

Remarkably, it has never received a dime of federal money other than Medicare and Medicaid funds.

This program is worthy of our collective recognition. For the past twenty years Fr. Paul and his staff at the Hospice of Saint John have cared for those who we sometimes tend to forget. They have toiled in the trenches for all humanity. They deserve our respect and support and on this occasion of their twenty years of dedicated service to my state I ask you to join with me in saluting them and their service to us all.

AMERICA NEEDS THE PAYCHECK
PROTECTION ACT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during a recent weekend of site visits in the eastern Colorado congressional district I represent, a constituent approached me and posed a sensible question, "Why am I forced to contribute my hard-earned dollars to my union's political activities?" He went on to explain that for him, every paycheck includes a deduction for union dues. These dues pay for legal services and collective bargaining costs. Dues, he agrees, are useful to promote his trade. He has no problem with union dues so long as they are used for their intended purpose.

He objects, however, to the millions of dollars his union puts toward political causes he does not support and at the expense of thousands of union members like him. Most union members disagree with giving their wages to political activities because they are excluded in deciding how their money is spent.

Something needs to change.

In 1947 Congress passed the Labor-Management Relations Act, also known as the Taft-Hartley Act. This legislation prohibited so-called closed shop workplaces, where one could not be hired without first joining a union.

Calling the act a "slave labor bill," President Harry Truman vetoed the measure. Subsequently, Congress voted to override the veto, thereby enacting Taft-Hartley into law.

Convinced the bill would destroy the labor movement, union members felt justified in circumventing the legislation. Rather than require workers to join the union prior to employment, labor bosses instead required union membership after the worker was hired.

The Taft-Hartley Act challenged the unions' ability to maintain membership which no longer rested upon the utility of their collectivism, but upon the ability to lobby Congress. Thus, unions became proficient political machines.

Union bosses recruited and supported candidates who would pledge allegiance to the unions. In return for loyalty, unions produced money and manpower to aid political campaigns. The tactic proved decisive. For many years, Congress operated in lockstep with the unions.

Workers who opposed the unions' political antics turned to the Supreme Court. In 1988, the Court ruled in *Communications Workers v. Beck*, 487 U.S. 735, that nonunion members can only be required to pay for the costs of

collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustment but not political activities. Unions made little effort to educate their members about *Beck*, and found ways to keep workers from exercising their *Beck* rights.

Today, many union members continue to pay for more than just collective bargaining. They are also paying for politics. During the 1996 congressional and Presidential campaigns, for example, labor unions spent more than \$400 million on political activities. A recent poll indicated that 68 percent of union members are unaware of the *Beck* decision.

Testimony before Congress confirms the difficulty workers have had exercising their *Beck* rights. This past spring, worker after worker told Congress of the near-impossible task of actually recovering hard-earned wages.

Under current laws, the only way some union members can refuse contributions to political activities is to quit the union, which also means quitting their jobs and risking their livelihoods.

Saying "no" should not come at such a high price. That is why I introduced H.R. 2608, the Paycheck Protection Act. The Paycheck Protection Act protects workers who are forced to contribute to political activities by way of their union dues. The Paycheck Protection Act requires separate, prior, written, voluntary authorization before any money can be deducted from a wage earner's paycheck for political activity. By requiring prior approval, the wage earner is given a choice. Furthermore, the bill applies to corporations just as it does unions.

More than one-third of the U.S. House is already cosponsoring the Paycheck Protection Act, and over 70 percent of working Americans express support for the Paycheck Protection Act. I believe we may finally have a chance to help American workers by protecting their paychecks.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PALMER
INGRAM

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DREIER, and I, rise today to pay tribute to the life of a man who has touched so many lives and who has contributed so much to our community: Mr. Robert Palmer Ingram.

We submit into the RECORD an article in honor of Mr. Ingram's memory and contributions as recounted by Diane Stafford in my hometown newspaper, the *Kansas City Star*:

Robert Palmer Ingram, an indefatigable salesman and civic leader, died Tuesday in his sleep at his Kansas City home. He was 80 years old.

Since arriving in Kansas City in the mid-1940s, Ingram founded or led more than a dozen companies, was a director of at least seven others, served as a trustee or a governor of six major civic or educational organizations, was an honorary consul to Belgium and held offices or memberships in many other clubs, councils and committees.

Fueled by his voracious reading, Ingram brought curiosity and wise counsel to wide-ranging endeavors. He shunned the spotlight but left a public imprint as the former owner and publisher of Ingram's, the *Kansas City*

monthly business magazine that continues to carry his name.

To classical music lovers, Ingram was known as the man who poured millions of dollars into classical music radio station KXTR, keeping it on the air for years despite unprofitability. He also owned KBEA, which had a "Music of Your Life" format. He sold those properties in 1996.

Henry Bloch, co-founder of H&R Block Inc., said that many times through the years, including Monday, he saw Ingram eating lunch alone and reading at the River Club.

"I've known him for a long time, and I can say he did a lot for Kansas City—in real estate, with the radio stations and the magazines," Bloch said. "He was a very nice person."

Quick-thinking, quick-moving and often slightly disheveled, Ingram whirled his thin frame from meeting to meeting, wedging in reading and note scribbling whenever time would allow. He and his wife, Beth Ingram, at one time said they subscribed to as many as 150 periodicals.

"He slowed down recently, but he stayed so upbeat about Kansas City," said Mike Morrissey, past chairman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, who sometimes ate lunch with Ingram at the Kansas City Club. "He was very supportive of anything you ever wanted him to help you with. He and Beth were very generous in the Kansas City community, not only financially but with their time."

Former Kansas City Mayor Richard L. Berkley said he admired Ingram "for remaining active and participating in so many civic, cultural and political activities. . . . It was impressive to see him still come to the Civic Council meetings and other events he was involved in, even when you knew it was getting more difficult for him to move around."

Ingram's energy left a brick-and-mortar legacy for the city. One project, TenMain Center, a downtown redevelopment effort in the 1960s, nearly ruined his wealth and his health after the intended prime tenant (the Kansas City Board of Trade) and fellow investors pulled out.

Ingram stuck with the office tower project, though, and saw it through to fruition.

At one time he owned 10 downtown buildings but in later years retained ownership only of the Argyle Building, a renovated tower that housed the offices of Ingram Properties and his publishing enterprises.

Ingram eschewed many outward trappings of wealth but admitted a fascination with high society. Even in failing health in recent months, he attended a swirl of benefits and functions.

His interest in wealth and society, in part, led to his ownership of *The Independent*, the area's society journal.

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City was a major beneficiary of the Ingram's philanthropy since it founding in 1958. Ingram money turned the old theater library into a luxurious gathering space for benefactors.

Ingram largess also created a new music library for the Kansas City Symphony.

He was born in Norfolk, Va., and grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, where, he said, he began selling door to door "anything he could" by age 8.

By age 10 he was following the stock market and buying his first stocks. And by age 12, he grandly noted later, he had learned to use rejection as a spur to do better.

He studied journalism at Washington and Lee University and at the University of Pittsburgh but left college without getting a degree because, he later said, he thought he needed a job more than he needed more education.

His first job was in sales at Anchor Hocking Glass Co. The company dispatched him to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and back to Pennsylvania before sending him to Kansas City.

He decided to plant roots and in 1947 founded Robert P. Ingram & Co., an independent manufacturers' representative specializing in housewares and toys. Soon thereafter, he met and married Beth (Mary Elizabeth Renfro).

The Ingrams had two children, Marsha Jill Ingram Reynolds and Robert Palmer (Chip) Ingram III, both of whom live in the Kansas City area. There are four grandchildren.

Always spurred by the desire to do civic good, Ingram sometimes was thwarted. In the 1960s, for example, he was part of an investor group that was outbid by Charles O. Finley to buy the Kansas City Athletics baseball team.

In the 1970s he was unsuccessful in working for an ice hockey and convention center downtown.

On balance, Ingram's successes predominated. From operating the locker concession at Kansas City International Airport to becoming a major investor and director of Rubbermaid, Ingram earned notice for his entrepreneurship and intelligence.

"There are very few things in life that have given me the same pleasure I have received from starting and growing businesses," Ingram said in a promotional ad for Ingram's not long before his death.

Always, he told interviewers, he considered himself a salesman. In any setting Ingram might be seen thumbing through a wad of business cards, searching for the appropriate one among his many interests and passing it out to a prospective customer.

Ingram's sales acumen was acknowledged in 1969, when he received the Saleman of the

Year award from the Advertising and Sales Executive Club of Kansas City.

In recent years Ingram made a few concessions to age. Once prone to getting speeding tickets, he hired a driver to shuttle him from appointment to appointment.

But despite increased frailty, he took pride in working in his office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every Monday through Friday he was in Kansas City, said Marie Brown, his executive assistant.

In recent years he and his wife split time between their residence in The Walnuts, near the Country Club Plaza, and their condo in Palm Beach, Fla. They also had an apartment in New York.

A lifelong Republican, Ingram relished his 1969 appointment by Richard Nixon as metro chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen. He also was a member of the Points of Light Foundation.

A roundup of Ingram's business presidencies in addition to Robert P. Ingram & Co. includes Ingram Investment Co., Lasalle Leasing Co., KBEA Broadcasting Co., KXTR Broadcasting Co., Kansas City Bus Advertising Co., Security Locker Co., TenMain Center, Dow Research, Econo-Car Rental and the Argyle Building Co.

He was chairman of Ingram Media, Custom Publishing by Ingram's and Ingram Properties.

He was publisher emeritus of The Independent and the former publisher of Ingram's and its predecessor, Corporate Report/Kansas City magazine. He sold Ingram's this year.

He was a past director of Rubbermaid, Harzfelds, Gilbert/Robinson, Baltimore Bank & Trust Co. of Kansas City, American Cablevision of Kansas City and Country Club Bank.

At the time of his death he was a director of FLM Industries and the Housing Develop-

ment Corporation and Information Center in Kansas City.

On the civic scene, Ingram's participation was wide and deep.

He was trustee of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Midwest Research Institute.

He was on the board of governors of the Straight Theatre Association, the American Royal Association and the Urban League of Kansas City.

He was a member of the business council of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the museum's Society of Fellows.

He was a member of the Lyric Opera Guild, the Fine Arts Guild of William Jewell College and the Friends of the Kansas City Symphony.

He was a member and director of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

He was a past president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City and Downtown Inc.

Ingram was appointed to two significant public-service commissions in the late 1960s. He was one of five men on a six-month commission to study civil disorders in Kansas City in 1968, and a year later he accepted an appointment to the Capital Requirements for Public Schools Committee for the Kansas City School District.

He held memberships in the 711 Club, the Man of the Month Fraternity, Alliance Francaise, the Friends of Vieilles Maisons Francaises, the Carriage Club, the Kansas City Club, the Vanguard Club and BENS.

Friends and family attended his funeral on October 24th at Country Club Christian Church, 6101, Ward Parkway.