

Schneider Echoes JFK's Message

By BOB RIEL
CALL Staff Writer

Congresswoman Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.) last night urged Greater Woonsocket residents to heed the call of volunteerism and become involved in their communities.

Quoting the late President John F. Kennedy, who said "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," Mrs. Schneider said citizens need to focus on volunteerism as a means of "building a better society."

See SCHNEIDER — Page 2



REP. CLAUDINE SCHNEIDER

Schneider

Continued from Page 1

She spoke in the Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue, 224 Prospect St., following a Sabbath service at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Schneider said the nation is experiencing a period of dramatic change. She said the changes show a renewed spirit of participation and mark "a turning point in American history and in society."

In the past, people were content to place faith in the government, she said. But the government was "not exactly doing what we had hoped...so we're returning the power to the people," she said.

Mrs. Schneider outlined the three major areas of governmental changes that Congress tackled last year: budget and tax cuts and regulatory reforms.

She had hoped the budget cuts would be equitable to all citizens and all regions of the country, she said. But in Congress, she quickly learned that "the part of the country you're from is more important than the party you belong to," she said.

Mrs. Schneider said she joined a coalition of Congressmen from the Northeast to fight certain aspects of the budget cuts. She asked for budget concessions in education, energy, Medicaid, mass transit and block grants because these issues are "important to the people of our region," she said.

"But I recognize that once again

I must roll up my sleeves," Mrs. Schneider said, because the latest round of proposed budget cuts involves many of the items she fought to save last year.

If Congress is to insure equity in the cutbacks it has to "make sure there are no more sacred cows," she said, such as tobacco, peanut and wheat subsidies and federal water projects that "are wasting thousands of dollars."

On the issue of defense, Mrs. Schneider said "there is no question that we need a strong defense. But it is also important to remember that we don't solve problems by throwing money (into defense). We solve problems by efficiently spending the dollars we do have.

"We have to decide how best to spend our money," she said. Mrs. Schneider cited the MX missile system and B-1 bomber as projects that are a potential waste of funds.

It is not prudent "to invest in the MX when a method of deployment has not even been chosen," she said. Also, money planned for the B-1 bomber could better be utilized for the Stealth project or to balance the budget, she said.

"The strength of a country is not necessarily found in the military hardware, but in the strength of the people," she said.

After her speech, Mrs. Schneider attended a reception with tea and pastries and later participated in a question and answer session.