

ification of worker eligibility, a more rigorous visa tracking system, and increased prosecution of illegal immigrant smugglers along with a completed border fence.

**MATTHEW ANDERSON,  
JOE CARTER, JUSTIN TAYLOR**

**PRAGMATIC IDEALISTS FOR  
HUCKABEE**

*Requests to the Mike Huckabee Presidential campaign for a statement on why conservatives should support its candidate, or help in contacting a California supporter who might provide such a statement, were not answered. So CPR reprints (edited per space constraints) the following endorsement posted October 25 on the campaign website.*

— editor

**W**HEN IT comes to politics, we three are pragmatic idealists. We are dedicated to the pursuit of noble principles and goals while never forgetting that politics is the “art of the possible.” Because we are idealists we are choosing to endorse a candidate who most aligns with our principles and values and is most worthy of our sacred trust. Because we are pragmatists we are choosing to endorse the one candidate who we believe is most capable of defeating Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Because we are pragmatic idealists we are endorsing Gov. Mike Huckabee ....

We hope to persuade other conservatives that Gov. Huckabee is capable of not only appealing to the three legs of the conservative coalition—social conservatives, fiscal conservatives, and defense conservatives—but to a broader confederation of Republicans and independents. The following is our reasons and rationale:

#### **SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES**

Gov. Huckabee is by far the most socially conservative candidate running for President. He supports passage of constitutional amendments to protect the right to life and the definition of marriage; he opposes embryo-destructive research and promises to veto any pro-abortion legislation; he supports policies that ensure children receive “a quality education, first-rate health care, decent housing in a safe neighborhood, and clean air and drinking water”; he proposes a nine point

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Veteran’s Bill of Rights; and he emphasizes that there is a religious and moral imperative to conserve resources and protect God’s creation.

#### **DEFENSE CONSERVATIVES**

Gov. Huckabee vows to remain vigilant in the “world war” against Islamic extremism and says that “this threat is one that we cannot negotiate, accommodate, or placate—it is one which we must eradicate”; he supports the Powell Doctrine of using overwhelming force to accomplish a mission; he believes that “Iraq is a battle in our generational, ideological war on terror” and is committed to defeating Al Qaeda there in order to bring stability to the country; he supports a regional summit so that Iraq’s neighbors become financially and militarily committed to stabilizing Iraq now rather than financially and militarily committed to widening the war later; he is a strong supporter of Israel, “the only fully-functioning democracy in the Middle East, and our greatest friend in that region”; he believes that securing the border is a national security measure and must be done immediately.

#### **FISCAL CONSERVATIVES**

Gov. Huckabee is a candidate that should appeal to fiscal conservatives. He has signed the Presidential Taxpayer Protection Pledge which binds the signer to “oppose any and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and/or businesses ... and oppose any net reduction or elimination of deductions and credits, unless matched dollar for dollar by further reducing tax rates”; he supports the FairTax, which would abolish the IRS and replace the Internal Revenue Code with a consumption tax; he believes in free trade (that is, fair trade) and claims that “globalization, done right, done fairly, can be the equivalent of a big pay raise by allowing us to buy things more cheaply.”

[Regarding] ... the white paper on Huckabee released by the Club for Growth [http://www.clubforgrowth.org/2007/01/a\_report\_on\_mike\_huckabees\_fis.php] .... we were dismayed by their report that was at times misleading, if not outright dishonest. We acknowledge that the Club believes that state sales taxes should never be increased to pay for such entitlements as education, Medicare, highways, and economic development. We understand that this is the reason that they oppose Gov. Huckabee’s record. But we believe that most Americans—and most conservatives—are not minarchists. We do not think the fiscal conservative *bona fides* of a man who cut taxes and fees almost 100 times, saving the taxpayers almost \$380 million, and left a surplus of nearly \$850 million should be denigrated because he took such actions as implementing a 1/8-cent sales tax hike.

CPR

# ARTS & CULTURE



P O E T I C S

## Three Los Angeles Prophets

*Gene Scott, Aimee McPherson & The Amazing Criswell*

BY CHARLES A. COULOMBE

ON 18 AUGUST 2007 at 10:30 p.m., my brother Andre, writer-documentary-maker Ed Canfield, and I led a candlelight procession of some 50 people down Selma Avenue in Hollywood, California. The cavalcade wended its three block-long way from an establishment called The Piano Bar to an office building inhabited by an outfit called "Five Star Video" at 1555 Cassil Place. Despite the date, this was not an observance in honor of St. Agapitus — Hollywood is not known for its *festas* (although in recent years the feast of San Gennaro has become a local observance — thanks to Jimmy Kimmel, of all people). No, despite the fact that all occurred under the shadow of the imposing Jesuit Church of the Blessed Sacrament (where I received my First Communion), the worthy being honored was the Amazing Criswell.

This procession, which featured the singing of such hymns as "Kumbaya" and the theme from The Rocky Horror Picture Show, was part of a festivity dubbed the "Cristennial," in observation of the great psychic's hundredth birthday. Other events included a party at the Piano Bar, featuring an endless loop of one of Cris-

well's appearances with Jack Paar in 1962, and a rendition of Mae West's classic ballad in his honor, "Criswell Predicts." You see, the Video Office, in its former incarnation as 6620 Selma Avenue, was the apartment house which the prognosticator had owned, where we Coulombes had made our home upon arrival in Hollywood from New York in the mid-'60s. Together with Criswell's former art director, Claudia Polifronio (a fellow tenant at the time) and our mother, Andre and I were the only ones of the glittering assemblage who had actually known the great man. All the others had assembled purely out of homage to America's first celebrity psychic.

Of course, it must be confessed that all the veneration offered the memory of the Man from Princeton (Indiana) was not entirely serious. True, one night in 1962, on The Tonight Show, Criswell had declared that "I predict that President Kennedy will not run for reelection in 1964, because of something that will happen to him in November 1963" — a prediction many others of the ESP fraternity discovered that they had made only after the event. Moreover, on December 31, 1965, Criswell predicted that Ronald Reagan would be California's next governor. Some of his predictions — unattached to a particular date — have certainly come true: homosexuality has indeed been legalized by the Supreme Court, and clothes have become very unisex. But many others might be considered wildly inaccurate

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