

RECOGNIZING CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR CHARLES M. PRICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant achievements of Charles M. Price, a retiring political science professor at Chico State University in Chico, California.

Dr. Price began his outstanding work at Chico State in 1965. During the 37 years that followed, he taught through some of our Nation's most turbulent times. The assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement and 9/11. These events shook the world and drastically impacted our college-aged youth. However, rather than allow frustration and confusion to rob his students of their confidence in government, Dr. Price used his unique talents to uplift and inspire students. He taught his students hope for a better tomorrow through our government, not in spite of it.

Dr. Price is a frequently sought-after commentator on direct democracy, California government and politics. His articles appear regularly in both local and national newspapers and the textbook he authored is the leading text on California government. He has received many accolades including several university merit awards. Yet as impressive as Dr. Price's resume is, his legacy lays in the civic involvement he has evoked from his students.

For over 10 years, Dr. Price served as director of the California Assembly Fellows program where students were able to gain a deep and thorough understanding of California's state government. He created and directs the Chico State University Sacramento Internship program, which provides Chico State students the opportunity to secure political internships and often jobs in politics. Several of Dr. Price's students have moved on to hold public office.

To have so many students become politically active is rare for many political science professors. For Dr. Price, it is the norm.

I earned my undergraduate degree from Chico State University. There, I had the privilege of being one of Dr. Price's political science students. The encouragement and motivation I received was profound as Dr. Price taught my class that we could, and should, make a difference in government. Dr. Price has the ability to make you believe that you can reach out and touch government; he made me believe I could get involved.

Mr. Speaker, for his invaluable contributions to Chico State University, his students Californian state government and our Nation, it is most appropriate that we honor Dr. Charles M. Price.

ELIMINATING THE 24-MONTH WAITING PERIOD FOR MEDICARE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than 56 million Americans currently live with some kind of disability. These disabilities include blindness, paralysis, mental illness, hearing loss, physical ailments, and a host of other conditions.

The federal government has recognized the unique challenges faced by these Americans by allowing qualified disabled individuals to receive health insurance under the Medicare program. Unfortunately, the law includes a 24 month waiting period before disabled individuals can qualify for coverage.

This waiting period poses a serious problem for many newly disabled Americans. Faced with the loss of their employment due to their disability, their situation is only made worse because they cannot access the health care services they need. The Medicare program was designed to help people in need—not make their situations worse by denying them necessary health care.

That is why I am introducing legislation to eliminate the 24-month waiting period under the Medicare program. This legislation would allow individuals to enroll in Medicare immediately upon their disability determination. This is a necessary change in the law which will help countless Americans access the health care they need upon becoming disabled.

APPLES DON'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend to your attention the following editorial, "No interest like self-interest," written by Alexandra Pelosi.

Ms. Pelosi is a television news producer who co-directed the documentary "Journeys with George," a behind the scenes look at George W. Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. She is also the daughter of the House Democratic Leader, Representative NANCY PELOSI.

It is clear that apples don't fall far from the tree. The values, commitment and leadership NANCY PELOSI exemplifies resound here in the eloquent words of her daughter. I commend Alexandra Pelosi for her straightforward insight. She is right to call on the President to put the common good ahead of self-interest and to challenge all Americans to the same.

The following is a reprinted version of Ms. Pelosi's editorial that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on December 3, 2002:

NO INTEREST LIKE SELF-INTEREST

Watching President Bush on television this election cycle at those staged, made-for-TV photo-ops as he stomped for the congressional candidate du jour made me nostalgic.

Back in 2000, when I was an NBC News producer covering his campaign, then candidate Bush sat down with me and my absentee bal-

lot during the primaries. This is the pitch Bush made to me, a declared Democrat, for why I should vote for him: "You're in a key position. You happen to know me, you can read me like a book, you are able to share thoughts with the people of NBC in such a way that no one else will. And if I lose, you're out of work baby, you're off the plane, baby. It's in your interests." He appealed to my ambition and my pocketbook. He didn't push my country's interest—but rather, my own.

His pitch struck me as a cynical appeal to the personal good over the public good. So I asked, "But is that why people are supposed to vote? Are they supposed to vote just for themselves? What about the little people? I have a good job, I have a good life. BUT what about the people who really need my vote: the hungry, the unemployed, the homeless?" He didn't really have an answer for me, all he had to give me was a kiss.

A lot has changed since Bush became president. A new patriotic fervor and a spirit of sacrifice swept the nation after Sept. 11. Remember the endless lines of New Yorkers celebrating the rescue workers near Ground Zero, the generous donations coming in from across our country? America showed the kind of selfless spirit that has defined some of the best moments of our history. We were "stronger, more united." Remember?

If the days after Sept. 11 taught us anything, it was that the American way of "me first, me only" just isn't going to make it in the new millennium. We were willing to admit that "what is good for you, may not be good for your country." It felt like a new day was dawning.

So when I saw Bush campaigning last month, I was surprised to see him using his old line. Here is the pitch he made to the people of New Hampshire for why they should vote for JOHN SUNUNU, the Republican senator-elect: "It doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or Democrat or independent, it's in your interest, it's in your personal interest and it's in your state interest that you have one of your own be the chairman of one of the most vital committees in the United States Senate."

These midterm elections made me wonder. Have we learned nothing in the last two years? What happened to the Sept. 11 lesson of selflessness and sacrifice?

The political commentators love to marvel at how President Bush has grown up in office. And people who see "Journeys With George" always ask me about how he has "risen to the occasion." For evidence of his evolution, they point to the scene in my movie that takes place 60 days before the 2000 presidential election. I ask Bush how he changed during the campaign. "I started out as a cowboy," he says. "And I'm now a statesman."

"Are you?" I ask.

For a second, he bristles at my imper-tinence, then says, "If you have to ask, I think we're in trouble."

There's a difference between a cowboy and a statesman. A cowboy is a rodeo performer or a wild loner roaming the land just looking out for himself. A statesman looks out for and leads us all.

As he did in 2000, Bush went state to state in 2002, bringing the message to America that a vote for one of his hand-picked candidates was "in their interest." Apparently, that tactic worked, for now he has a pliant Republican Congress, ready to do the bidding of a population acting only in its own self-interest.

I thought we'd all grown a little since Sept. 11, that we've embraced our inner statesman. But have we? And if I have to ask, I think we're in trouble.