

Price says Central America is top priority

By CHRIS LANDGRAFF
Staff Writer

Central America will be the most important issue on the foreign policy agenda for the 100th Congress, N.C. Rep. David Price told about 30 people Friday as part of the International Festival.

Speaking on the role of the House in working for peace, Price, the Democratic 4th District representative, said Congress has passed its major domestic legislation and now has to address important foreign policy questions.

"The Central American debate, especially the question of aid to Nicaragua, is far from resolved. It is

an issue which keeps coming back," he said.

Though contra funding is a hotly debated issue, "the divergence is deceiving," he said. All congressmen want peace and stability in Central America but differ on the proper means to reach that goal, he said.

"Funding the Nicaraguan war will only prolong the conflict. A lasting settlement in Central America must involve participation of other Central American countries, not only U.S. funding," he said. Funding the contra's war effort will only give the Sandinistas an incentive to turn away from the peace process, he added.

The issue should not be aban-

done, even if funding is cut off, Price said.

"We should not walk away from the problem," he said. "We need to find positive, constructive means to increase stability in the region." President Reagan's policy does not show a desire to reach a settlement and get out of Nicaragua, he said.

Those constructive means include a continuation of humanitarian aid, Price said.

"Non-lethal aid will continue at about present levels," he said. "About \$4 million a month will be sent in the next four months for such things as food and medical care. No military

aid will be sent right now."

Some money is also being sent to the Children's Relief Fund to aid victims of the war, he said.

Another major issue facing Congress is the continued violence in the Middle East, Price said.

"The increasing violence will hopefully move all parties concerned to a faster diplomatic solution. Though the United States cannot support all of Israel's actions, the importance of our alliance with Israel cannot be underestimated," he said.

Price said the role of the CIA should also be considered, with the need for the CIA assessed on a case

by case basis. Some covert action may be needed, but not necessarily to the extent of getting involved in civil wars, he said.

Price stressed the importance of taking a broader look at U.S. foreign policy.

"Right now we seem to be bogged down in narrow questions. We need to look at more long-range, broad goals if our foreign policy is to be a success," he said.

For example, the United States should be concerned about the spread of communism but should not be obsessively anti-communistic, he said.



David Price

'Conservative' Gore steels himself for intensive southern campaign

By LAURA SUMNER
Staff Writer

Sen. Albert Gore, the first Vietnam veteran to run for president, faces his first real test in the presidential parade as he "comes home" to the South for the March contests.

Campaign '88

Gore, a moderate Tennessee Democrat, is the only candidate not to actively campaign for Iowa and New Hampshire delegates. Some analysts suggest this strategy could backfire, but Tom Hendrickson, Gore's N.C. campaign director, said: "It was a very simple decision. We are going where the delegates are. The hoops you have to jump through go a long way toward making a president unelectable in November."

One positive benefit of skipping Iowa and New Hampshire is that Gore has more money to spend on Super Tuesday, which could be a critical factor on March 8 as 20 states choose their delegates.

Gore is the most conservative Democrat in the race, a factor which should help in the South where voters are perceived as more conservative, campaign officials say.

This conservatism is clearest in his foreign policy, the bedrock of his campaign. Although Gore has not served on any defense-oriented congressional committees, experts say he is well-known for his understanding of defense issues. According to Congressional Quarterly, Gore is credited with persuading Henry Kissinger that it was a mistake to allow MIRV missiles under the SALT II agreement.

In foreign policy, Gore favors arms control "when it is not destabilizing," and sees the Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) treaty as a step toward further arms reduction. He supports

the reflagging of Kuwaiti ships on the grounds of American interests in the Persian Gulf. And while he opposes military aid to the Nicaraguan contras, Gore supported the 1987 bill granting \$3.5 million in humanitarian aid.

Gore promotes a tone of cautious optimism with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, saying that while his reforms inspire hope, "we do not know whether the Soviets are serious about moderating the totalitarian character of their foreign relations."

Domestically, one of Gore's strongest issues is education reform. He urges returning educational funding to pre-Reagan levels, while allowing local schools to have more autonomy over the way the money is spent.

Gore has worked to increase

student financial aid and often speaks about standardizing the quality of education across the United States — a theme that is applicable to the South where the educational standards are among the lowest in the nation.

On other domestic matters, Gore opposes the Gephardt trade amendment and would support tariffs only in "extreme situations." He plans on reducing farm subsidies and postal subsidies to help reduce the federal deficit, along with defense cuts.

Gore has accumulated a variety of endorsements from southern Democrats, Hendrickson said.

"Our endorsements start out great in North Carolina with (Sen.) Terry Sanford and former Governor Jim Hunt being strong Gore supporters. Then we've got U.S. Rep. Charlie Rose and about 30 other state legislators," he said.

Last week, Ala. Sen. Howell Heflin endorsed Gore and Florida House Speaker John Mills is leading a group of Florida activists called "Committed '88."

Gore's success may also depend on the number of black endorsements he gathers. The Democratic Conference,



Albert Gore

an association of elected black officials based in Alabama, endorsed Gore as its second choice after Jesse Jackson.

"We're making an all-out effort to peak on Super Tuesday," Hendrickson said.

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