How does a recommendation from the Public Policy Institute see the light of day and really contribute something?

Before I get into answering that question more fully, let me say that one immediate benefit from bringing experts and government officials here to help us formulate recommendations is to give students and faculty an opportunity to see how key decision-makers create policy. Students and faculty who are not actual participants in the symposiums and conferences can observe and absorb knowledge in the process, no small contribution to Southern Illinois University.

The most concrete example of what can happen is the campaign finance reform bill that passed the Illinois Legislature. I asked the four legislative leaders—Senate President James Palast, House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones and House Minority Leader Lee A. Daniels—to each name a key legislator who could work with us on campaign finance reform. To the credit of the leaders, they named four hard-working legislators—Senators Kirk Dillard and Barack Obama and Representatives Gary Hannig and Jack Kubies—and those legislators met frequently with Mike Lawrence, the Institute’s associate director, as well as Andy Foster of the governor’s office, and together they slowly and painstakingly developed a measure that passed and became the most sweeping campaign finance reform measure to be approved in Illinois in 24 years.

That would not have happened without the Public Policy Institute. And in tribute to the Institute’s work, Governor Jim Edgar came to our offices to sign the measure into law.

Less dramatic are two things that came up during our recent symposium on alternative sentencing and how we deal with criminals after their service in prison, and what we can do to prevent them from going down the path to crime.

A series of recommendations were made that we sent to key state legislators around the nation and at least six states are now looking at the recommendations. Moreover, we plan to make the recommendations available to Illinois Governor-elect George Ryan and to offer our assistance if he decides to act on them. But, beyond that, two points that emerged illustrate how policy can get changed.

One emerged from the audience. Someone suggested that when a judge sentences someone to 10 years in prison, for example, that at the same time he or she should announce that (if it costs $25,000 a year to house a prisoner in that jurisdiction) the cost to the taxpayer will be $250,000. It might force a more careful look at laws that are good politics but not helpful in dealing with crime. Christi Parsons, a Chicago Tribune reporter on a panel, said that ordinarily she would use that information in a story. I sent the suggestion to the federal and state court administrators, and in New York and Pennsylvania that suggestion is now under consideration.

During one panel discussion, federal judge Phil Gilbert mentioned that 14 percent of those in our federal prisons are here illegally in this country and that they will serve their full terms and then be deported to their country of origin. That is, as he pointed out, a huge expenditure of tax dollars and crowds our prisons.

One of the experts in this field is former Sen. Alan Simpson, a Republican from Wyoming, who now heads the John F. Kennedy Institute at Harvard. For several years, he chaired the Immigration Subcommittee in the Senate. I contacted him on this matter. He has asked some Harvard faculty members to review it, under his supervision. Will anything come of it? I don’t know. But there is at least a reasonable chance that something will happen to reshape federal policy in a small way that will serve everyone’s best interests.

I could give you other examples, but these three illustrate how our Institute works. The net result, I believe immodestly, is good for Southern Illinois University academically and good for the nation, helping us to face some problems that too easily get overlooked in the headlines that scream at us about more personally fascinating topics.

Thanks for your interest and support, which makes this work possible.
Friends Celebrate Paul’s 70th Birthday
With Donations to Institute

More than 200 of Paul Simon’s friends honored him on his 70th birthday by contributing to the Institute’s endowment fund. “I greatly appreciate these donations—most of which came from people who have been there for me time after time during my years of public life. These contributions move us closer to our goal of assuring the Institute is financially healthy and independent well into the next century,” Simon said. “Each and every contribution is important to us.”

Donations ranging from $5 to $1,000 flowed into the Institute, and the total raised topped $30,000. An endowment goal of $10 million has been established for the Institute, and approximately $500,000 has been raised or pledged privately. In addition, the effort was boosted recently when Congress approved a $1 million grant for the Institute, all of which will go into the endowment.

“We are making progress, but we obviously have a long way to go. We are thankful for the federal grant; however, it is clear—and appropriate—that we must depend on the private sector for the lion’s share of our endowment,” Simon said.

“We have sought—and received—support from foundations to carry out specific initiatives, such as campaign finance reform, pursuing how the religious community can address poverty, and developing strategies to curb the proliferation in prison construction without compromising public safety. But it is vital that we reach our endowment goal so we can continue ongoing programs and operations without relying on funding from the University and the State.”

Symposium on Middle East Peace Process
Draws Worldwide Participation

The timing could not have been better. While President Bill Clinton, Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu were hammering out the Wye Agreement in southern Maryland, the Institute was co-hosting a symposium in southern Illinois on the Middle East peace process. The symposium had been scheduled long before the President convened the Palestinian and Israeli leaders. But the coincidence was thoroughly appreciated by those who attended the two-day event that drew experts from throughout the world.

Back-to-back speeches by Eitan Naeh, Consul for Press and Information, Consulate General of Israel, Chicago, and Dr. Samih Abid, Deputy Director, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Palestinian National Authority, underscored the profound differences that had become focal points at the Wye Plantation and will continue to be issues as the peace process progresses.

But personal narratives from Egyptian, Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian youths underscored the potential—and the need—for bridging those chasms. The youths are participants in the “Seeds for Peace” program and were accompanied by Barbara Gottschalk, its executive vice president.

Another featured speaker was Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind), the ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on International Relations.

Also participating were Lawrence Volpe, Middle East division, The Joint Chiefs of Staff; Professor John Woods, director of Middle East Studies, University of Chicago; Dr. John Duke Anthony, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; Professor Marda Dunsky, Northwestern University; Professor Amatzia Baran of the University of Haifa, who is currently a visiting professor at Georgetown University; Dr. Arthur Pitz of Black Hawk College; Dr. Royal Falahi of Joliet Junior College, and Dr. Roy Anderson, Knox College.

The Institute was joined in organizing and hosting the symposium by John A. Logan College, the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs, and the Illinois Consortium for International Education.

Providing financial support were the Illinois Humanities Council and the United States Institute of Peace.

Among the recommendations emerging from the meeting was that the United States should assist in achieving coordination in solving the complex water-supply situation in the Middle East.

Follow-up activities to the symposium will include the production of videotapes for classroom use, complete with viewer’s guides. Announcement will be made when these materials are available for distribution.
Criminal Justice Experts Brainstorm to Find Answers to Tough Problems with Prisons

Far-reaching recommendations to halt the costly explosion in prison construction without compromising public safety emerged from a symposium that brought criminal justice experts from throughout the nation to the SIUC campus.

The recommendations call for substantial reforms in the parole system, alternative sentences for relatively minor, nonviolent offenses and escalation of efforts to reduce the demand for drugs.

The symposium launched an initiative by the Institute, SIU's School of Law and the University's Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections to stimulate reforms that will provide options to building one prison after another. Helping to fund the event were the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the Joyce Foundation. Participants included prosecutors, judges, corrections experts, criminal justice scholars and a victim's rights advocate.

Joseph Hartzler, who spearheaded the successful prosecution of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, argued in his keynote address that the most effective strategy to halt the proliferation of prisons and to impact street crime is to reduce the demand for drugs through education and effective treatment of abusers.

Another featured speaker, Howard A. Peters III, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and a former director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, emphasized the importance of prevention and rehabilitation efforts within prisons and in communities to combat recidivism.

Other participants argued strongly in behalf of permitting judges to exercise more sentencing discretion so they can deal more fairly and effectively with extraordinary circumstances.

The recommendations are being made available to Illinois Governor-elect George Ryan with an Institute offer of assistance if he chooses to act on them. The proposals also are being circulated to policymakers in Washington and to state officials throughout the nation. Officials in some of those states already have indicated they are considering them.

Among the recommendations, which incorporate strategies suggested by various participants but are not necessarily embraced by each of them, are:

- Develop partnerships among law enforcement and corrections personnel, community groups, church or synagogue congregations, job counseling and placement services, drug treatment providers and other social service agencies at the state and local levels to deal with two groups: those offenders who have been given community-based sanctions as an alternative to imprisonment and those offenders who are leaving our prison system.
- Develop and adequately staff case-management systems that can create and monitor individualized approaches to ex-prisoners returning to their communities. Not all ex-prisoners require the same supervision for the protection of public safety. Not all ex-prisoners require the same community-based services as part of their rehabilitation.
- Build on programs and policies that have worked or appear promising; for example, tough and comprehensive evaluations of correctional treatment programs have shown that drug treatment in prisons and jails based on successful community models do reduce recidivism. Seriously consider providing prisoners with time off for meaningful participation in substance abuse treatment or education programs. Federal and state policymakers should look to drug courts as possible models for reform.
- Assure a continuum of substance abuse treatment, job training and other services for offenders beginning while they are in prison and extending through their reintegration into the community. That means bolstering and expanding programs within prisons. Among other things, correction officials must have the resources to provide drug treatment, job training, anger management and other relevant services as well as to work closely with the families of prisoners and the communities to which they will return.
- Expand use of probation and other alternative punishments and emphasize restitution and accountability to victims and society. Such programs, for example, would require those committing burglary or other crimes against property to make restitution through regular payments to the victims. They also would include drug treatment and job counseling to assure the offender is capable of making the payments and also becoming a productive member of society.
- Community service could be another component of an alternative to imprisonment.
- Reserve long-term imprisonment for the most violent and predatory offenders.
- Change current sentencing policies that require nonviolent offenders, especially those

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Prison Alternatives Symposium Participants

Participants in the symposium on developing alternatives to building one prison after another included:

Joseph Hartzler, lead prosecutor in the Timothy McVeigh case in the Oklahoma City bombing trial; Howard A. Peters III, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and former director of the Illinois Department of Corrections; Webster Hubbell, formerly a senior official in the Justice Department and former prisoner; former U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), who was chairman of the powerful U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and also has served time in prison; Charles Grace, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Illinois; Odie Washington, director of the Illinois Department of Corrections; Peter B. Bensinger, who formerly headed the federal Drug Enforcement Administration as well as the Illinois Department of Corrections; Vern Housewright, who served as a warden in the Illinois system and later headed prison systems in Arkansas and Nevada; U.S. District Court Judges J. Phil Gilbert and Stanley Sporkin and Circuit Judge William Schwartz of Illinois' 1st Judicial Circuit in Illinois.

Also, Mary Hughes, a victims' rights advocate; David Altshuler of the Institute for Policy Studies, John Hopkins University; Ed Latessa of the Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati; Thomas C. Castellano, Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at SIU; William A. Schroeder, School of Law at SIU; Christi Parsons, statehouse reporter for the Chicago Tribune; John Platt, Juvenile Division, Illinois Department of Corrections; Lucy Breitung, supervisor in the Illinois Department of Corrections' Pretrial program; Peg Robertson, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; Michael Mahoney, John Howard Association; B. Diane Williams, Safer Foundation, and Kathe Klare, an attorney who advocates for children.
Former Aide to Truman, FDR Stress Service to Others

Ken Hechler, who has served as West Virginia's secretary of state for 12 years, had the chance to learn important lessons of life as an aide to such great men as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Hechler shared his rich life experience in the first of a series of lectures that will be turned into a book through the editing of the Institute and the Southern Illinois University Press. The series will feature lectures from those who have achieved much during their lifetimes. Joining the Institute and the SIU Press in sponsoring the Hechler visit were the political science and history departments of SIUC.

The overwhelming message Hechler conveyed through his lecture was that we should try to live a life in service to others.

Hechler provided an abundance of personal anecdotes and wisdom.

For example, Hechler said he learned from President Truman that elected and appointed officials should have empathy for poor people. On Hechler's very first day of his job at the White House, Truman pulled him aside and told him, "The rich and powerful people of this country have their own lawyers, their own accountants, their own lobbyists, their own pressure groups working for them full time. It is the job of the president of the United States, and it's the job of every public official to stand up and fight for those who are otherwise unrepresented."

Truman, the 33rd president of the U.S., is remembered for such political accomplishments as the Marshall Plan, The Truman Doctrine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Truman was also the president who authorized the dropping of the atomic bomb at the end of World War II.

When Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb on Japan, he did it with the thought that it was a military decision, Hechler said.

"All war, according to Truman, is an atrocity," he said. "Even the shooting of a single soldier. And ending that war becomes a necessary path to avoiding atrocities."

Hechler's career reveals his adherence to the lessons of the great man. A graduate of Columbia University, Hechler assisted Judge Samuel L. Rosenman and President Roosevelt in the preparation of the 13-volume Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Later he became Truman's research director and special assistant and accompanied him on his whistle-stop train trips. In 1945, he was appointed to serve as a military expert on a five-man War Department mission to interrogate Hermann Goering, Joachim von Ribbentrop and other Nazi military leaders. After a brief teaching career at Marshall University, Hechler was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served 18 years until 1976.

Hechler's contribution to Southern Illinois is that after devastating mine disasters in the 1950s and 1960s, he sponsored a mine safety bill that reduced coal mine catastrophes dramatically, said Institute Director Paul Simon, who served with Hechler in Congress.

Independent Counsels: Boon or Bust?

The law that launched investigations by Kenneth Starr, Lawrence Walsh and other independent counsels has become a target itself—as well as the subject for an Institute-sponsored symposium scheduled for Feb. 21 and Feb. 22 in St Louis.

The independent counsel statute will expire June 30. Congress can let it die. Or it can re-enact it—perhaps with changes—or find some other alternative. The symposium, co-sponsored by the SIU School of Law, could provide guidance to policymakers, the media and the general public as the important decision looms.

Many believe the law had led to excesses—both in terms of public funds expended and abuse of power. But how can allegations against the president or a member of his or her administration be thoroughly and fairly investigated and ultimately prosecuted by anyone other than an independent counsel? The attorney general, who heads the Justice Department and supervises all federal prosecutors, is an appointee of the president. In the Kennedy administration, the president and the attorney general were brothers. In the Nixon administration, the president and the attorney general were former law partners.

Institute Director Paul Simon has suggested in commentaries carried by newspapers throughout the country that measures be taken to make the attorney general more independent instead of relying on an independent counsel. But he is interested in providing a forum for other viewpoints as well. There is indeed a quandary here. And experts—including current and former independent counsels—are being invited to address it at the February symposium.

Details are being finalized, but those interested in attending—or even participating—should contact the Public Policy Institute at 618-453-4009 to express your interest so the Institute can keep you informed.
Institute Organizes Symposium on Taiwan-China Relations

A two-day symposium on improving relations between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China drew national and international experts to the SIUC campus and produced a draft of recommendations that will be expanded and refined.

Among national and international experts who participated in the Institute-hosted conference Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 were Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), a member of the Asia and the Pacific subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations; Winston Lord, former U.S. ambassador to the People's Republic of China; Bette Bao Lord, who has written extensively about Mainland China; Stephen Chen, representative from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office; Admiral Eugene Carroll Jr., deputy director of the Center for Defense Information; Dr. Orville Schell, former correspondent in China who is now dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley; Richard Bush, chairman of the board and managing director of the American Institute in Taiwan; Kenneth W. Allen, senior associate of the Henry L. Stimson Center; Richard Biringer, defense analyst for the U.S. government; Dr. Mike Kau, a member of the Department of Political Science at Brown University; and Dr. Dennis Hickey, a member of the Department of Political Science at Southwest Missouri State University.

Ambassador Li Zhaoping of the People's Republic of China tentatively agreed to attend but declined after learning Taiwanese officials had been invited as well.

Among the draft recommendations were:

- The United States, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan should actively promote mutually beneficial trade and investment relations.
- The United States, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan should work together on economic development in the Asia-Pacific region through such institutions as the Asia Pacific Economic Council and the Asian Development Bank to solve the region's financial crisis and develop long-term growth.
- Because Taiwan is a significant partner in global trade and investment (the 15th largest trading entity and the 7th largest overseas investor), it should be represented in the World Trade Organization and participate to the maximum extent possible in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.
- All parties should participate jointly in free and open discussions in the United States concerning relations between China and Taiwan. In that regard, the United States should be far more flexible in allowing Taiwanese officials to visit the U.S. and participate in discussions.

Meet The Institute's New Fund-Raiser

Soon after the Institute was established in January 1997, it became clear to Director Paul Simon that the effort would be boosted if the institute had its own fund-raiser.

Enter Matt Baughman.

Baughman joined the Institute several months ago and immediately made his mark. He has developed a strategic plan, met with several current and potential donors and initiated fund-raising events and activities that have brought in thousands of dollars.

"I am impressed with Matt. He is innovative and energetic. He understands what the Institute is all about and is committed to raising the funds that will sustain it," Simon said.

Baughman had previous fundraising experience at the University of Central Florida and in the SIUC College of Business where he worked while earning his master's in Business Administration.

He also is no stranger to the public policy arena. After he graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville, Baughman was selected for the prestigious Dunn Fellowship Program. As a Fellow, he spent a full year working in the office of Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar.

Baughman's wife, Angela, also holds an MBA degree—as well as a bachelor's degree, from SIUC. She is employed at Shawnee Community College.

Harrisburg Group Endorses Teaching Core Virtues

A gathering of educators and business leaders in the small Southern Illinois community of Harrisburg could prove to be the start of something significant.

Institute Director Paul Simon led a stimulating discussion that could result in a model strategy for incorporating instruction in core virtues—such as honesty, respect for all people, a good work ethic, and avoiding violence—into classroom discussions and lessons from kindergarten through high school.

The session was an outgrowth of an earlier Institute-hosted discussion in which educators and business leaders from throughout Illinois agreed core virtues should be part of the curriculum in grade schools, high schools and community colleges.

The receptiveness of Harrisburg educators led the Institute to conclude the community would be a good site for a pioneering initiative built on cooperation between local business leaders and educators. Concurring in that conclusion were leaders in the SIUC College of Education who agreed to be partners with the Institute and community leaders in this endeavor.
Gov. Edgar Signs Institute-Inspired Campaign Finance Reform Bill at SIUC

Gov. Jim Edgar made a special trip to the Public Policy Institute to sign legislation embodying the most substantial campaign finance reform Illinois has seen in nearly a quarter of a century.

In a bill-signing ceremony at the Institute's offices, the governor said, "Among the most important aspects of the legislation are needed campaign disclosure requirements formulated by the Southern Illinois University Public Policy Institute, its director, former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, and its associate director, Mike Lawrence, who are to be commended for their efforts."

The legislation resulted from a major Institute initiative carried out with a grant from the Joyce Foundation. Lawrence and Simon worked directly with a bipartisan group of lawmakers—Senators Kirk Dillard and Barack Obama and Representatives Gary Harris and Jack Kuklik—as well as Andy Foster of the governor's office to fashion the far-reaching legislation, which won General Assembly approval in the closing minutes of the spring session. The legislation, which was signed Aug. 12 and becomes law Jan. 1, contains many provisions advocated for decades by reform groups. The new law:

• Helps assure that large contributions received in the closing weeks of a campaign are disclosed before Election Day.
• Requires Public Action Committees to fully identify themselves—beyond using acronyms and vague names—so the interests they represent are clear to those reviewing reports of campaign contributions.
• Requires candidates to make a good-faith effort to disclose the occupations and employers of individuals who make large contributions.

by statewide committees and by 500 percent for violations by all other committees.
• Strictly limits personal use of campaign funds by a candidate and his or her family.
• Prohibits legislators, statewide officials and candidates for those offices from holding fund-raisers in the state capital or within a 50-mile radius of the capital in the closing months of a legislative session.
• Bans solicitation and acceptance of campaign contributions in the Capitol building or any other state property.

National Literacy Conference to Convene at SIUC

Paul Simon and Barbara Bush have been champions of literacy in America for decades. Now, plans for these two powerhouses of literacy to team up are underway. A national literacy conference hosted by Paul Simon and the Public Policy Institute and featuring Mrs. Bush has been scheduled for March 26-27, 1999.

The former First Lady has been a long-time literacy advocate. Her many years of hard work and dedication to this issue culminated in her receiving a Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Coalition for Literacy during a recent Literacy Volunteers of America National Conference. Mrs. Bush is scheduled to deliver the opening keynote remarks for the SIU literacy conference on March 26 in Carbondale.

Although the National Literacy Act, with Paul Simon as a chief sponsor, was passed and signed into law in 1991, there are still more than 20 million adult Americans who cannot read or write today, making it a major impediment to gaining employment, earning promotions, and living a normal life. In an effort to further the nation's literacy efforts, the SIU conference will review current strategies to combat illiteracy and provide a forum for literacy experts, proponents, teachers and others to make recommendations on forming future literacy efforts.

The conference is being planned in association with the National Institute for Literacy in Washington, D.C. More information about the conference will be made available after the first of the year.
Did you miss Paul's birthday?

Don't worry—contributions to the Paul Simon 70th Birthday Fund continue to arrive daily and it's not too late for you to be a part of his special birthday club!

Take this opportunity to help support the Public Policy Institute in honor of Paul Simon's 70th birthday by sending him a belated birthday wish and an investment in his work at the Public Policy Institute.

There is no better gift this year for Paul than your support of his efforts at SIU.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone  E-mail address

Birthday message to Paul

Please make your check payable to the SIU Foundation and mail to:
Paul Simon, Director
Public Policy Institute
Mailcode 4429
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-4429