

REVIEW & PREVIEW

The Newsletter of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Fall 1997

Paul Simon's Vision For the Public Policy Institute: Action That Will Make a Difference



Paul Simon

Welcome to the first edition of a twice-a-year publication to let you know what the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University is doing and to give you the views of some of the participants here.

When I announced in November 1994 that I would be retiring from the U.S. Senate after my term expired, I received a number of generous offers in a variety of fields, including academic offers from Massachusetts to California and several from Illinois. The decision that Jeanne and I made to come back to southern Illinois and become part of Southern Illinois University was the one Jeanne and I felt comfortable with.

Financially, it was not the most advantageous, either for me personally

or in terms of what schools offered to support any public policy endeavors I might promote. But Southern Illinois University is a school with a high percentage of first-generation college students and a significant enrollment of minority students in a region rich in good people but not so rich in economic opportunities.

The University also seemed to me to be on the verge of maturing into an institution that did not simply ask what it could get but what it could contribute.

No small factor in all of this is the leadership of the University: Ted Sanders as president brings a depth of background and commitment important to the school and the region; John Guyon, a solid leader, and now his successor, Don Beggs, a chancellor widely respected on the campus; John Jackson, a friend for decades who now serves as provost; and one of the key players in my move, Joe Foote, dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, one of the finest academic leaders on any campus. Others should be mentioned. I sensed in this leadership team people I could work with well.

I teach two courses and also head the Public Policy Institute whose bulletin you are receiving.

Unlike many academic public policy institutes, we are interested in not simply having fine intellectual discussions. Before we have a full-blown symposium, I want to ask the bottom-line question: Can we contribute something concrete that could result in action?

To the extent possible, we are also involving the faculty and students,

something I have missed over the years as I have visited some institutes on campuses around the nation. I want students and faculty to get a better sense of how public policy is made as we bring policy-makers and idea people together.

To make the concept of this institute a reality long after you and I are around, we do need financial assistance.

One of the qualities sometimes missing in public office today is courage. My hope for the Public Policy Institute is that occasionally we can call for things that may be unpopular but need to be done. To be able to do that consistently, the institute needs a financial base that is free of any possible pressure from public officials or University administrators.

I have seen public opinion polls take the place of leadership too often, and I have seen excessive partisanship harm our decision-making process. I have many deficiencies, but one of my assets is an ability to work with people of both political parties. My belief is that away from the partisan wars of Springfield and Washington, we can fashion bipartisan answers that reflect understanding and vision. The presence of Mike Lawrence, who was Governor Edgar's press secretary for nearly a decade, as the Institute's associate director helps make clear that our mission is bipartisan.

Our institute is launched. How far it will sail and how effective it will be rest in part in your hands.

Former Senators Advocate Social Security Reform

The Public Policy Institute on May 22 addressed one of the most significant fiscal issues the nation must face—an issue that has a huge impact on the lives of millions of people—the long-term financial problems faced by the Social Security Retirement Fund.

Anyone who studies the issue for 15 minutes knows that significant changes must be made if we are not to rob our children and grandchildren of their opportunities—and also do great harm to the nation.

But there are no popular answers. Otherwise, both political parties would be proposing solutions, and neither party has.

At the request of some members of the U.S. Senate, former Senators Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), John Danforth (R-Mo.) and David Pryor (D-Ark.) joined Paul Simon and the deputy chief actuary for Social Security, Stephen Goss, for a meeting at SIUC.

Prior to the gathering, the five corresponded and exchanged ideas by telephone. There was a long list of possibilities—all unpopular—that they considered.



Former Senators David Pryor, Paul Simon, John Danforth, and Alan Simpson at the public forum on Social Security at SIUC.

They finally came down to two proposals: (1) Correct the Consumer Price Index (the way inflation is calculated); and (2) Have everyone pay Social Security on all earnings instead of only on the first \$65,000.

The actuary reports those two changes would protect Social Security for 75 years and do a great deal for the U.S. economy. Without corrective action, deficits of the federal government will balloon shortly after the start of the next century.

The majority of the savings will come from those making more than \$65,000 a year, but the four former legislators felt that persons with higher incomes should pay more, though they would not be eligible for greater retirement benefits.

The correction of the Consumer Price Index would affect those receiving Social Security retirement, but economists are generally in agreement that the rate of inflation is overstated. The CPI does not include the savings from substitution (For example: When beef goes up, people eat more chicken), does not include the savings from generic drugs, and does not include the savings from discount stores.

The four former senators communicated their conclusions in a letter to the President and to their former colleagues in the Congress.

Two senators—a prominent Democrat and a prominent Republican—are considering introducing a measure incorporating the recommendations.

The *Washington Post* ran a condensed version of the letter.

Recommendations Forwarded to Congress

May 28, 1997

All Members of Congress

Dear Friend:

Four of us—your former colleagues, two Republicans and two Democrats—who will not be seeking office again recently met to discuss an issue of great importance to the nation: the future of Social Security's retirement trust fund.

If this problem is not addressed immediately, the difficulties will mount and the long-run picture for both the fund and the confidence in our system of government is grim. The sooner you address this problem, the easier it will be to resolve. Postponing responsible action may be temporarily politically attractive, but history will be harsh on those who ducked when action was needed.

We believe that salvaging Social Security requires these two fundamental changes:

1. *Congress should act to correct the Consumer Price Index to reflect reality;*
2. *Congress should remove the cap on the taxable amount of income covered by Social Security.*

The fundamental decisions on the future of Social Security should not be in the hands of technicians, but in the hands of those who are elected by the people to reflect the values of this nation and to make fundamental decisions.

If you accept the recommendations we make, you will provide the nation with a solvent Social Security retirement system, along with a much healthier fiscal base.

If the sacrifices that we call upon people to make are accepted, the trust fund should be secure for the lifetime of our children and grandchildren. That is no small gift to the future of our nation. You are in a position to make that contribution.

This is a time that calls for your leadership. We respectfully ask you to meet this challenge.

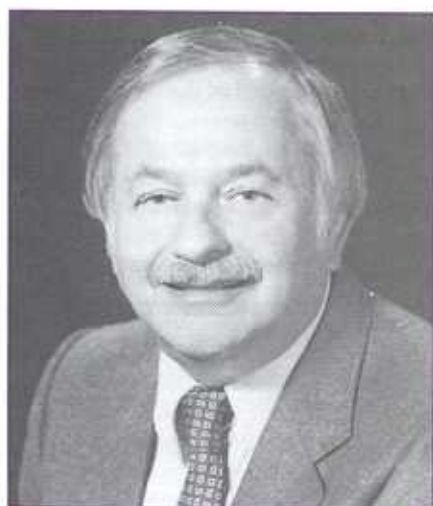
John Danforth

David Pryor

Paul Simon

Alan Simpson

Institute Will Host Symposium on Environmental Policy In Honor of Bertram W. Carnow



Bert Carnow

The Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University will host government regulators, environmental experts, and policymakers from throughout the nation at the first Bertram W. Carnow Memorial Symposium on Oct. 6.

The symposium will address the problems of environmental and work place hazards. A specific focus will involve how to recognize when those who create and implement health-related public policy are suffi-

ciently informed to take action that will protect the health of the general public.

A driving force behind the symposium and its chief sponsor is Shirley A. Conibear, Carnow's widow and president and senior scientist at the Chicago-based firm of Carnow, Conibear and Assoc., Ltd.

David Kessler, former director of the Food and Drug Administration and currently dean of the Yale Medical School, is one of several experts in the regulatory area who will play a prominent role in the symposium.

As commissioner, Kessler acted to speed approval of new drugs and placed high priority on getting promising therapies for serious and life-threatening diseases to patients as quickly as possible.

Among those planning to join Kessler and other outstanding public health professionals are U.S. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana and Linda Birnbaum, director of environmental toxicology at the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Participants will provide valuable insights and information as they examine and discuss the lessons of the past and the challenges of the future as it relates to regulating and controlling occupational, environmental, and other hazards to human health.

Dr. Carnow was a leader in the field of occupational and environmental health. In

the early years of his practice, the clustering of particular illnesses and symptoms in his patients prompted him to conduct some of the first research on the environmental causes of acute and chronic lung diseases.

He eventually left the clinical practice of medicine to conduct epidemiologic studies at the University of Illinois, where he documented health problems caused by air pollution.

Paul Simon, Conibear, and other organizers of the symposium want to build on Dr. Carnow's fundamental approach: gathering enough information to make sound and timely decisions. For those who make public policy, this involves intelligently weighing environmental, health, and economic issues that reflect competing interests.

"We honor Dr. Carnow's commitment to his patients and to the public's health. But we also honor the discipline he brought to carrying out that commitment—the discipline of making decisions based on solid information," Simon said.

"It is imperative that those who make public policy have that same discipline, and this symposium should make a major contribution to the development of sound, effective environmental policy as we near a new century and all of the public health challenges that it will bring."

Mike Lawrence Joins Institute

Mike Lawrence, former press secretary and senior policy adviser to Gov. Jim Edgar, came on board July 1 as associate director of the Public Policy Institute.

Lawrence brings a rich background to the job, having served first as a reporter, columnist, and editor, and then as a top aide to the governor.

"My first choice for associate director was Mike Lawrence, and I'm pleased for the University and for the future service of the Institute that he is here," Paul Simon said.

Lawrence said, "After serving one outstanding public servant for the last 10 years, I am very pleased to be closely associated with another outstanding public servant. Paul and I have known each other for three decades. I respect him very much. We share a strong interest in helping to develop bipartisan public policy that makes a positive difference in the lives of others."

Lawrence, 55, was a journalist for nearly a quarter of a century and earned high respect from his colleagues. He served stints as managing editor and editorial page editor for the *Quad-City Times*, the flagship newspaper of Lee Enterprises. But Lawrence specialized primarily in reporting and commenting on state government and politics. In addition to serving as Lee's Springfield bureau chief, he wrote a weekly column that was syndicated to more than 40 newspapers in Illinois.

He capped his newspaper career as Springfield bureau chief for the Chicago Sun-Times before becoming Edgar's chief spokesman as Edgar geared up to run for governor.

Lawrence was press secretary in Edgar's 1990 gubernatorial campaign and was the new governor's first appointee after the election. He served as the governor's chief spokesman until departing to join the Institute. See photo on page 6.

Institute Mapping Initiatives on TV Violence, Campaign Finance Reform

Two major public policy questions—combating TV violence and reforming the way political campaigns are funded—are key items on the Institute's 1998 agenda.

The Institute is working closely with Robert D. Stuart Jr., retired chairman of Quaker Oats Co., to plan, organize, and convene a conference on TV violence at the Edwardsville campus of Southern Illinois University next spring.

The focus for the conference will be what can be done—short of legislation that has First Amendment implications—to persuade the television industry to eliminate gratuitous violence in its programming and acknowledge that violence has dramatic consequences both for the perpetrator and the victim.

In addition, the conference also will spotlight issues dealing with overall programming for children on television and the Internet.

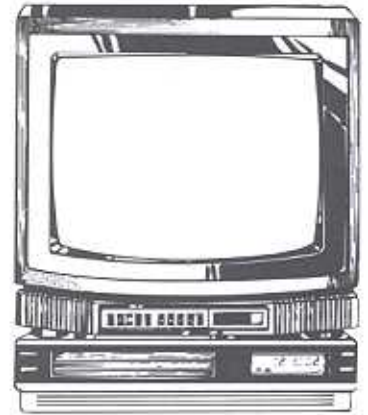
Those who have been active in this battle—including elected officials, groups representing the interests of parents and children and industry representatives—will be brought together to concentrate on

what needs to be done and how best to achieve it through continuing and expanding public pressure and other means.

Also in the offing for early next year will be an Institute initiative to help stimulate campaign finance reform in Illinois by bringing together state officials, community leaders and other important players in the public policy arena. The goal will be to stimulate reforms that will help reassure the people of Illinois that the public's interest will be the foremost factor in determining and implementing public policy at all levels of government in the state.

In addition, the Institute is assisting the School of Social Work and the Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development on the Carbondale campus in an initiative to assess the impact of welfare reform in rural areas. The initiative calls for monitoring families in the region, and the institute has been asked to help in raising and analyzing public policy issues that will emerge from the research.

The involvement in that initiative is consistent with Paul Simon's interest in addressing poverty not only in southern



Illinois but also throughout the world. Among other things, the institute has been encouraged and intrigued by the strong interest of Bishop Leroy C. Hodapp of the worldwide United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, in working with us to determine how to increase, expand, and most effectively focus involvement by the religious community and other not-for-profit groups in addressing poverty.

A Time To Remember the Public Policy Institute

Every person ought to have a will. If your income falls within the range of the U.S. average income, it is doubly important that you plan your estate prudently to help your family and others whom you wish to remember.

One of the things we would like for you to consider is remembering the Public Policy Institute in your bequests. Setting aside \$10,000 or more toward the endowment of the Public Policy Institute is a way of helping assure that the causes you believe in will continue to make a difference even when you're gone.

The SIU Foundation will be pleased to help you with any technical assistance. Call the Foundation at (618) 453-4900. If you would prefer to discuss your options with Paul Simon, please return the card on the last page of this newsletter or call us at (618) 453-4009.

As always, we need your help to continue the Institute's vital services.

Attorneys General of Minnesota, Illinois Among Headliners For Symposium On Tobacco Settlement

Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III of Minnesota and Attorney General Jim Ryan of Illinois will be featured speakers in October at a symposium co-sponsored by the Public Policy Institute and Southern Illinois University School of Law.

The symposium, which will be held Oct. 19 and Oct. 20 on the Carbondale campus, will focus on the settlement reached by attorneys general of several states with the tobacco industry.

Humphrey and Ryan have been active in fighting the tobacco industry in the courts. Humphrey opposes the settlement that was reached. Ryan supports it. But Humphrey, a Democrat, and Ryan, a Republican, have enjoyed a good working relationship.

Also participating in the symposium will be Ron Davis, former head of the Office on Smoking and Health in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, John Slade of

Johns Hopkins University, and a representative of the Cato Institute, which generally espouses limited government.

Coordinating the symposium is Donald W. Garner, a professor in the SIU School of Law who has spent nearly a quarter of a century working on the issue of tobacco control. He authored articles as early as the 1970s citing the costs incurred by states because of cigarette smoking and suggesting litigation as a recourse.

Simon Plays Role During Elections in Other Nations

Institute Director Paul Simon, who served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, played a brief role recently in two elections in other nations.

For the Croatian presidential election, Simon headed a team of 104 international observers from 25 countries who monitored the election in that troubled part of central Europe. He accepted the role at the invitation of the chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Danish Foreign Minister. At a press conference after the election, Paul called the elec-

tion "free but not fair" and outlined its deficiencies.

For the presidential election in Liberia (Africa), Paul accepted the invitation of the Carter Center to co-chair the international observers. The other co-chairs were former President Jimmy Carter and former President Soglo of Benin, an African country. At a press conference the day after the election, the three leaders praised the people of Liberia for running a genuinely free election, despite the huge handicaps resulting from the seven-year civil war in that nation.

Fellowship Honors John White

Two friends of the Institute have established the John White Fellowship and Lecture. The first Fellow will be Mayor Dannel McCullom of Champaign, who will visit classes on the Carbondale campus and also speak about his years as mayor and what might be done to improve service through our municipalities.

John White is the president of Midland Manufacturing, former president of the Better Government Association of Chicago, and an active participant in civic and political life.

The donors said, "We want to honor someone who has simply been an outstanding citizen and does not get the attention that many others receive. After going over a list of possibilities, we felt that John White was the person who should be honored."

Mayor McCullom will be on the campus Oct. 21 through Oct. 23.

Plans call for municipal officials, faculty members, students, and others to join McCullom for some of the sessions on campus.

Our Thanks

Public officials from both parties attended Chicago and Carbondale fundraisers organized by the University in behalf of the Public Policy Institute.

Among those who took time out of their busy schedules to appear and give remarks were Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, Senator Dan Coats of Indiana, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, Senator Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois, Senator Paul Wellstone of Indiana and Illinois Secretary of State George Ryan. The wives of Congressmen Glenn Poshard and Jerry Costello represented them.

Former public officials who helped in special ways are Alan Simpson, former senator from Wyoming; John Danforth, former senator from Missouri; David Pryor, former senator from Arkansas, and John Schmidt, former U.S. assistant attorney general.

The Institute on a regular basis will bring together policymakers from both political parties to work on issues.

Regional Advisory Board Members Bring Expertise, Diversity, Commitment

The Institute has a regional advisory board. The membership is balanced between civic leaders from southern Illinois and University faculty and administrators:

The board, which meets at least semi-annually in Carbondale, includes:

- Jane H. Adams, associate professor of anthropology, SIUC;
- Roger J. Beck, associate professor of agribusiness economics, SIUC;
- Harry Crisp, chairman and chief executive officer of Marion Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.;
- Former State Sen. Ralph Dunn;
- Einar Dyhrkopp, governor, U.S. Postal Service;
- Joe S. Foote, dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, SIUC;
- Samuel Goldman, professor of educational administration and higher education, SIUC;
- Sam Gove, professor, Institute of Public Affairs, University of Illinois;
- John F. Hayward, emeritus professor of philosophy, SIUC;
- Muriel Hayward, civic leader, Carbondale;
- Former State Rep. James Holloway;
- John S. Jackson III, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, SIUC;
- Richard Johnston, publisher of the *Southern Illinoian*;
- Stephen Keith, president of All Tech Research and Development, Marissa, Ill.;
- John D. McIntyre, acting associate dean of the College of Education, SIUC;
- James D. Nowlan, senior fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, University of Illinois;
- John Benjamin Ruhl, assistant professor at the School of Law, SIUC;
- Paul D. Sarvela, professor and director of the Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development, SIUC;
- Jerry G. Sinclair, owner of Sinclair Investment Co.;
- R. Keith Snavelly, associate professor of political science, SIUC;
- Martin Tracy, director of the School of Social Work, SIUC;
- John S. Washburn, professor of Workforce Education and Development, SIUC;
- Charles N. Wheeler III, director of the Public Affairs Reporting Program, University of Illinois at Springfield;
- Wenona Whitfield, associate professor at the School of Law, SIUC.

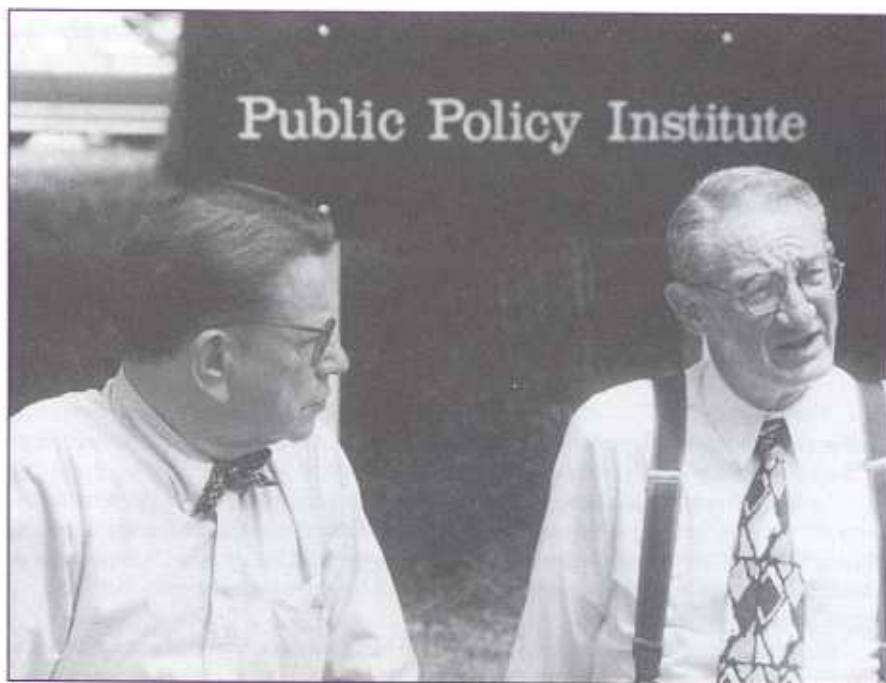
We Want Your Ideas

No one in Carbondale (or anywhere else) has a monopoly on good ideas. Your suggestions are welcome as we shape an agenda for the Institute.

To assure that we do a good, thoughtful job and produce concrete results, we will develop and organize two or three major symposia a year.

In addition to those symposia, the Institute will host and help stimulate an idea exchange every six weeks or so. These exchanges will be limited to two hours and will concentrate on a different issue each time. University faculty, students, outside experts and others who would like to participate will be brought together.

Please send us your suggestions either for major symposia or for idea exchanges. And let us know if you want to participate.



Paul Simon and Mike Lawrence met with reporters outside the Public Policy Institute on Lawrence's first day as associate director, July 1. See story on page 3.

National Advisory Board Brings Leaders Together

A national advisory board for the Public Policy Institute is being formed. The group will meet annually but members will be available to provide advice and other support when called upon. Persons who have agreed to serve as this bulletin goes to press are:

- John B. Anderson, Washington-based attorney, former presidential candidate and congressional leader;
- Robert H. Asher, president, American Friends of the Israel Arts and Science Academy;
- William A. "Bud" Blakey, Washington-based attorney;
- Heather Booth, training director, Democratic National Committee;
- William E. Brock III, former Cabinet member, former chairman of the Republican National Committee;
- Hank Brown, former U.S. senator, co-director of the Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues, University of Denver;
- Anne L. Bryant, executive director, National School Boards Association;
- Judge James L. Buckley of the U.S. Court of Appeals;
- Nancy Chen, director of intergovernmental services, Immigration and Naturalization Service;
- Myron Cherry, attorney;
- Philip Corboy, attorney;
- Lester Crown, prominent Chicago business executive;
- John Danforth, attorney and former U.S. senator;
- Francis Deng, scholar on Africa; Brookings Institution
- Tom Eagleton, columnist and former U.S. senator;
- Pat Greathouse, retired vice president of the United Auto Workers;
- Lawrence N. Hansen, vice president, the Joyce Foundation;
- Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus, Notre Dame University;
- Dr. and Mrs. R.A. Hovanessian;
- Hirair Hovanian, prominent business leader;
- Ed Joyce, attorney;
- Jack Kemp, former vice presidential candidate, congressman and Cabinet member.
- Jonathan Kozol, author;
- Eugene Lang, business leader and founder of the "I Have A Dream" Foundation;
- Ray Marshall, faculty member at the University of Texas and former Cabinet member;
- William McSweeney, former president of Occidental Oil;
- Abner Mikva, former justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals and counsel to the President;
- Newton Minow, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission;
- James A. Perkins, consultant and former president of Cornell University;
- Joseph Power, attorney;
- Bernard Rapoport, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, American Income Life Insurance Co.;
- Robert Reich, faculty member at Brandeis University and former Cabinet member;
- Jon S. Saltzman, president and chief executive officer, Penn-America Group Inc.;
- Anthony Scarioano, former Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court;
- Alan Simpson, former U.S. senator who is now lecturing at the JFK School of Government, Harvard;
- Robert S. Strauss, attorney, former ambassador, and former chairman of the Democratic National Committee;
- Stanley B. Weinberger, attorney;
- John J. White, president, Midland Manufacturing;
- Roger Wilkins, author and professor at George Mason University;
- Lynn Williams, former president of the United Steelworkers;
- James C. Wright Jr., former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Want to Honor Someone?

If you wish to honor someone in a special way, whether that person is living or deceased, one way to do so and contribute to the Public Policy Institute is through the SIU Foundation.

Contributions go into a permanent endowment that will help the Institute carry out its work during the decades ahead. All contributions of more than \$100 to honor someone will be detailed in this bulletin. All contributions of \$1,000 or more will result in the honoree's name being placed on a permanent plaque at the Institute. Contributions of \$20,000 or more will mean that a permanently endowed fellowship or lectureship at the Institute will be named for the honoree.

FYI...

This form is for your use if you would like to contribute to the Institute or if you would simply like to communicate with us.

Please check one or more of the following:

- I am pleased to enclose this check for the Institute.*
- I would like to talk with Paul about making a substantial contribution to the Institute.*
- I would like to talk with Paul about including the Institute in my will.*
- I would like the Institute to contact me about some ideas that I have for symposiums or other Institute projects.*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number At Which I Can Be Reached (Optional) _____

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Reviews & Previews is published twice a year for contributors to and friends of the Public Policy Institute. Director: Paul Simon. Associate Director: Mike Lawrence. Phone (618) 453-4009, Fax (618) 453-7800.

Produced for the Public Policy Institute by University Print Communications. Editor: Bonnie Marx. Designer: Jay Bruce. Phone (618) 536-7531, Fax (618) 453-3308, E-mail lwright@siu.edu



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