

# Executive Alert Extra

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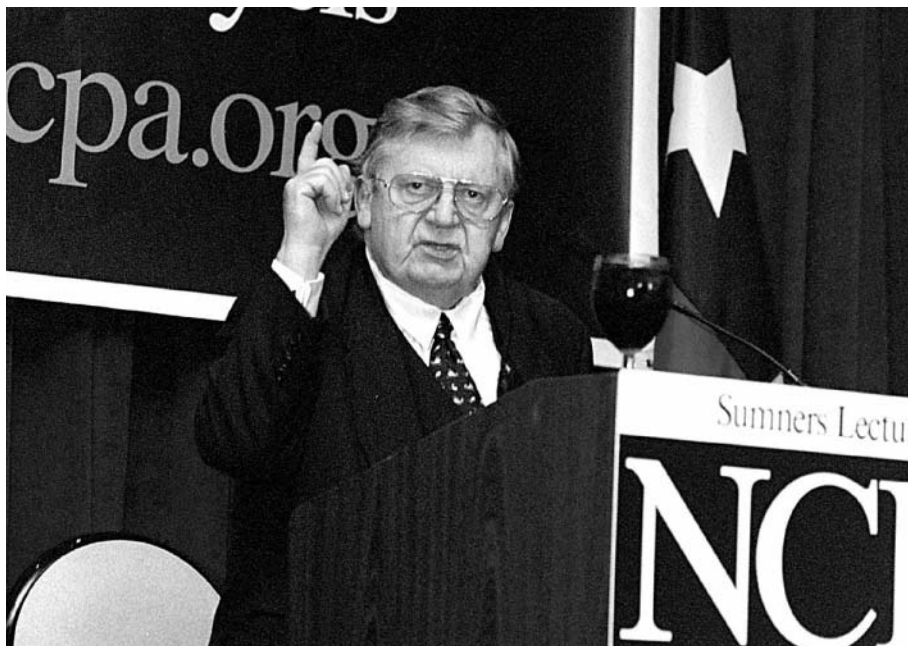
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

JULY/AUGUST 2003

## Eagleburger Discusses Nuclear Weapons and Iraq

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger told an NCPA audience in Dallas that the proliferation of nuclear weapons could spread globally if the reconstruction of Iraq is not properly handled. Eagleburger served in four presidential administrations during 27 years at the Department of State and was appointed Secretary of State by President George H.W. Bush.

Eagleburger said that the U.S. must “stay the course” during the reconstruction of Iraq’s government, but also address the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. “We cannot publicly accept a regime that is capable of delivering nuclear weapons to terrorist groups,” Eagleburger said.



Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger speaks in Dallas as part of the Hatton W. Summers Lecture Series.

## Hans Mark Discusses Weapons of Mass Destruction

Former Air Force Secretary and former Deputy Administrator of NASA, Hans Mark discussed the war in Iraq and the possibility of terrorists using sophisticated mobile weapons systems with NCPA Chairman’s Club members in Dallas. Dr.



Hans Mark and Harry Lucas.

Mark also noted that it is important to understand the lengthy and troubled history of the Middle East to truly comprehend the nature of the conflict today.

## DuPont Keynotes Bloomberg Seminar

NCPA Policy Chairman Pete du Pont gave the keynote address to a recent Bloomberg seminar for Dallas businessmen. Describing the need to “think outside the box,” du Pont said President Bush is using the same compass as Reagan, pushing for pro-growth tax cuts that lower the tax burden for individuals, investors and businesses. Du Pont predicted correctly, that once the tax cuts were signed into law, the market would take off on a significant upward track.



Earlier in the day, Gov. du Pont (left) previewed his remarks to NCPA Chairman’s Club members, including NCPA Board Members Jimmie Thompson (center) and Jere Thompson (right).

## Medicare Reform is Needed

Tom Scully, administrator of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, told an NCPA sponsored briefing on Capitol Hill that Medicare needs comprehensive reform to eliminate the waste and inefficiencies that are plaguing the current system. Scully, who actually runs the Medicare program, argued that Medicare money could be better spent by moving beneficiaries into private health insurance.

The briefing also featured NCPA President John C. Goodman and Jeff Lemieux, director of economic studies at Progressive Policy Institute. Goodman noted that seniors could have access to prescription drug coverage without costing taxpayers an additional dime, if they were allowed to combine the money they spend for Medigap coverage with the amount the government spends on Medicare for the purchase of comprehensive private health plans.



Tom Scully (above), Jeff Lemieux (right) and John C. Goodman (below) discuss Medicare.



## Team NCPA Iowa Poll: Social Security is in Trouble

NCPA Board Member Michael Whalen and NCPA Policy Analyst Matt Moore made a whirlwind, three-city tour of Iowa to unveil Team NCPA's poll of registered Iowa voters. More than 80 percent of Iowa voters recognize that the financial future of Social Security is at risk. In addition, when choosing among several options for saving the Social Security, three-fourths of Iowa voters chose a preference (one-fourth had no preference, did not answer or preferred no changes), and a reformed system that includes personal retirement accounts was by far the most popular option.



“Solving the crisis facing Social Security is the single most important domestic policy issue facing our country,” Whalen told reporters at stops in Des Moines, Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids. “And all presidential candidates should tell voters how they plan to save Social Security for generations to come.”

To learn more about Team NCPA, visit [www.teamncpa.org](http://www.teamncpa.org).

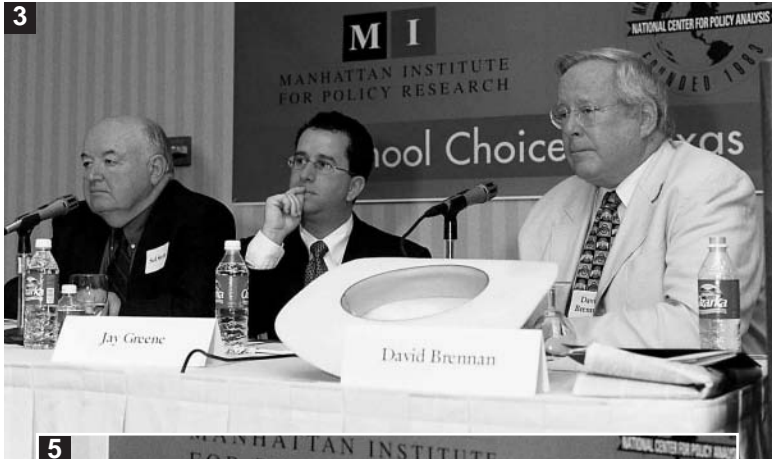
## U.S. is Still The Land of Opportunity

Climbing the economic ladder is the rule, not the exception, according to a new study by NCPA Senior Fellow Andrew Rettenmaier for the Financial Services Roundtable. Those who object to tax cuts often cite the gap between rich and poor. But, according to Rettenmaier, also of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M, this disparity is due almost entirely to the increasing premium the labor market pays for experience and skill, and ignores the considerable economic mobility that exists in America.

“The rich don’t stay rich, and the poor don’t stay poor,” said Rettenmaier. In fact, according to the study, about one-third of workers in the lowest 20 percent of incomes move up the income ladder within one year, and 25 percent in the top income quintile move down the ladder after one year. As for the rich, almost two-thirds of those on the Forbes 400 list in 1994 were not on the list in 1984 – and 80 percent were self-made.

# Manhattan Institute/NCPA School Choice Conference

1. Lori Taylor, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.
2. David DesRosiers, Manhattan Institute.
3. Sol Stern (left) and Jay Greene (center), Manhattan Institute and David Brennan, White Hat Management.
4. Robert Aguirre, CREO (left) Brooke Rollins, Texas Public Policy Foundation (right).
5. Rev. Raymond Bryant, Dallas Black Alliance for Education Options (left) and Linus Wright, former DISD Superintendent (right).
6. John C. Goodman and David Brennan.
7. Fred Meyer, NCPA Board Member (left) and Gov. Owens.
8. Jay Greene (left) and Matt Moore, NCPA (center) interviewed by Pam Parker, KRLD-AM.



## School Choice Conference Features Colorado Gov. Owens

Governor Bill Owens (R-CO) told a conference jointly sponsored by the NCPA and the Manhattan Institute's Center for Civic Innovation that school choice can improve educational quality and student performance. The conference, "School Choice in Texas: Could Choice Help Children Trapped in Failing Schools?" also featured remarks from NCPA President John C. Goodman and educational innovator and pioneer David Brennan. Brennan is chairman of White Hat Management, one of the nation's premier operators of community-based, tuition-free charter schools.



Gov. Bill Owens (R-CO).

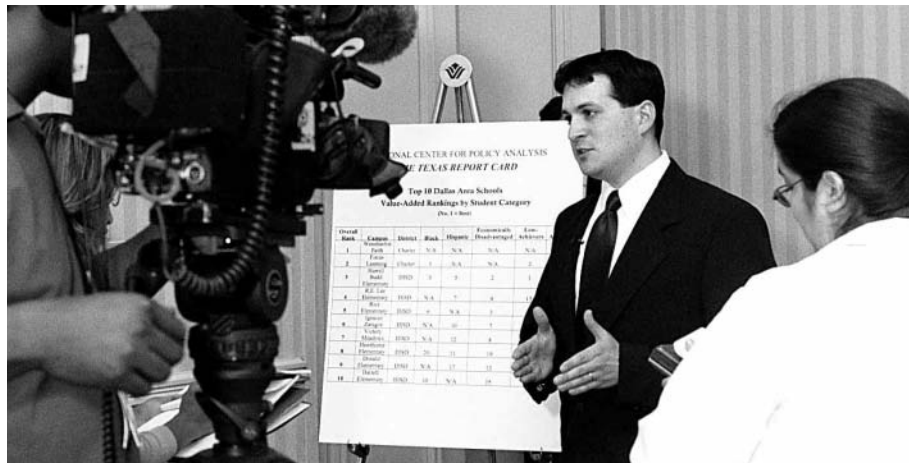
The conference also featured educational researchers Jay Greene and Sol Stern of the Manhattan Institute, Council for Reform and Educational Options Chairman Robert Aguirre, and former Dallas School Superintendent Linus Wright. Discussion focused on the impact school choice both on children who participate in school choice programs and those who remain in failing schools.

### Executive Alert Extra®

Editor..... Sean Tuffnell

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National Center for Policy Analysis  
12655 N. Central Expressway, Suite 720  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
(972) 386-NCPA  
e-mail: [ncpa@ncpa.org](mailto:ncpa@ncpa.org)



NCPA Policy Analyst Matt Moore discusses NCPA report card with Dallas media.

## NCPA Releases Report Card on Texas Schools

The NCPA released its first annual Report Card on Texas schools. The NCPA report card uses state of the art techniques for rating schools based on the value they add to student performance, as opposed to the value added by parents and other factors. The report card also rates schools for the first time on their ability to teach different student subpopulations, including Hispanic, black, economically disadvantaged, and high- and low-achievers. The NCPA study found that schools are not equally good at teaching all student groups.

NCPA Policy Analyst Matt Moore said, "Parents need to know how schools score in teaching different student

groups." The study concludes that informed public school choice has the potential to improve student performance across the board. "We would get better results for everyone if we allow schools to specialize in what they do best," added NCPA President John C. Goodman.

### Debate Central

The NCPA has reconstructed *Debate Central*, the most comprehensive online resource for the approximately 400,000 high school students participating in the national high school debate program. The 2003/2004 debate topic is "Resolved: That the United States federal government should establish an ocean policy substantially increasing protection of marine natural resources."

As this is an issue being hotly debated in the nation's capitol, the site's nearly 600 links (and growing) also make the site an invaluable resource for researchers, policy makers and reporters.

*Debate Central* is the only such resource accessible to all students free of charge. *Debate Central* has been such a popular site in large part to its free, open access format. If you would like to support this project, contact the NCPA's Development office, at 972-386-6272.

### NCPA 2003 Event Schedule

The NCPA is pleased to announce the following events for 2003. Details for each event will be forthcoming. Please contact the Events Department at 972-386-6272 to reserve your place at one of these exciting events or register online at [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org), on our new user-friendly, secure registration form.

#### Summers Distinguished Lecture Series Dinner with Václav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic

Date: September 22  
Location: Wyndham Anatole, Dallas

#### NCPA Chairman's Club Conference

Host: President Václav Klaus  
Topic: Central and Eastern Europe  
Date: Oct. 11-15  
Location: Prague, Czech Republic