



Saying she is "unbought and unbowed," Mrs. Chisholm launches serious drive for the highest post in the land, the U. S. presidency.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR U. S. PRESIDENT

By Ronald E. Kisner

The portly sisters rush up to the chocolate-brown, 98-pound woman and squeeze and nestle her warmly. The brothers wrap their sturdy, calloused hands around the five spindly fingers of the small woman and wish her luck. Although her body yields like clay to the embraces and the skin on the hands occasionally cracks, "I just put on hand lotion to protect myself and keep on going," says Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D., N. Y.), who

is the first Black woman to seek the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

Shirley Chisholm didn't let the odds against her for being Black and a woman stop her from successfully being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1968 and then, two years later, she again defied the odds and became the first Black woman elected to the U. S. Congress.

"Of my two 'handicaps,' being female put many more obstacles in my path than being Black," she says. "Sometimes I have trouble, myself, believing that I made it this far against the odds." But before entering politics and later beginning her campaign for President, Mrs. Chisholm had to make sure things were secure at home. She married Conrad Q. Chisholm in 1949 and boasts that "he's my strongest supporter." When she's in New York, Mrs. Chisholm probably is busier than when she is in the nation's capital and finds little time to perform domestic chores which she once handled. Speaking in that regard, the 47-year-old politician says, "Black women in my community at home have volunteered to do the housework for me, so that's all taken care of."

Last week at the Concord Baptist Church in her Brooklyn district, Rep. Chisholm officially launched her presidential campaign, although supporters have been laying the groundwork for it for several months. The stateswoman, her own label, who said she was asked to run by "women, Black and white, Spanish-speak-



The presidential candidate meets E. Duke McNeil, president of The Woodlawn Organization (TWO) in Chicago as publicist Rosalind Bossette (l) stands by.

ing people, and young people," addressed her announcement speech to those groups: "We must turn away from the control of the prosaic, the privileged and the old-line, tired politicians to open our society to the energies and abilities of countless new groups of Americans—women, Blacks, browns, Indians, Orientals and youths."

Mrs. Chisholm believes that she and other women must "change the destiny of the world," and she stresses the point that women should be placed in more decision-making jobs in this country. However, she's not the "burn the bra" kind of women's liberationist.

The perfect size 7, Rep. Chisholm shows how she keeps so trim by eating a hamburger on the run. Earlier, she appeared on a talk show with Ms. magazine editor Gloria Steinem, who is supporting Mrs. Chisholm.



.. The BPP supported Shirley for President

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Mrs. Chisholm Has Received Only \$55,000 For Campaign

"I've been liberated a long time," she says. "There are some aspects of women's liberation that relate to Black women, but the rest of it is baloney."

To support her point of view, Rep. Chisholm gives two examples. "If the women's liberation movement persists in fighting for a national day care system, then this is important to Black women." The baloney is next. "Betty Friedan was against me because I refused to go out on the picket line to protest a cocktail lounge that refused to admit women. Well, that's a white, middle-class virtue. If men don't want me in their lounges, I don't want to be in them."

This type of straightforwardness is emblematic of the former schoolteacher and director of a New York City day nursery. Her

compulsion is fueled by the fact she's running on her "integrity," so she does and says what she feels "is morally right for Shirley Chisholm and not what is politically expedient. If people see what I am doing and like it they can join me," Rep. Chisholm begins, "but I'm not forcing anyone to support me."

Thaddeus Garrett, Mrs. Chisholm's legal assistant, said that about \$55,000 through small cash donations has been received and that about \$300,000 in pledges are still outstanding. Rep. Chisholm explains, "I turned down the contributions of two big corporations because I didn't want to be controlled."

The candidate says she will not contract any public relations firms to work for her, although two employees of the Washington, D. C.-

Rep. Chisholm tells strategy in Chicago to (seated l-r) Mrs. Arnita Boswell, a campaign worker, Illinois State Rep. Lewis Caldwell, State Sen. Richard Newhouse, McNeil, State Rep. Robert Mann and other supporters.



based A. L. Nellums and Associates public relations firm, which organized the successful Congressional Black Caucus dinner last summer in Washington, D. C., are on loan to her. However, Mrs. Chisholm says they will be working on fund-raising projects rather than her presidential campaign. Instead, she says she will take the advice of a southern white woman who told her, "All somebody has to do is to see and hear you and they'll support you."

In recent weeks, Mrs. Chisholm has been squeezing television tapings and speaking engagements into one and two-day whirlwind trips in states where she will either run in primaries or run a slate of delegates.

Even though the Gallup Polls don't include her among the presidential hopefuls ("I don't need that kind of support anyway," says Rep. Chisholm), she feels that her name "is almost a household word now." In Florida, she says, "Some 100 cars of mostly white well-wishers came out to the airport to greet me."

While in Chicago for a crammed two-day blitz, she spoke on so many radio and television programs that Mrs. Chisholm said her mouth became tired. Anyone listening, however, never would have known. Whether she's being cross-examined by reporters or is speaking from a podium, Rep. Chisholm's well-considered words virtually jump from her tongue with an incredible degree of speed and clarity.

Regarding domestic and international issues, Mrs. Chisholm has



California Rep. Ronald Dellums gives kiss to Mrs. Chisholm after announcement of her presidential candidacy at Concord Baptist Church in her Brooklyn district.

well-researched positions that she often explains in speeches. She has a five-point plan to solve the Middle East crisis that includes a limitation on all arms shipments to the areas, increased economic aid to the under-developed nations of the region and full representation for the Palestinians in all negotiations concerning the return of or compensation for Palestinian Arab property.

The representative criticizes U. S. foreign aid policies, saying they are "retarding long-term growth abroad, including political development of the poor nations."

Rep. Chisholm favors increasing economic aid (to amount to 1 percent of the total U. S. Gross National Product) to assist poor

Says Blacks, Africans Would Gain With Her In President's Office

countries in their struggle against ignorance and poverty. Her platform calls for "greatly decreased military aid abroad, including elimination of aid to repressive regimes such as those in Spain, Greece, Portugal and Cambodia.

She has attacked the Nixon Administration's policy toward Africa, saying the U. S. has "ignored the tragic problems facing the poor nations of Black Africa." She adds, "It has wiped out of its consciousness, if indeed such a notion ever existed there, the idea that the richest country in the world—Christian, young and revolutionary in origin—should be able, and is morally obligated, to help the Africans in their fight against ignorance and poverty."

Rep. Chisholm plays just as rough with the Nixon Administration's policies at home. In announcing the start of her campaign, she said the President has broken his promises to Americans and has, therefore, lost his claim to Americans' trust and confidence in him. She added, "I cannot believe that this Administration would have been elected four years ago if we had known then what we know today." She also addressed herself to other problems facing the nation such as the war in Vietnam, poverty, the continual rise in the cost of goods and the polarization of races and generations of Americans.

Only her uniform changes when Mrs. Chisholm hits the campus trail (she's been to more than 65 colleges and universities in 43

states) for the youth vote. She sometimes appears wearing a yellow leather coat and white boots. When not addressing students, however, she dresses more conservatively, although nothing about her appearance is outmoded.

"I have a young staff that selects my clothes for me; they don't want me to look old-fashioned," she says. On the other hand, she adds, "Although I'm older than all of my staff members, they have a hard time keeping up with me."

Rep. Chisholm is extremely aware of the hard work that lies ahead if she is to be considered a threat by July when the Democratic Convention is convened in Miami, Fla. She knows that the medium of exchange in the political market in Miami is delegates and believes that she has the best strategy for getting those delegates of all those offered by other Black politicians. "The 'favorite-son' route is just not the way this year," says Mrs. Chisholm. "The question will be, 'How many delegates can you deliver?'"

Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, one of Mrs. Chisholm's backers, says that plans for a national Black convention to convene prior to the first primaries in March are underway to draft a Black presidential candidate to support which he says will "probably be Shirley Chisholm."

After all, she's our only presidential candidate running," adds Sutton. But he said he hoped that a national "Black agenda" would



Emphatically making point with student in Miami, Fla., where she'll run in the March primary, Rep. Chisholm goes after the new youth vote.

emerge from the convention where he thinks favorite-son candidates would also be selected. A spokesman for Washington (D. C.) Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy said that Fauntroy's plan to run as a 'favorite son' in the District would "compliment Shirley Chisholm's campaign." She said that there are 15 delegate positions in Washington and that if Fauntroy can win them, they could be combined with Mrs. Chisholm's delegates to strengthen the bargaining position of Blacks.

In the Florida primary, she will be battling against, among others, her friend John V. Lindsay, mayor of New York City. The tireless congresswoman says she doesn't expect to win Florida, but hopes to leave the state with a good number of delegates. She also plans to enter the North Carolina primary and hopes to enter primaries in New York and California.

Although supporters may enter her name on a number of other state primary slates, Mrs. Chisholm says that because of her limited financial resources, she will campaign only in those states where she is likely to win the most delegates.

Congressional Black Caucus members Ronald V. Dellums (D., Calif.), Charles B. Rangel (D., N. Y.) and Parren J. Mitchell (D., Md.) are backing Mrs. Chisholm's presidential bid as is Mayor Richard G. Hatcher, of Gary, Ind. She also has the endorsement of the National Organization of Women. Dr. Charles G. Hurst, president of Chicago's Malcolm X College, says more Black male politicians have not announced support for her because "they haven't gotten over the shock yet."

If she cannot get the nomination from the Democratic power structure (which she bucked in