

# Executive Alert Extra

VOL. 6, NO.3

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

MAY/JUNE 2000

## ABC's John Stossel Pans Media's Crisis Mentality

"The media has become hysterical over trivial risks," said ABC News correspondent John Stossel, speaking at the Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series luncheon in April.

"The more people watch television, the more they become scared of everything," Stossel said in a speech that took aim at broadcast journalists titled, "Pandering to Fear: The Media's Crisis Mentality."

Introducing Stossel at the luncheon was conservative radio talk show host Charley Jones of KRLD-AM. A self-described fan, Jones said Stossel is "one of the most consistently thought-provoking TV reporters of our time."



*John Stossel takes questions from the audience during a recent Sumners Lecture Series luncheon.*

## NCPA Gets \$1.3 Million Matching Grant

The NCPA has been awarded a \$1.3 million, two-year matching grant to embark on a national campaign to reform Social Security and the federal tax system.

In an announcement, NCPA board chairman Tom Smith said the grant would "challenge the NCPA to put the same effort into Social Security and tax reform that it put into making Medical Savings Accounts a household word."

Persons interested in helping the NCPA meet the matching grant should contact Jim Falk, vice president of development, at 972/386-6272, or send e-mail to [jfalk@ncpa.org](mailto:jfalk@ncpa.org).

## Thompson Joins NCPA Board

James Cleo Thompson, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Thompson Petroleum Corp., of Dallas, has joined the Board of Directors of the National Center for Policy Analysis.



*NCPA board member James Cleo Thompson and his wife, Dorothy, at an NCPA reception with former President Gerald R. Ford.*

"The NCPA is home to some of the most brilliant minds in the country and is playing an important role in shaping our future," Thompson said.

Thompson is managing general partner of J. Cleo Thompson & James Thompson, Jr., A Partnership, which has been engaged in the oil and gas exploration and production business since 1953.

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*NCPA President John Goodman answers questions at a briefing chaired by Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.*

## NCPA Health Proposals Gain on Capitol Hill

NCPA President John Goodman joined policymakers, physicians, federal and state officials, and members of the media in Washington, D.C. to discuss the congressional health care agenda in 2000.

At a February 28-29 health care policy conference organized by the American Association



*NCPA President John Goodman and Sen. Frist*

## NCPA Health Experts Brief Capital Press Corps

NCPA President John Goodman, Senior Fellow Greg Scandlen and Vice President of External Affairs Jack Strayer briefed Capitol Hill reporters, writers and editors at an informal press breakfast March 3.

Goodman gave a presentation on the need to equalize employer-provided and individually-purchased health insurance under tax law to create a competitive and improved health insurance market for consumers.

Scandlen addressed the developing trend within the business community away from employer-administrated health insurance towards an employer-sponsored defined contribution system.

of Health Plans, Goodman outlined the NCPA's proposal to insure the uninsured by replacing the nation's current system with a system of tax credits for the purchase of private insurance.

On March 3, Goodman presented the plan at a briefing chaired by Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., sponsored by the Alliance for Health Reform.

## NCPA Efforts Pay Off With End of Social Security Earnings Test



*Rep. Dick Armey with other members of Congress at the 1989 unveiling of an NCPA study calling for the repeal of the Social Security earnings test.*

In 1989, members of Congress, including Dick Armey, Dennis Hastert and Lynn Martin, stood in front of the nation's Capitol to release an NCPA study calling for the repeal of the Social Security earnings test.

More than a decade worth of NCPA research paid off in April when President Clinton signed bipartisan legislation to repeal the earnings test for Social Security benefits.

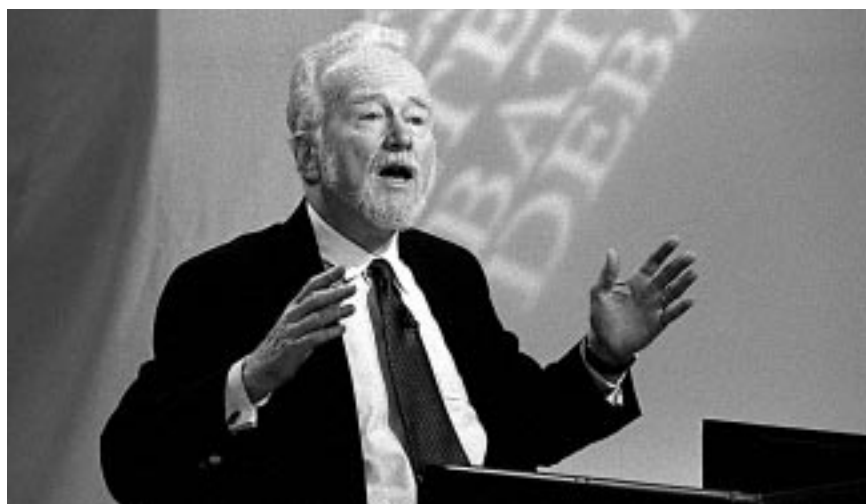
"The earnings test is a depression-era relic that punishes people for working. It has no place in today's world," NCPA President John Goodman said. "It's gratifying to see a decade's worth of NCPA research pay off."



*Nina Rees of the Heritage Foundation explains why school choice would improve public education.*



*Washington Attorney Jay Lefkowitz argues that school vouchers are constitutional.*



*Thomas Gail Moore, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, discusses what effect the Kyoto Global Warming Treaty would have on farmers, small businesses and the urban poor.*

## Goodman Touts Bush Health Plan on C-SPAN

NCPA President John Goodman appeared on C-SPAN's Washington Journal program on April 18 to discuss Texas Gov. George W. Bush's recently unveiled health proposals.

Goodman appeared on the show for the full hour to discuss Bush's plan to provide tax credits to help the uninsured purchase private health insurance, expand the use and capability of Flexible Spending Accounts and Medical Savings Accounts, and promote the growth of health care safety net available to communities nationwide.

"This is a bold health plan," said Goodman, who has long crusaded for tax credits to make health care more accessible to lower-income workers. "It is a step toward fundamental reform of the health care system."

Goodman was appointed by Bush to serve on the governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Uninsured in Texas. He also advises the Bush campaign on health policy issues.

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## DebatesDebates Broadcast Coast-to-Coast

In just its fifth season, *DebatesDebates*, the NCPA's hour-long public policy television program, has achieved coast-to-coast distribution.

Produced by *Firing Line* producer Warren Steibel, *DebatesDebates* is broadcast by stations in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston and Atlanta — reaching five of the country's Top 10 television markets. In total, more than 180 stations carry the program.

Since its premier, *DebatesDebates* has provided a forum in which important public policy issues are openly debated by opponents with different views. The timely, provocative topics covered in recent shows include whether school choice would liberate public education; how the global warming treaty would affect farmers, small business and the urban poor; and whether public school vouchers are constitutional.



*NCPA Policy Chairman Pete du Pont was recently cited as one of 100 Delawareans of the Century in the Wilmington News-Journal.*

## New Senior Fellows to Help Drive NCPA Health Policy Research Into Next Millennium

Two nationally renowned researchers, Robert Goldberg, Ph.D., and Greg Scandlen, have joined the NCPA to study a wide variety of free-market approaches to health care policy.

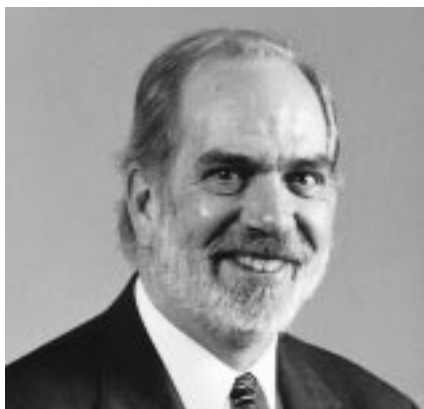
“With more than four decades of experience between them, Greg and Bob have earned reputations as two of our nation’s leading health care policy experts,” NCPA President John Goodman said. “They will be excellent additions to our health policy team.”

Goldberg joins the NCPA as a senior fellow who will conduct research and write extensively on the impact of government regulation of health care. Previously, Goldberg directed the Ethics and Public Policy Center’s project on Medical Science and Society.

Scandlen is a senior fellow in Health Policy and will produce studies and analyze health policy issues, as well as write newspaper opinion columns for the NCPA. Scandlen comes to the NCPA from the Cato Institute, where he was health policy fellow.



*Robert Goldberg*



*Greg Scandlen*

## Du Pont Named Delawarean of the Century

NCPA Policy Chairman Pete du Pont was cited as one of 100 Delawareans of the Century in The Wilmington News Journal in January. Du Pont was ranked along with other such Delaware notables as baseball great Judy Johnson, scientist Wallace Carothers, and jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown.

### NCPA 2000 EVENT SCHEDULE

The NCPA is pleased to announce the following events for 2000. Details for each event listed below will be forthcoming.

#### May 3

**Newt Gingrich**  
former Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
*NCPA Lecture, Houston*

#### July 13

**John Raybould**  
The Adam Smith Institute  
*NCPA/Federal Reserve Policy Forum Tribute to Friedrich von Hayek, Dallas*

#### October 20

**Kenneth Starr**  
Former Independent Counsel  
*Summers Lecture, Dallas*

#### November 9

**James R. Lilley**  
former U.S. Ambassador to China  
*NCPA/Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forum, Dallas*

#### November 12-15

**Chairman’s Club Conference**  
*Rough Creek Lodge, Glen Rose, Texas*

#### December 4

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

Call the NCPA Events Department at 972-386-6272 for details.

### Executive Alert Extra®

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