

7/15 [1975]

Washington--Sen. Paul Laxalt (R. Nev.) today announced formation of a "Citizens for Reagan" Committee. Laxalt said the committee expects to convince former California Gov. Ronald Reagan to seek the Republican nomination for President and to make it possible for him to mount an effective campaign.

Sen. Laxalt is the former governor of Nevada. Other members of his committee are John P. Sears, a Washington attorney who will serve as executive vice chairman; former Gov. Louis B. Nunn of Kentucky; former California National Committeewoman, Mrs. Stanhope C. Ring; retired Rep. H. R. Cross of Iowa; and Nebraska insurance executive George Cook.

Sears, who was responsible for putting together Richard Nixon's group of delegates in his successful 1968 quest for the GOP Presidential nomination, will be the operating head of the committee.

In announcing formation of the committee Sen. Laxalt released the following statement:



STATEMENT BY SENATOR PAUL LAXALT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JULY 15, 1975

We have called this press conference today to announce the formation of a "Citizens For Reagan" Committee.

The purpose of this Committee is to build an organization and raise the money necessary to conduct a viable and effective campaign once Governor Reagan decides to become an active candidate.

The decision to take this step has not been an easy one. Mr. Ford came to the Presidency under circumstances unique in American history, amidst problems of confidence, international unrest and domestic instability which are unparalleled. All of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, must give him our support lest others in the world receive the impression that America is too weak or immobile to act.

Yet, Mr. Ford's efforts to cope with these problems on a day-to-day basis provide little relief for the vast majority of Americans who yearn for a leader who can communicate a realistic perspective on America's future.

The process by which the American people have become frustrated and untrusting of their political leaders has been built up over the many years in which there has been far too much promising and far too little performance after election.

We have had far too many instances in our political history where the voters have been left with a choice of deciding between the "lesser of two evils." This country cannot ultimately survive if Presidential elections continue to be decided on the same basis.

Moreover, as Republicans, we cannot meet our responsibility to the country by anticipating a Presidential race which would merely take advantage of the presumed weakness in the Democratic Party. We owe a positive obligation to the American people to demonstrate that we have thoroughly searched our ranks, considered all the alternatives and nominated our most effective leader. We must convince the people that we will not only try, but also will actually do those things which we agree must be done.

That can only be achieved, in my opinion, by the candidates submitting themselves to the people in the primary process.

The next President must enter office armed with a positive compact between himself and the American people, such that Congress will realize that there is no longer any merit in political expediency. We believe that Governor Reagan is a man who stands tall among American politicians in his demonstrated ability to do those things which he promises.

SEN. PAUL D. LAXALT (R. Nev.), chairman of "Citizens for Reagan", has been a Republican Party leader both nationally and in his home state for many years. He was the first major public official to endorse the presidential candidacy of Barry Goldwater.

Sen. Laxalt was elected to the United States Senate in 1974. He was one of only two Republicans elected to the Senate in that year. Prior to that he served as Governor of Nevada from 1967 to 1971. Other elective offices include Lieutenant Governor from 1963 to 1966 and District Attorney for Ormsby County, Nevada's capital county, from 1951-1954.

Laxalt, 52, is a native of Nevada. Before his election to the Senate he was a senior partner in the law firm of Laxalt, Berry and Allison of Carson City.

LOUIS B. NUNN, former Governor of Kentucky, has been an active worker on behalf of Republican Presidents and Senators. In 1956 he served as Kentucky chairman for the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket as well as for the senate campaigns of John Sherman Cooper and Thruston B. Morton. In 1960 he headed the Nixon-Lodge campaign as well as the election campaign of Sen. Cooper. In 1962 he was chairman of the reelection campaign of Sen. Morton.

Gov. Nunn served as chairman of the Republican Governors' conference in 1971. He was first elected to public office at the age of 29 when he won election as a county judge.

Currently he practices law with the firm of Stoll, Keenon & Park in Lexington, Ky.

H. R. GROSS, who spent 36 years as a member of the United States House of Representatives, is nationally known for his effective opposition to wasteful and extravagant government spending.

Mr. Gross, of Waterloo, Iowa, retired from the Congress in 1974. A native of Iowa, Mr. Gross worked as a reporter, editor and radio news commentator before his election to the House.

He worked with Gov. Reagan when the latter was a young sportscaster in Iowa.

Mr. Gross was first elected to the House in 1948. He retired at the end of the 1973-74 session.



MRS. STANHOPE C. RING is a former National Committeewoman from California. She has been active in the Republican Party since 1958 when she served as Coronado chairman in the 1958 reelection campaign of Rep. Bob Wilson of California. Since then Mrs. Ring has served as a member of the San Diego County Republican Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the California State Republican Central Committee, President of the San Diego County Federation of Republican Women and a member of the Board of the California Federation of Republican Women.

As National Committeewoman from 1968 to 1972 Mrs. Ring served as a member of the National Committee's Rule 29 Committee and as a member of the bipartisan committee on convention financing.

In 1964 she was San Diego headquarters chairman for Barry Goldwater. Mrs. Ring, the widow of Vice Admiral Stanhope C. Ring, USN Ret., resides in Coronado.

GEORGE B. COOK, Chairman of Bankers Life Insurance Company of America, is a prominent Nebraskan. A resident of Lincoln, he has served as president of the University of Nebraska Alumni Assn. and as chairman of the Board of Directors of the University of Nebraska Foundation. He has been director of the Business Development Corp. of Nebraska and a member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education. He is a past state chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee and a member of the Capitol Hill Club, a national Republican club. He served as Nebraska Chairman for Nixon-Agnew in 1968.

JOHN P. SEARS, 35, is a Washington lawyer with broad political experience. Among Washington political reporters he is recognized as the man who recruited the delegates who gave Richard Nixon his first ballot victory at the 1968 Republican National Convention.

He served as political adviser to Nixon in 1966 and 1967 and as executive director of the Nixon for President Committee from 1967 through the 1968 convention. He was liaison between Nixon and Vice Presidential nominee Spiro Agnew during the general election campaign of 1968.

In 1969 he served as a deputy counsel to the President and in 1970 was a member of the faculty and guest lecturer at the Kennedy Institute of Politics and Government.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law School, he currently is a partner in the law firm of Gadsby and Hannah.