

Andrew Young, who for so long has worked in the shadow of political and social giants, felt himself impelled last Christmas to fill a void in Southern leadership by offering his candidacy for the Congress of the United States.

"I saw the progress of the past decade being wiped out in the wake of the assassinations and the Chicago Democratic Convention," he says. "The leadership of the 1950s and 60s had passed off the scene, and I felt the present leadership was trying to move us backward."

Setting forth a platform of reason, experience and effective action, Young began to put together a campaign effort to carry him to Congress.

Born on March 12, 1932, Young was educated at Dillard University in New Orleans and Howard University in Washington, D.C. Following graduation, he enrolled in Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut and earned a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1955.

He pastored churches in Hartford, Connecticut; Marion, Alabama where he met his wife; and in Thomasville and Beachton, Georgia. He joined the National Council of Churches' Department of Youth Work as its Associate Director in 1957. For several years he worked professionally with youth in such diverse areas as television programming, athletics and policymaking related to youth.

Young served with the National Council of Churches until 1961 when he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to conduct a Southern voter registration drive. By 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had elevated him to SCLC's executive directorship.