

MARGARET PRICE EULOGY

JULY 26, 1968

It is difficult to speak of Margaret Bayne Price as if she were gone.

It is hard to accept the fact that we have gathered to say goodbye to this beloved friend ... this wonderful, gracious lady ... this champion of our principles ... this warm and kind human being.

To eulogize her fully is impossible.

But a prayer from another century expresses something of our feeling:

"Life is eternal ... love is immortal ...
death is only a horizon ..."

↳ Margaret Price's life and work is eternal.

↳ Her love for her family and friends and colleagues is immortal.

↳ Her death is only a horizon beyond which she would want us to lift our own vision.

↳ Many men and women in our time have achieved public position and prestige. But few had the esteem and respect and love of their peers as did Margaret Price.

↳ In her life and work she combined the natural ease of a democratic spirit with the natural endowment of aristocratic bearing.

∟ She passed through life always willing to carry her share, always willing to give that last measure of dedication to those she loved and for those values she held dear.

∟ Margaret Price was inventive ... enthusiastic ... imaginative ... alive to the future. She was firm in her commitments. She was a down-to-earth, strong-willed leader who fought for what she believed was right.

∟ I cannot measure my personal loss in her death.

∟ I cannot express the grief I feel for her husband and son.

∟ I can only say that for us, she is not gone!

∟ For us she embodied the living qualities of one who loved getting things done and serving others.

For us she personalized the almost mystical drive and commitment which makes a political movement live and move and become successful.

For she believed with Woodrow Wilson that ^{Bel} a party was little indeed if it did not serve some "great and noble purpose."

We shall remember her especially for the quality of dedication she brought to public life.

She -- and others like her -- made public service more respectable just by being in it.

She was instrumental in bringing women more fully into the decision-making process of our country.

She was one of the first women in her own state of Michigan to call for greater popular participation in political life.

She believed in peace. She worked hard for civil rights. She was deeply interested in the problems of young people, and helped bring many ^{Palmer and} into government. ^{yo, I still} I like to remember Margaret Price as both a political activist and idealist.

There is the vivid memory of Margaret and other good friends plowing through the snows of Michigan when liberal spirits seemed to be flagging ... coming to a gathering with only three or four or five stalwarts to greet us... and saying that if even three or four or five would gather in our name, we'd be there.

In the days ahead, whenever three or four or five of us gather ... at home ... at work ... or in the boistrous halls of city and town and state, we ought to recall the wonderful life of this beautiful lady.

But

In the midst of a very active public life,
she never once forgot private individual feelings,

↳ In defeat she remained a lady, her head
held high, for she believed the liberal faith would
triumph over smallness of spirit and weakness of heart.

↳ She was never so lofty that she overlooked
organization. She was never so idealistic that she
ignored realities.

↳ She was never so self-important that she
could not be considerate to those below her station.

↳ She brought the touch of gentility and womanly
virtue into our private lives and our public gatherings.

Margaret Price was a lovely lady, and her life
has enriched us all.

We shall miss her very much.

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