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Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. in Hartford yesterday.

WEICKER TO RUN FOR SECOND TERM

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Connecticut Senator Says
Drive Will Be Conducted
Independent of Presidency
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By LAWRENCE FELLOWS

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HARTFORD, Jan. 13—United States Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., announced today that he would seek a second six-year term and promised to run an election campaign that would be independent of the person seeking the Presidency.

The Connecticut Republican built a powerful position for himself in his first term in the Senate, but some Democrats are scrambling for the nod to challenge him, feeling the voters will express their dissatisfaction at the polls this year by throwing out a great many people in office, Senator Weicker included.

Mr. Weicker won much recognition for his outspoken views in the Watergate hearings and fell out repeatedly with his party afterward. Yet, in small, sporadic ways he has been making peace in the party since.

Has No Favorite

At a news conference today he said that he would rather see President Ford's name at the top of the Republican ticket than Ronald Reagan's. The former California Governor is too far to the right to suit him, he said.

However, the Senator added, he does not care particularly for any of the leading Presidential contenders in either party.

"They all seem to be caretakers of the past," he said.

In spite of the faults he sees in President Ford's record in office, Senator Weicker said he regarded his ascent to the Presidency to have been a thing of value to the nation.

"I think that he brought candor and integrity to the office," Senator Weicker said. "I think those were priority items."

The Senator promised to be his own man in the campaign this year, to stand on his own record and philosophy and not those of the Republican Party. He conceded a feeling, however, that President Ford would make it easier on himself and everyone else running with him if he would stop courting voters on the right wing of his party just to keep Mr. Reagan from getting them.

The Secretary of the State, Gloria Schäffer, is making a strong bid to be Mr. Weicker's Democratic challenger. She has not formally announced her candidacy, but Mrs. Schäffer has been campaigning vigorously around the state since early last fall.

The only announced candidate on the Democratic side is Donald J. Irwin, a former Representative and, until last month, Mayor of Norwalk. He wanted to wait until about now to begin mounting his campaign seriously.