

But, to suggest that as one element of this program we ought to invest \$55 billion in the MX missile is to me not the wisest, most judicious use of our nation's resources.

The limitations of this letter prevent me from sharing with you other specific positions. But, if you'll write me, I'll tell you how I stand on any question you may have.

I also want to tell you more about why I'm running for President.

I am a second generation American born of an immigrant father. For some two decades I have served in the Congress during some of the most turbulent events in the history of our Republic. I have watched five Presidents and ten Congresses grapple with the issues that have tested the very fabric of our democratic society, woven as it is from the diverse strands of many nationalities, cultures, and beliefs.

Today, far too many Americans look upon government as an impersonal monolith that will carry on regardless of their wishes and quite impervious to the claims they would make against it.

It would be partisan in the extreme to suggest that this feeling is entirely attributable to President Carter. But it is nonetheless true that the present administration has in large degree lost the confidence of the American people. It has temporized and vascillated while problems have multiplied at an almost unbelievable rate.

Congress must share some of the blame.

In a period when it seeks to reassert its authority over both domestic and foreign policy, it has the responsibility to deal with issues in a way that demonstrates a recognition of the national interest. All too often this has not occurred.

Clinton Rossiter, the great student of the American Presidency, said that "the more Congress becomes, in Edmund Burke's phrase, 'the confused and scuffling bustle of local agency,' the more the Presidency must become a clear beacon of national purpose."

Today that beacon has become shrouded in the politics of confusion and indecision. Coherence and clarity of purpose are what we Americans seek. A new national purpose which means that every American will come to believe that each has a role to play in the solutions of problems that involve us all.

Today, the ambiguity of our national purpose is reflected in our problems over energy. In the case of energy and diminishing energy resources, we are a nation at war with ourselves, battling one another for what we consider our fair share of the fading American dream.