

# Mrs. Price began political activism with social work

By DONNA LEINWAND  
State & National Editor

Participation in demonstrations and sit-ins in the 1960s gave many people a sense of the politics involved in integration.

"It gave us a belief in the power of political activism," said Lisa Price, wife of North Carolina's freshman Rep. David Price, D-4th District.

Mrs. Price, who participated in civil rights demonstrations to force the integration of restaurants in the Baltimore area, said her concern was an extension of her values, values she carries with her today.

"My parents were very socially concerned," said Mrs. Price, who grew up just south of Alexandria, Va. "My mother was a social worker and my father worked for the federal government. They were very strong Democrats."

After graduating from Goucher College in Maryland in 1962 as an English major, Mrs. Price went to Boston University. She graduated from the Boston School of Social Work in 1965.

While working at a center geared to retraining people for better jobs in Washington, D.C., she met David Price, whom she married in 1968.

"We met through mutual friends in Washington," she said. "He was working for a senator and he came down (to Washington) for two summers."

After they married, the Prices moved to New Haven, Conn., where Rep. Price attended Yale University's School of Divinity.

Soon after, Mrs. Price once again got involved in politics in New Haven. In 1971, she ran for alderman.

"They wanted someone to run as a reform Democrat against the Democratic machine that dominated

## Congressional Wives

New Haven politics," she said. Mrs. Price said her husband and a friend helped her organize her campaign.

"David was really enthusiastic and supportive," she said.

Although she was elected, Mrs. Price said the reform Democrats were unable to accomplish much because the regular Democratic machine always won.

Mrs. Price also continued her social work while she lived in New Haven, working with unmarried and teenage mothers at a hospital.

"I think a number of the people I saw were not particularly interested in changing," she said. "You can't help someone who doesn't want it."

She said that after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination the tensions between blacks and whites increased. She said it was particularly hard for a white social worker to work with black clients.

"I think some of the anger of those days has died down," she said.

She resigned from both jobs in August 1973 to move to North Carolina.

Mrs. Price returned to part-time social work at the Interfaith Council in 1977 when her youngest child, Michael, was five, but left to work on her husband's campaign for the 4th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in March 1986.

"In some ways, I did make professional sacrifices to deal with child and home responsibilities," she said. "There are trade-offs, pros and cons."

Mrs. Price said at times working

on the campaign was an extension of social work.

"I liked meeting a lot of people, working on strategy and going on trips with David," she said. "I really liked all aspects of the campaign. It was an adventure even though it was stressful and challenging."

She said she was somewhat surprised when her husband decided to run for Congress, although he had been chairman of the N.C. Democratic Party in 1984.

"I guess I thought he would always be involved in political campaigns and activities but I really didn't think he would run for office," she said.

Although her children were enthusiastic about the campaign, Mrs. Price said it was difficult for them.

"I had a little conflict making up for the time I'd missed being away," she said. "It was hard trying to balance it. For the kids, eventually the novelty wore off. They were excited and pleased when David won and during the campaign they both seemed quite interested."

The race between Rep. Price and the Republican incumbent Bill Cobey, considered an indication of how the Democrats would do nationally, was characterized by negative campaigning. At one point during the campaign, Cobey sent a letter soliciting funds addressed "Dear Christian Friend." In it he called himself an "ambassador for Christ" and criticized the chairman of the Democratic Party.

The letter indirectly questioned Rep. Price's faith, Mrs. Price said.

"It was an insensitive, inappropriate letter," she said. "It did not respect our pluralistic values."

Mrs. Price said the letter may have helped the campaign because it was picked up immediately by the media. She said she is uncomfortable with



Lisa Price

mixing religion and politics.

"I think to act out of religious conviction is appropriate," she said. "Our government guarantees freedom of religion. Religious values inform people's social and political views but one religious group trying to take control is inappropriate."

Mrs. Price said although she tends to be politically idealistic and Rep. Price is more pragmatic, she believes in his values.

"He is indirectly furthering my own political and social ideas," she said. "I think I'm one influence. I think he considers my opinions."

Mrs. Price said she is concerned with arms control and negotiation with the Soviets as well as the domestic problems of illiteracy and low wages.

"There is inadequate funding of social programs," she said. "Controlling the deficit is leading to cutbacks in domestic programs. It's a dilemma - deficit vs. cutbacks."

Mrs. Price said she has been to Washington twice since her husband's election - for his swearing in and for orientation.

"It's difficult to have someone living in two places," she said. "It's going to present some challenges."

## American hostages in Beirut threatened if U.S. attacks

From Associated Press reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Pro-Iranian kidnappers said Monday they will kill Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, who have been hostages since 1985, if the United States makes a military attack on Lebanon.

Lebanon's justice minister said the kidnappers had "arrested" Terry Waite. The Church of England envoy left his Beirut hotel Jan. 20 to negotiate for the freedom of the two Americans and other foreign captives in Lebanon.

The official press of Syria, which supports pro-Iranian groups, has accused the United States of planning a military attack on Lebanon after 11 foreigners were kidnapped in 12 days. U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean have been strengthened.

### British novelist dies

MUNICH, West Germany — British novelist Alistair MacLean, whose popular thrillers of war and adventure included "The Guns of Navarone" and "Ice Station Zebra," died Monday in a Munich hospital. He was 64.

William Collins and Sons, the writer's publisher in London, said MacLean suffered a stroke three weeks ago while visiting a friend in Munich and died in a hospital of heart failure.

MacLean wrote 29 books, beginning with "HMS Ulysses,"

## News in Brief

based on five years of wartime sea duty with the Royal Navy. His novels sold in the millions of copies and many were made into films.

MacLean was born in 1922 in Daviot in the Scottish highlands. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and spent five years on convoy escorts.

### Governor opposes tax breaks

RALEIGH — The Martin administration and a panel appointed by Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan clashed Monday on using tax incentives to recruit industry, but agreed that better schools, roads and water systems are essential to economic growth.

In the first meeting of the Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Economic Growth, Commerce Secretary Claude Pope said Gov. Jim Martin opposed giving tax breaks to industry as a reward for going into rural areas.

Despite its opposition to tax breaks for individual businesses, the Martin administration continues to support elimination of the intangibles and inventory taxes, which were reduced in 1985, Pope said. Martin didn't propose further reductions in his 1987-89 budget proposal because of a revenue squeeze.

## N.C. Republicans vote Hawke chairman

By LAURIE DUNCAN  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin won one more battle against right-wing Republicans when his nominee for chairman of the N.C. Republican Party was elected Saturday.

State GOP Executive Committee members voted 174-51 in favor of Jack Hawke, Martin's policy and planning director. Hawke is taking the place of former chairman Bob Bradshaw.

But followers of Sen. Jesse Helms,

R-N.C., and his Congressional Club may try to unseat Hawke at the May 29 state convention by launching a four-month campaign for their conservative choice for the post, the Rev. C. Barry McCarty of Elizabeth City, said Carter Wrenn, executive director of the Congressional Club.

What's at stake is control of the state Republican party. Martin won it Saturday, but if right-wing members of the party have their way, Martin's victory will be a temporary one. In the oncoming months, North Carolinians may see a growing rift between conservative and moderate factions of the party as both sides lobby for their candidates at hundreds of precinct meetings throughout the state.

A Martin spokesman said Monday that the struggle between moderate and conservative state Republicans over the chairmanship did not indicate a split in the party.

"The selection of Hawke and the position that supporters of McCarty have taken simply indicates that

there will be spirited but friendly competition in the months ahead," spokesman Tim Pittman quoted Martin as saying.

Carter Wrenn said in a telephone interview Monday that if the Republican party is going to win in the 1988 elections, it must take a clear conservative stand that will appeal to Democratic conservatives all over the state, but especially in the eastern area where there are more conservatives.

The N.C. Republican party has been a minority party for years, controlled by board-room-type Republicans, with no appeal at the grass roots, Wrenn said.

"The old group of country-club Republicans were interested in their own pragmatic political benefits, not in winning state-wide elections," Wrenn said.

Wrenn said the next four months would be like a political campaign.

Thad Beyle, a professor of political science at UNC, said he did not think the campaign between the two factions would be as friendly as Martin expected.

"It's a fight within the party," Beyle said. "You're going to get into some name-calling and fighting that could split Republicans."

Beyle said ideally the governor should have the right to choose who is going to run the party.

He said the conservative push to unseat Hawke probably won't be strong enough to succeed.

Hawke, 45, was nominated for the post in mid-January, when Charlotte attorney Bob Bradshaw left the post. Hawke was Martin's campaign manager in 1984.

## For the Record

The Daily Tar Heel Monday incorrectly reported the voting district of Wayne Goodwin in the two-page spread of Student Congress candidates.

Actually, Goodwin is running in District 19. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.



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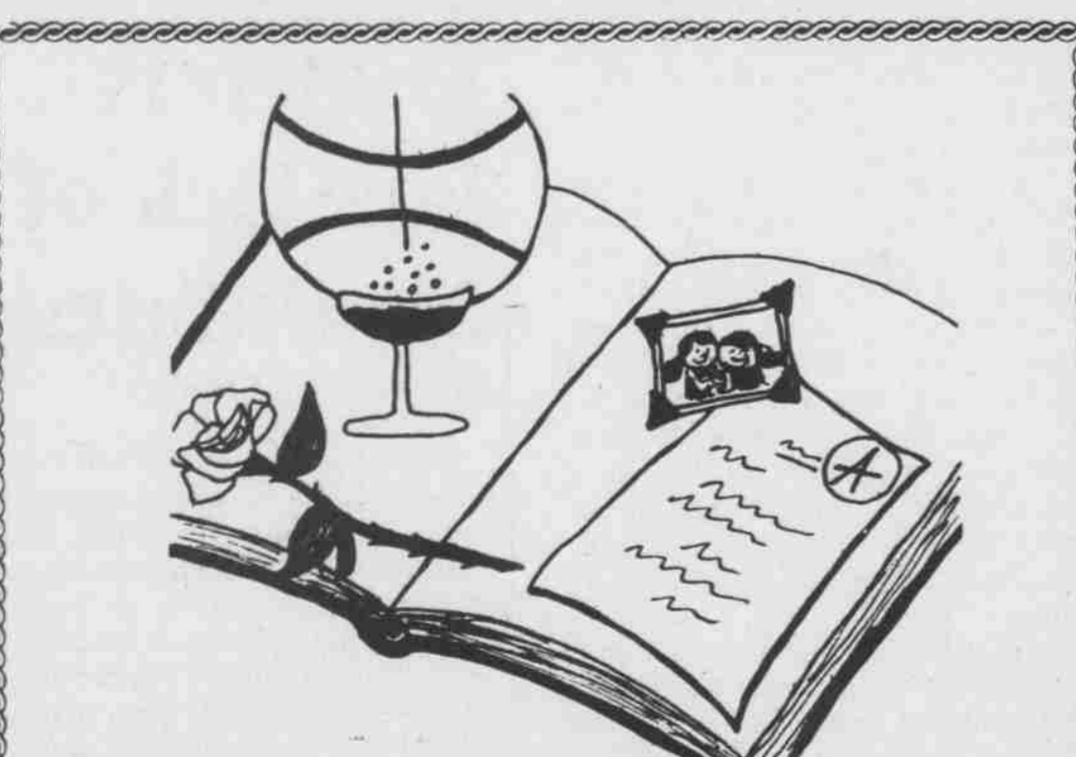
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