

Launching '16 Bid, Chafee Refuses To Rule Out Talks With IS

BY LISA LERER
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee entered the race for president Wednesday by calling for the U.S. to switch to the metric system, take an “open-minded approach” to drug trafficking and consider negotiating with Islamic State militants.

With his announcement, Chafee became the biggest longshot among Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Democratic rivals, who have a long way to go to avoid becoming historical footnotes in the 2016 campaign.

He did so by casting himself as an anti-war candidate who opposed the invasion of Iraq in 2003, but he quickly detoured into a list of policy proposals that are likely to be non-starters on the campaign trail.

Among them was refusing to rule out talks with Islamic State militants, a violent extremist group that has tortured and beheaded

prisoners and opposition fighters as it has overrun parts of Iraq and Syria.

A U.S.-led coalition has launched airstrikes against the extremist group since last August, but Chafee pointed to what he said was the group’s protection of antiquities in some of the territory they’ve taken as a reason to reconsider.

“It’s early,” he said. “We’re coming to grips with who these people are and what they want.”

Chafee, a former Republican turned independent who joined the Democratic Party two years ago, has made little effort to set up a competitive campaign operation. His launch Wednesday was made during a subdued speech in suburban Washington before a small group that consisted mainly of reporters.

“We must deliberately and carefully extricate ourselves from expensive wars,” Chafee told a half-full auditorium at George Mason University. “We need to be

very smart in these volatile times overseas.”

Along with moving to the metric system, the policy prescriptions in his speech included ending capital punishment, allowing National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden back into the U.S. without punishment and repairing relations with Venezuela. His priority would be to end all wars.

“Let’s wage peace in this new American century,” he said.

Chafee also said, “I happen to live in Canada,” in citing his support for moving to the metric system, which Canada did years ago. But spokeswoman Debbie Rich said he lived there in the past, from 1977 to 1983, not now.

Chafee strategists and donors said earlier they know little about his intentions — or even his rationale for running.

“He’s not done anything other than posture on some issues,” said Mike Trainor, a former Chafee aide. “The

question he’s going to have to answer is what credible indications can he give that he is at all ready to run a national campaign.”

Clinton has set a goal of raising \$100 million for her primary bid. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who entered the race last week, has said he’s already raised at least \$4 million. And allies of former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley have established a super PAC to support his efforts.

All three have begun building robust campaign operations with staff across the country, a step Chafee has yet to take.

In previous campaigns, Chafee has spent significant sums from his family fortune to further his political ambitions — for example, dropping \$1.8 million on his 2010 governor’s race. Running for president is significantly more expensive than seeking statewide office, with some pegging the estimated cost of a successful 2016 campaign at more than \$1 billion.

Unlike the other Democratic challengers, who’ve focused on pocketbook issues, Chafee has staked his campaign on growing international instability. His opposition to Clinton, Chafee said, is driven by the belief that the next president should not be someone who supported the war in Iraq. Then a Republican, Chafee was the lone GOP senator to vote in 2002 against the invasion.

Clinton, then a New York senator, voted to authorize the war, which became a major issue during her 2008 campaign. Clinton now opposes putting U.S. soldiers on the ground in Iraq, other than as advisers to the Iraqi forces.

Though he never mentioned Clinton by name Wednesday, Chafee took several veiled swipes at her candidacy, describing the controversies over her family foundation, finances and use of a private email account and server while secretary of state

as “regrettable.”

“We just can’t have that,” he said. “We need to just get back the respect and admiration of the international community.”

Chafee left the Republican Party in 2007 to become an independent and supported President Barack Obama in both his campaigns. After winning election as governor, Chafee became a Democrat in 2013, but opted against seeking re-election.

Got News?
Call The P&D
At 665-7811

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SACK PACK PROGRAM

The Sack Pack Program, in partnership with the Yankton School District, provides sacks of easy to prepare, nutritious food to be distributed to grade school age children who are at risk of hunger on the weekends. Because over 1/3 of the children in the Yankton School System are eligible for the Free & Reduced Meal Program the Sack Pack Program is a greatly needed resource in our community. Schools being served: Webster, Lincoln, Stewart, Beadle, Sacred Heart Schools and Yankton Middle School. Other schools will be added according to need and as money is raised. For more information, <http://www.yanktonunitedway.org/Community-Partners/Partners-Initiatives-/Sack-Pack>.



THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THE SACK PACK PROGRAM:

Jim & Pam Cunningham, Owners
AFFORDABLE SELF STORAGE
FREE Truck & Driver With Move-In
On-Site Manager • Security Gate
Fenced Facility • Overhead Doors
Lighted • 7 Different Sizes Available
605-665-4207
1501 West City Limits Rd • Yankton, SD

Best Western Kelly Inn
E. Hwy 50 • 665-2906

Charlie's PIZZA HOUSE
804 Summit St. • Yankton, SD
(605) 665-2212

SHEBOYGAN SAUSAGE COMPANY
1000 Cattle Dr.
Yankton, SD
(605) 665-1665

KFC TACO BELL
2504 Fox Run Parkway
665-4433

CherryBerry
self-serve yogurt bar
1101 Broadway Suite 102 Yankton, SD
Bring in this coupon and get 1/2 off a 16oz. cup of yogurt!
Expires 6/14/15
605-260-2727
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. Noon-8pm

L&S ELECTRIC
Harry Lane Electrical Contractor
1600 E. 39th St., Yankton
• Commercial • Residential
• Farm Wiring
• Prompt Service • Quality Work • Competitive Prices
New Construction or Remodeling
Home: 665-6612 • Mobile: 661-1040

OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS, INC.
178 Spring St., Yankton
665-5181 • (800) 545-2847
Putting Pests To Rest Since 1966
www.800kilbugs.com

PREMIUM BEST TRANSPORT
1501 Wek Road
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-9202

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN
319 Walnut
Yankton, SD
665-7811
www.yankton.net

Full Service Salon
The Cutting Crew LLC
409 Cedar St. • Yankton
605-664-4400
Walk-Ins Welcome
(Located one block north of Cotton Oil)

HEATING KAISER COOLING
808 WEST 23RD STREET
YANKTON, SD
(605) 665-2895
Providing Commercial and Residential Heating, Cooling and Electrical for the past 60 Years

We've got you covered!
Larsen Carpet
212 Walnut
Historic Downtown Yankton
(605) 665-2067

Minervas GRILL & BAR
1607 E Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD
605-664-2244
www.minervas.net

M.T. & R.C. SMITH INSURANCE
Serving the area since 1949.
Home, Auto, Business, Life, Bonds
204 W. 4th
Yankton, SD
665-3611

PATRIOT EXPRESS C-STORE
Corner of 23rd & Broadway
Yankton, SD
(605) 665-2052

sapa:
Shaping the future
2500 Alumax Road
Yankton
605-665-6063

You'll see and feel the difference...
• Eliminating or Reducing Pain
• Affordable Prices
• Convenient Location
Scott Family Dentistry
1101 Broadway Ste. 105, Morgen Square
www.scott-family-dentistry.com
605-665-2448

slumberland
furniture that lives the way you do
920 Broadway
Yankton
665-3719
www.slumberland.com

Summit activities center
1801 Summit St.
Yankton • 668-5234
For more information go to:
www.cityofyankton.org

#1483
Walmart
Save money. Live Better.
3001 Broadway Ave.
Yankton, SD
605-665-1425

Johnson Electric, LLP
Gary R. Johnson • Chris Merkel
Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel
Commercial Residential Trenching
665-5686
214 Capital St. • Yankton

WELFL Construction Co.
665-3258
800 W. 23rd St.