal conservative.

"I think that Governor Wilson has moved to some fairly difficult positions for himself on the tax increase that he sponsored in California, about \$8 billion worth," Specter said during his impromptu press conference. "And I have

THE LATEST REPUBLICAN ENTRY

■ **NAME** — Arlen Specter.

■ **BIRTHDATE** — Feb. 12, 1930.

■ **EDUCATION** — University of Pennsylvania, B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, 1951. Yale Law School, LL.B., 1956.

■ **EXPERIENCE** — First lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, Office of Special Investigations, 1951-53. Practicing lawyer, 1956-59, 1974-80. Assistant district attorney, Philadelphia, 1959-64. Assistant counsel, Warren Commission, 1964. Assistant attorney general, Pennsylvania, 1964-65. District attorney, Philadelphia, 1966-74. Senator 1981-present.

■ **QUOTE** — "I think there are a lot of people who'd like to criticize me. If you want to be in politics, you have to develop the hide of a rhinoceros." *Associated Press*

to say that I am very strongly opposed to his constitutional amendment proposal that denies citizenship to children born in this country of parents who happen to be here illegally."

Prior to his presidential candidacy, Specter was best known for three things: his brutal cross examination of Anita Hill during Senate Judiciary Committee hearings into her charges of sexual harassment by Clarence Thomas; his leadership role in the defeat of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork; and his support of the "single bullet theory" in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy when assistant counsel to the Warren Commission.