Rep. Shirley Chisholm Formally Enters Contest for Presidency

First U.S. Negro Congresswoman, a Democrat, Says She Is Not Just ‘the Candidate for Black America’

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the nation’s first black congresswoman, formally announced her candidacy today for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In the same Bedford-Stuyvesant slum neighborhood where she once taught school, the fiery congresswoman from Brooklyn told a news conference in Concord Baptist Church: “I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women’s movement in this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that.”

Mrs. Chisholm said, “I am convinced that the American people are in a mood to discard the politics and the political personalities of the past. We have looked in vain to the Nixon Administration for the courage, spirit, character and the words to lift us, to bring out the best in us, to rekindle in each of us our faith in the American dream.”

Rep. Chisholm, 47, elected to Congress in 1968 after four years in the New York Legislature, said she believed that Americans would show in 1972 and thereafter that “they intend to make independent judgments on the merits of a particular candidate based on the candidate’s intelligence, character, physical ability, competence, integrity and honesty.”

In Harrisburg, Pa., meanwhile, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie picked up another powerful endorsement in his race for the nomination as Gov. Milton J. Shapp announced his support of the Maine Democrat.

Shapp, who will lead the Pennsylvania delegation, third biggest in the Democratic convention, said he would campaign hard for Muskie, a man who “will help us restore our faith in ourselves.”

Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, speaking in Tampa, Fla., charged that some of his Democratic rivals “are telling it like it ain’t. Everyone of them has been giving your money away.” He announced his campaign slogan: “Big government, go home where you belong.”

His audience, less than the 8,000 to 10,000 his aides had predicted, gave him standing ovations several times.