

# Executive Alert Extra

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

## Kudlow Discusses Economic Prosperity at Policy Forum

Will the current economic prosperity continue in the years to come? Former Reagan budget official and current CNBC economic commentator Lawrence Kudlow answered these questions and many more at a Nov. 10 Policy Forum luncheon sponsored by the National Center for Policy Analysis and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Kudlow also talked about his new book, *American Abundance: The New Economic and Moral Prosperity*.

Kudlow explained that today's economy is part of a "long wave of prosperity" that began with the Reagan tax cuts. Reducing the top income tax rate from 70 percent to 28 percent in the 1980s unleashed a tide of wealth creation, resulting in the longest recovery in the twentieth century.

Clinton's tax hikes may have partly turned back the clock, Kudlow said, but his Reagan-like support of the dollar and free trade have continued to fuel the economy, as have his efforts against inflation.

"Lowering the inflation rate acts like a tax cut," he said. "This is the single biggest financial market story this year. It has proven the forecasting consensus to be very wrong. But it has made 125 million American investors very wealthy."

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Lawrence Kudlow and Ray Hunt at a Policy Forum luncheon.

## President Ford Dazzles Crowd at Sumners Lecture Series

Former President Gerald R. Ford was in Dallas on Nov. 3 to speak to more than 600 luncheon guests as part of the NCPA's Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series.

Ford, who became America's 38th president in 1974 when the Watergate scandal forced President Richard Nixon to resign from office, talked about his presidency and the current state of politics.

The last surviving member of the Warren Commission, which was created to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Ford said he stands by its findings that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. "In the 30-odd years since the assassination, I have seen no new credible evidence that would change that position," he said.

Ford said his worst moment as president was watching from the Oval Office as



President Ford and Trammell Crow.

Americans were "kicked out of Vietnam." He also expressed disappointment in the "poisonous atmosphere" he sees in Washington, noting that when he was in Congress decades ago, members typically finished setting the federal budget by July and could spend much of the year with constituents, instead of haggling year-round at the Capitol.

"It's a lousy way to run an organization," he said.



Dr. Morgan Reynolds, director of the NCPA Criminal Justice Center, at a National Press Club news conference to release the fourth edition of *Crime and Punishment in America*.

### NCPA Study: Crime is Less Profitable

Declaring that the nation's crime rate has reached a 25-year low for a reason, Dr. Morgan Reynolds, director of the Criminal Justice Center at the NCPA, released his fourth annual edition of *Crime and Punishment in America* at the National Press Club in October.

*Crime and Punishment in America: 1999* shows that the downward trend in the U.S. crime rate begun in the 1980s is continuing because the likelihood of going to prison and staying there has continued to increase.

"We are taking the profit out of crime," Reynolds said. "Most offenders are not mentally deranged and most crimes are not irrational acts. We have less crime because crime has become more costly to criminals."

Reynolds uses "expected punishment" to measure the potential cost to a criminal of committing a crime. Expected punishment is defined as "the length of time in prison a typical criminal can expect to serve per crime, given the probabilities of being apprehended, prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison."

### NCPA Names James Falk as Vice President of Development

James N. Falk is the new NCPA vice president of development. In this role, Falk is responsible for planning, coordinating and administering specific areas of on-going or special project funding programs, such as individual gifts, in-kind donations, direct mail campaigns, planned giving and special events.



NCPA Vice President of Development Jim Falk.

"I am excited to have Jim on board," said Jeanette Goodman, executive vice-president of the NCPA. "Jim's extensive experience in fundraising and administration combined with his

knowledge of the non-profit world and his commitment to free-market principles make him a valuable asset to our organization."

Falk comes to the NCPA with seven years of management experience in the not-for-profit sector, concentrating on fundraising, marketing and board and volunteer development.

He previously served as regional director for the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Houston where he administered and developed programs throughout an 11-state region.

### Bush Appoints Goodman to Health Care Task Force

Texas Gov. George W. Bush named NCPA President John Goodman as one of three appointments to a Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Uninsured in Texas.

The task force was created by the Texas Legislature to examine the problems of Texans who lack health insurance and to develop market-based solutions.

"This will create an opportunity to try out some of the NCPA's state-based health care solutions," Goodman said. "Texas could become a model for the nation."

### Bartlett to Provide 'Marketplace' Commentary

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett has entered into an agreement to periodically provide a commentary on Public Radio International's marquee program "Marketplace." Bartlett's first commentary, which aired on Dec. 6, discussed how the tax bite on the rich continues to grow.

### NCPA Ideas to be Argued before Supreme Court

University of Utah law professor Paul Cassell will appear before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue *Dickerson v. United States* - a landmark criminal case that gives the court yet another opportunity to overturn the so-called Miranda warning.

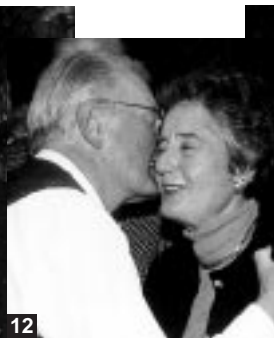
"We're cautiously optimistic about our chances of winning," Cassell, who co-authored the 1998 NCPA study "Handcuffing the Cops: Miranda's Harmful Effects on Law Enforcement," said after learning of the court's action.

Cassell, representing the Washington Legal Foundation as a friend of the court, is seeking to revive a 1968 law that would no longer make failure to issue Miranda warnings result in automatic exclusion of evidence in federal prosecutions.

# Chairman's Club Conference

Bear Lodge in Jackson, Wyo., home of Dan and Gail Cook, formed the scenic backdrop for this year's Chairman's Club gathering.

1. Virginia Gilder, Derwood Chase, Bob Rogers and Rich Karlgaard
2. Susan Allen, Catherine Murray, Terry Kohler and Gail Cook
3. Gov. Pete du Pont and Tom Smith
4. Maurice McTigue and Charles Murray
5. Mary Kohler, Giselle Huff, Johanna Chase, Dorman Cordell, Charles Wyly and Amy Haggert
6. Mike Whalen, Mayor Bret Schundler, Lynne Schundler and fishing guide Bill Caruth
8. Gov. George Allen and Dan Cook
9. Cliff and Joan Rae
10. Nancy Dedman, Dan Cook, and Robert Dedman
11. Ward Connerly
12. Jere Thompson and Brigid Flanigan
13. Charles and Beth Miller, Caroline Rose Hunt, Dee and Charles Wyly, and Charles Simmons



## Goodman Captains Debates on Minimum Wage, Electricity Deregulation



Fred Smith, NCPA President John Goodman and DebatesDebates timekeeper Mark Nix.



Jerry Taylor of the CATO Institute, Fred Smith of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and Robert Kuttner, co-editor of *The American Prospect* magazine, in the studio before a taping of *DebatesDebates*.

If proposals to raise the minimum wage are adopted, will it have harmful consequences on the U.S. economy? Should the federal government deregulate the electric power industry?

Leading policy experts attempted to answer these questions in two new episodes of *DebatesDebates*, a nationally televised program on PBS.

In one debate, NCPA President John Goodman captained a team arguing in favor of abolishing the minimum wage. Joining him were Ohio University Professor Richard Vedder and Marvin Kosters, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. The opposition team was led by Robert Kuttner, co-editor of *The American Prospect*. He was joined by John Schmitt, a fellow at the Economic Policy Institute; and Mark Levitan of the Community Service Society. The show began airing nationally on Nov. 3.

In a second debate, Goodman's team argued in favor of federal deregulation of the electric power industry. He was joined by Fred Smith, executive director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute; and Jerry Taylor, director of natural resource studies at the CATO Institute. Team leader Robert Kuttner led opposition panelists Wenonha Hauter of Public Citizen and John T. O'Connor, president of Greenworks Inc. That program began airing nationally on Dec. 10.

A Warren Steibel production, *DebatesDebates* currently airs in 181 markets, including PBS stations in New York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver and Miami. It can also be viewed by an international audience on the NCPA Channel - [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org).

### NCPA 2000 EVENT SCHEDULE

February 24  
Ward Connerly  
*Summers Lecture, Dallas*

April 28  
Father Robert Sirico  
*NCPA/Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forum, Dallas*

November 12-15  
Chairman's Club Conference  
*Rough Creek Lodge, Glen Rose, Texas*

December 4  
Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III  
*Summers Lecture, Dallas*

Call the NCPA Events Department at 972-386-6272 for details or for information about event sponsorship.

## Strayer Discusses Minimum Wage Debate

Jack Strayer, vice president of External Affairs in NCPA's Washington, D.C. office, appeared live via telephone on Tri-State Media News Television in November to discuss the minimum wage debate on Capitol Hill. Tri-State Media News Television broadcasts via cable to a million viewers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Viewers out of the area were also able to watch the live broadcast on the Tri-State Media News web site at [www.tsmnews.com](http://www.tsmnews.com).

### Executive Alert Extra®

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