

SENATOR
*Margaret Chase
Smith*



MY CREED

by Margaret Chase Smith

"My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but fought, that honor is to be earned but not bought."

THIS I BELIEVE

by Margaret Chase Smith

Many nights I go home from the office or the Senate Floor tired and discouraged. There's lots of glory and prestige and limelight for a United States Senator that the public sees. But there's just as much grief and harassment and discouragement that the public doesn't see.

Of course, like everyone else I went into public service and politics with my eyes wide open. I knew that any public official is fair game for slander and smear and carping criticism. I knew that ingratitude was to be expected.

I knew that fair weather friends would turn on me when they felt I no longer served their purposes. I knew that I would be called all sorts of names from crook on down.

I should have known that chances were good that I would even be accused of being a traitor to my country. These things I knew. But I never knew how vicious they could get and how deeply they could cut.

It is these things I think of when I'm tired and discouraged—and when I wonder if being a Senator is worth all that I put into it. These are the times when I consider quitting public life and retreating to the comforts and luxury of private life.

But these times have always been the very times when I became all the more convinced that all the sorrow, abuse, harassment, and vilification was not too high a price or sacrifice to pay.

For it is then that I ask myself, "What am I doing this for?" I realize that I am doing it because I believe in certain things—things without which life wouldn't mean much to me.

This I do believe—that life has a real purpose—that God has assigned to each human being a role in life—that each of us has a purposeful task—that our individual roles are all different but that each of us has the same obligation to do the best he can.

I believe that every human being I come in contact with has a right to courtesy and consideration from me. I believe that I should not ask or expect from anyone else that which I am not willing to grant or do myself.

I believe that I should be able to take anything that I can give out. I believe that every living person has the right to criticize constructively, the right honestly to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest orderly, the right of independent thought.

I believe that no one has a right to own our souls except God.

I believe that freedom of speech should not be so abused by some that it is not exercised by others because of fear of smear. But I do believe that we should not permit tolerance to degenerate into indifference. I believe that people should never get so indifferent, cynical, and sophisticated that they don't get shocked into action.

I believe that we should not forget how to disagree agreeably and how to criticize constructively. I believe with all my heart that we must not become a nation of mental mutes blindly following demagogues. I believe that we should never become mental mutes with our voices silenced because of fear of criticism of what we might say.

I believe that in our constant search for security we can never gain any peace of mind until we secure our own soul. And this I do believe above all, especially in my times of greater discouragement, THAT I MUST BELIEVE—that I must believe in my fellow men—that I must believe in myself—that I must believe in God—if life is to have any meaning.

DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE

Mr. President:

I would like to speak briefly and simply about a serious national condition. It is a national feeling of fear and frustration that could result in national suicide and the end of everything that we Americans hold dear. It is a condition that comes from the lack of effective leadership in either the legislative branch or the executive branch of our government.

That leadership is so lacking that serious and responsible proposals are being made that national advisory commissions be appointed to provide such critically needed leadership.

I speak as briefly as possible because too much harm has already been done with irresponsible words of bitterness and selfish political opportunism. I speak as simply as possible because the issue is too great to be obscured by eloquence. I speak simply and briefly in the hope that my words will be taken to heart.

I speak as a Republican. I speak as a woman. I speak as a United States Senator. I speak as an American.

The United States Senate has long enjoyed world-wide respect as the greatest deliberative body in the world. But recently that deliberative character has too often been debased to the level of a forum of hate and character assassination sheltered by the shield of Congressional immunity.

It is ironical that we Senators can in debate in the Senate directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to any American, who is not a Senator, any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming an American—and without that non-Senator American having any legal redress against us—yet if we say the same thing in the Senate about our colleagues we can be stopped on the grounds of being out of order.

It is strange that we can verbally attack anyone else without restraint and with full protection and yet we hold ourselves above the same type of

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a place to preserve and to motivate the ideas and ideals which made America great

a library to contribute resources and ideas and services to the public sector

a repository for artifacts and memorabilia of twentieth century America as they relate to one person's devoted career in public service

a place where young people can see and enjoy a portion of their heritage.

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criticism here on the Senate floor. Surely the United States Senate is big enough to take self-criticism and self-appraisal. Surely we should be able to take the same kind of character attacks that we "dish out" to outsiders.

I think that it is high time for the United States Senate and its members to do some soul searching—for us to weigh our consciences—on the manner in which we are performing our duty to the people of America—on the manner in which we are using or abusing our individual powers and privileges.

I think that it is high time that we remembered that we have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. I think that it is high time that we remembered that the Constitution, as amended, speaks not only of the freedom of speech but also of trial by jury instead of trial by accusation.

Whether it be a criminal prosecution in court or a character prosecution in the Senate, there is little practical distinction when the life of a person has been ruined.

Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism—

The right to criticize;

The right to hold unpopular beliefs;

The right to protest;

The right of independent thought.

The exercise of these rights should not cost one single American citizen his reputation or his right to a livelihood nor should he be in danger of losing his reputation or livelihood merely because he happens to know someone who holds unpopular beliefs. Who of us doesn't? Otherwise none of us could call our souls our own. Otherwise thought control would have set in.

The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared as "Communists" or "Fascists" by their opponents. Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. It has been so abused by some

that it is not exercised by others.

The American people are sick and tired of seeing innocent people smeared and guilty people whitewashed. But there have been enough proved cases to cause nationwide distrust and strong suspicion that there may be something to the unproved, sensational accusations.

As a Republican, I say to my colleagues on this side of the aisle that the Republican party faces a challenge today that is not unlike the challenge that it faced back in Lincoln's day. The Republican party so successfully met that challenge that it emerged from the Civil War as the champion of a united nation—in addition to being a party that unrelentingly fought loose spending and loose programs.

Today our country is being psychologically divided by the confusion and the suspicions that are bred in the United States Senate to spread like cancerous tentacles of "know nothing, suspect everything" attitudes. Today we have a Democratic administration that has developed a mania for loose spending and loose programs. History is repeating itself—and the Republican party again has the opportunity to emerge as the champion of unity and prudence.

The record of the present Democratic administration has provided us with sufficient campaign issues without the necessity of resorting to political smears. America is rapidly losing its position as leader of the world simply because the Democratic administration has pitifully failed to provide effective leadership.

The Democratic administration has completely confused the American people by its daily contradictory grave warnings and optimistic assurances that show the people that our Democratic administration has no idea of where it is going.

The Democratic administration has greatly lost the confidence of the American people by its complacency to the threat of Communism here at home and the leak of vital secrets to Russia through key officials of the Democratic administration. There are enough proved cases to make this point

without diluting our criticism with unproved charges.

Surely these are sufficient reasons to make it clear to the American people that it is time for a change and that a Republican victory is necessary to the security of this country. Surely it is clear that this nation will continue to suffer as long as it is governed by the present ineffective Democratic administration.

Yet to displace it with a Republican regime embracing a philosophy that lacks political integrity or intellectual honesty would prove equally disastrous to this nation. The nation sorely needs a Republican victory. But I don't want to see the Republican party ride to political victory on the four horsemen of calumny—fear, ignorance, bigotry and smear.

I doubt if the Republican party could, simply because I don't believe the American people will uphold any political party that puts political exploitation above national interest. Surely we Republicans aren't that desperate for victory.

I don't want to see the Republican party win that way. While it might be a fleeting victory for the Republican party, it would be a more lasting defeat for the American people. Surely it would ultimately be suicide for the Republican party and the two-party system that has protected our American liberties from the dictatorship of a one-party system.

As members of the minority party, we do not have the primary authority to formulate the policy of our government. But we do have the responsibility of rendering constructive criticism, of clarifying issues, of allaying fears by acting as responsible citizens.

As a woman, I wonder how the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters feel about the way in which members of their families have been politically mangled in Senate debate—and I use the word "debate" advisedly.

As a United States Senator, I am not proud of the way in which the Senate has been made a publicity platform for irresponsible sensationalism. I am not proud of the reckless abandon in which

unproved charges have been hurled from this side of the aisle. I am not proud of the obviously staged, undignified countercharges that have been attempted in retaliation from the other side of the aisle.

I don't like the way the Senate has been made a rendezvous for vilification, for selfish political gain at the sacrifice of individual reputations and national unity. I am not proud of the way we smear outsiders from the floor of the Senate and hide behind the cloak of Congressional immunity and still place ourselves beyond criticism on the floor of the Senate.

As an American, I am shocked at the way Republicans and Democrats alike are playing directly into the Communist design of "confuse, divide and conquer." As an American, I don't want a Democratic administration "whitewash" or "coverup" any more than I want a Republican smear or witch hunt.

As an American, I condemn a Republican "Fascist" just as much as I condemn a Democrat "Communist." I condemn a Democrat "Fascist" just as much as I condemn a Republican "Communist." They are equally dangerous to you and me and to our country. As an American, I want to see our nation recapture the strength and unity it once had when we fought the enemy instead of ourselves.

It is with these thoughts that I have drafted what I call a "declaration of conscience." I am gratified that Senator Tobey, Senator Aiken, Senator Morse, Senator Ives, Senator Thye and Senator Hendrickson have concurred in that declaration and have authorized me to announce their concurrence.

Statement made on the floor
of the United States Senate on June 1, 1950

by

MARGARET CHASE SMITH
United States Senator from Maine

*My Creed
This I Believe
Declaration
of Conscience*

MARGARET CHASE SMITH



Honors and Awards

- ★ National Association of Secretaries of State
Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award 1992
- ★ League of Women Voters
Carrie Chapman Catt Award 1992
- ★ Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor 1989
- ★ U.S. Jaycee Women "Outstanding Women in Government" 1984
- ★ Women of the Republican Party
Pathfinders Award 1984
- ★ U.S. Senate "Senate Service Award" 1973
- ★ UPI One of the Ten Most Influential Women in the World 1967
- ★ Reserve Officer's Association
"Minuteman Award" 1964
- ★ National Federation of Business and Professional Women "Distinguished Service Award" 1955
- ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars
Medal for Americanism" 1954
- ★ American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow 1952
- ★ Associated Press "Woman of the Year in Politics" 1948,49,50,57
- ★ Recipient of ninety-five Honorary Degrees and over 270 other Awards and Honors

Senator Smith's Famous Firsts

- First woman elected to both houses of the Congress of the United States
- First woman elected in her own right to serve in the U.S. Senate
- First woman nominated for President of the United States by a major political party
- First person to chair a televised Senate committee hearing
- First woman to chair a Senate subcommittee
- First woman to hold a ranking position on the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations committees
- First woman to chair the Republican Conference in 1967

For information, write:

The Northwood Institute
Margaret Chase Smith Library
P.O. Box 366
Skowhegan, Maine 04976
(207) 474-7133

Margaret Chase Smith



Senator

Representative

American



Margaret Chase Smith is considered one of America's great stateswomen. She was elected to Congress in 1940 and served for more than three decades, first as a Member of the House of Representatives, then as a Senator. She served on several prominent Congressional committees

and earned widespread respect for her knowledge, wisdom and firm commitment to the central values of enlightened government. The first woman elected to serve in both Houses of Congress, Margaret Chase Smith also became the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for the Presidency when twenty-seven delegates supported her at the 1964 Republican Convention in San Francisco.

Senator Smith was born in Skowhegan, Maine in 1897. During her early years she briefly taught school, worked for the Skowhegan newspaper, and served as an executive with a textile firm. In 1930 she married Clyde H. Smith, a respected politician who held numerous local and state offices. He was elected to congress in 1936, and she served as his secretary until his untimely death in 1940. Margaret Chase Smith was required to conduct four election campaigns within five months in order to succeed her late husband in representing the people of Maine.

Throughout her congressional career she maintained an interest in military affairs. After only three years in the house of Representatives, she secured a seat on the powerful Naval Affairs Committee.

She was chairman of key subcommittees of the Senate Armed Services Committee and later became its ranking Republican member. She was a pioneer in reserve legislation. It was through her efforts that women were granted permanent status in the armed services.



Senator Smith earned a reputation as the guardian of individual rights and the protector of freedom of speech. In 1950 she had the courage to speak out in condemnation of McCarthyism in her Declaration of Conscience speech, at a time when many others feared to.

Among Senator Smith's varied interests was her commitment to medical research. In 1955 she sponsored ground breaking legislation that committed the federal government to a vast program of support in this field. Senator Smith was a strong supporter of the space program and was a charter member of the Senate's Aeronautical and Space Committee.

Senator Smith adhered to a two-pronged philosophy that became her political trademark. One of these was her perfect attendance record in Congress. She held the all-time consecutive roll-call voting record in the history of the United States Senate until 1981 with 2,941 consecutive roll-call votes.



The second was the fact that she was scrupulous about spending very little on her campaigns, never accepting campaign contributions. This frugality won wide approval among her constituents and was a real factor in her vote-getting record as she was returned to the Congress term after term.

After retiring from active political life, Margaret Chase Smith launched a second career as a visiting professor and lecturer with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, at numerous colleges and universities. Her experience, wisdom, and values are an inspiration to young people. Senator Smith continues to meet with students and adults at the Northwood Institute Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan.

Honors continue to come to Senator Smith. She recently received her ninety-fifth honorary doctoral degree. In 1989, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor. These honors and awards may be seen at the Northwood Institute, Margaret Chase Smith Library where they are displayed with a multitude of other honors and memorabilia in the Library's museum. The library stands as a worthy tribute to Senator Smith's integrity, high standards and to her major contributions to United States history.



Affiliation with Northwood Institute:

Margaret Chase Smith was introduced to Northwood Institute in 1976 when she was asked to join the Distinguished Women of Northwood, a group of international women leaders in business, industry, arts, culture and politics. From that day to this, Senator Smith and Northwood have enjoyed a similar philosophy and perspective for the American potential.

The Library is located on fifteen picturesque acres overlooking the banks of the Kennebec River in Senator Smith's hometown of Skowhegan, Maine.

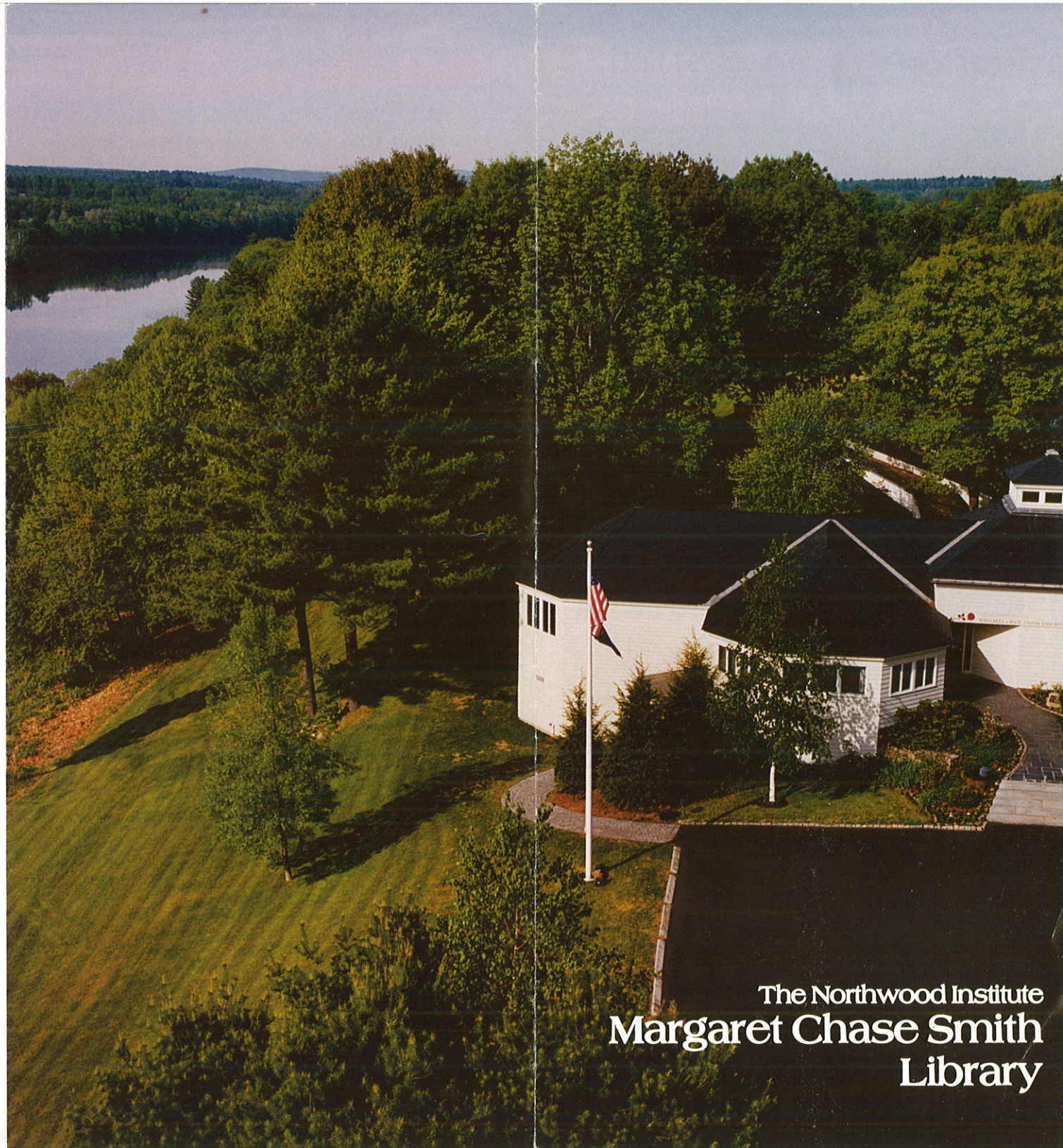
The Library was built in 1982 as an extension of the Senator's residence.

Directions from Interstate 95

Take exit 36 to Skowhegan. Once in Skowhegan, cross the river, circle thru downtown and follow Route 201 North. Turn left at the first traffic light heading out of town. The library is at the top of the hill about 1/2 mile on the left.

For information, write:
Margaret Chase Smith Library
P.O. Box 366, Norridgewock Ave.
Skowhegan, Maine 04976
(207) 474-7133

Library Hours:
Monday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



The Northwood Institute
**Margaret Chase Smith
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The Library is:

A congressional research library and archives for qualified scholars.

A tribute to Margaret Chase Smith's integrity, high standards, and to her major contributions to United States History.



Memorabilia in the main lobby

A place to preserve and to motivate the ideas and ideals which make America great.

A library to contribute resources, ideas and services to the public sector.

A repository for artifacts and memorabilia of twentieth century America as they relate to one person's devoted career in public service.

A place where young and old can see and enjoy a portion of their heritage.

The Library Collection includes:

Artifacts, memorabilia, souvenirs and gifts from people throughout the state, the nation and the world which reflect the career of Senator Smith.

Forty-three bound volumes of the Senator's speeches, news releases and general statements.

More than five hundred volumes of scrapbooks maintained by the Senator throughout her career.

Thousands of photographs of the activities of state, national, and world leaders.

Numerous recordings both audio and video, of interviews, debates and speeches.

Over 300,000 documents including records, correspondence, manuscripts and committee minutes from the Senator's career. Mrs. Smith served in the House of Representatives from 1940 to 1949 and in the Senate from 1949 to 1973.



Conference facilities