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(Unedited Transcript)

Thank you. I was elected to Congress in Massachusetts in 1971. I was opposed to the war. I had a coalition of liberals and many Catholics. And Geno Baroni, after Jimmy Carter was elected, talked with me: should he aspire to some position in the Carter administration. And I said, "Yes," and that he had been an expert on housing, and that he was appointed to be the aid to Secretary Patricia Harris, of housing.

And Geno was not the most organized person in the world, and I think the department had some trouble with his talking all the time, but he started these initiatives, and they're outlined in Dr. Alan Curtis's principles here.

They weren't really different from what Catholics and Christians were saying around the world. Vatican II transformed the lives of all us in '62 to '65, and I ran for Congress because of Vatican II, saying that the priest and the Christian should be out there forming public morality.

And Geno Baroni had that same idea, in that he came and he had all types of ideas, and Secretary Harris encouraged him. Patricia Harris, now gone, was a wonderful woman. Every time I saw her at some function, she'd ask about my Fair Housing bill, the Drinan-Edwards bill, and that she really wanted that to pass. It didn't pass during the Carter administration. But Geno was everywhere, and he was saying exactly what I'm saying: I'm here because Vatican II said that we have to link justice and faith.

And it's so obvious that for a long time, Christians had missed that. You recall that Christ was asked by some adversary, "What are the essentials?"

And Christ said, "The first Commandment says that we have to love God, and the second says that we have to love each other." And they are intertwined, they are inseparable. Well, the Vatican II re-stressed that, and said that Christians everywhere should stress sure faith in God and the Trinity and grace, but also justice. And that transformed the way everybody in the church is thinking.

I thought of Geno this weekend because all of the Jesuits were very honored that on Sunday, a Jesuit from Chile was canonized, Alfredo Hurtado. This is most unusual. He died in 1953. He had 12 books, he was pushing the poor and health benefits, he founded a magazine, Mensaki (phonetic), in Chile. We didn't think he was doing anything extraordinary. This was even before Vatican II. Christians and Catholics have always been doing that. And right now, as a matter of fact, there are 82 Jesuits working full-time for refugee services around the world. And when refugees became acute after World War II and then after many things, the Jesuit general said "This should be one of our prime apostolates. Most of these people are not Catholics, but these 82 Jesuits represent them around the world.

And Geno was involved in that, in that he knew about the Jesuit refugee service, he knew about all of these things. And he was focused on housing. And I got to know a little bit about section eight housing for my own constituents, and he knew it better. He was an

expert. And he wanted to transform it, and make good housing, adequate housing available to everyone.

Well, he tried, and after three years it was clear that Mr. Carter might not get reelected, and I think that Geno was very realistic about that, "I'd better get myself an assignment." And after the Carter people left, he went with the Archbishop and with the archdiocese, precisely about all these social things.

So I'm very pleased that the Eisenhower Foundation may do something about this. He's not different in his principles; all Christians, all believers, even nonbelievers believe this. And during recent times, it was not unusual for a priest to have a public position. Father Hesburgh was the chairman of the US commission on civil rights for many years. He was literally fired by President Clinton when he came to power and Clinton didn't want anything to do with affirmative action.

Monsignor George Higgins was very close to the labor movement. He died a year or two ago. And back in Boston, Monsignor Lowery, the editor of "The Pilot," was the chairman of the Boston Redevelopment Agency for 12 years.

So it's not unusual. And at an international level, Father DeSuza (phonetic), a very distinguished Indian Jesuit was the ambassador of the delegate for India to the United Nations. That's where people should be, the churchmen.

And nuns also were prominent in this country and around the world. Nuns served in a few places as mayors, as members of the local governing board, and this commission for elderly. Was that stamped upon by the Polish pope or by new Canon Law? The new Canon Law, initiated by John Paul II, said that generally priests and nuns should not hold public positions like that. I think that may be wrong, it's been misconstrued, and that I'm glad that Geno had this experience.

Well, he had a vision. And I hope that the Eisenhower Foundation will go back to that vision and expand it, and develop it, and radiate it to all of us.

He had a world vision. The 6.4 billion people in the world now, 800 million of them are chronically malnourished. That means that every fourth or fifth person doesn't get the decency, the basic things that every human being deserves. Humanity spends \$900 billion on armaments every year, and now this year, maybe beyond that. Think of what we could do with even half of that, \$450 billion for the poor.

Well, Geno thought about these things, and he radiated it. And I urge you to read the life of him by Mr. Larry O'Rourke. Is he here today? Oh, thank you for the book. I'm making it a bestseller. You missed a couple of things, but that's all right.

(Laughter.)

But all I can say is if Geno were here with us today, he'd be more apoplectic that he used to be, and that he'd look at the horrors of Iraq, what we're doing, and we spent \$200 billion that belongs to the poor. And he would look at the situation around the world -- United States now, Americans are only four percent of the total population of the earth. We consume 40 percent of the resources, and we seek to dominate the world.

And I was in Muslim countries rather recently and you can't imagine the intensity of the feeling against us, that we invaded a distinguished and long tradition of Iraq. And that

people say, "Well, we're so generous," and if Geno were here, he'd be saying in his own personal way every 10 minutes that there's 21 donor countries in the world getting help to the Third World, and where does the United States rank among the 21 nations? Twenty-first. Terrible, disgraceful. And we don't really care about that anymore. Whatever happened to us? We need Geno back.

Let me close by saying as the poor man was dying, I called him more than once, and he was very sick but he talked on and on. And I said, "Geno, I know all these things."

"But I'm telling you," he says, "that housing is terrible, things are awful." He was a visionary, like a prophet, and we need his voice, and I hope that you can perpetuate the legacies. In the Catholic Church and among all Christians, we have visionaries. And sometimes, they're quiet like Father Hurtado, the new Jesuit Saint. Everybody says that he was quiet, and that he was not in the public eye. And Geno was more in the public eye. All I can say from Christian theology is that God gives every person a special Charism. Some are quiet, some are noisy, some are contemplative, some are active. And he had a lot of these qualities. And if he had not died, the poor man, at the age of 53, we would have had more visionary, and I hope that you people can carry on that spirit, and that prophecy, and that vision.