

# Executive Alert Extra.

VOL. 9, NO. 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

MARCH/APRIL 2003

## Team NCPA Invades Iowa

Last summer, the NCPA launched a nationwide volunteer effort called Team NCPA to educate the public, policy-makers and the media about the crisis facing Social Security and the ways to save it. This successful project, which presently includes over 2,500 registered volunteers, is now moving into an important new stage.

The NCPA is beginning a special year-long initiative in Iowa to build a network of volunteers to blanket the state with information about Social Security reform. Iowa was chosen for this education initiative because it is one of the last places where citizens can discuss issues directly with presidential candidates – and it all takes place under the national media spotlight.

Team NCPA will seek to swell its Iowa membership to 6,000 volunteers, who will separately attend about 100 different events and ask tough questions as presidential aspirants descend on the state. Team NCPA's web site will feature a "Candidates Corner" section, which will provide people with a central location to discover what each candidate has to say about Social Security. For more information, log on to [www.teamncpa.org](http://www.teamncpa.org)



*NCPA President John C. Goodman (left) participates in a town hall meeting on health care with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson (right) in Minneapolis, MN.*

## America Talks Health Care

NCPA President John C. Goodman joined U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson at a town hall forum entitled "America Talks Health Care." The forum in Minneapolis, Minnesota was the first in a series of events Secretary Thompson has planned to take Bush Administration health policy initiatives to the heartland. Goodman discussed empowering patients with Medical Savings Accounts.



## Buchholz Joins Board

Don A. Buchholz, chairman of the board of directors and co-founder of Southwest Securities, has joined the board of directors of the NCPA after more than a decade of support.

In addition to his work with Southwest Securities, Don is an allied member of the New York Stock Exchange, an associate member of the

American Stock Exchange, and previously served as a member of the Board of Governors of the New York Stock Exchange.

"I have long been a supporter of the NCPA because of its impressive record of thinking outside-the-box to develop practical solutions," said Buchholz. "I am honored to join the board to help the NCPA continue its success."

## Patient Power Briefing

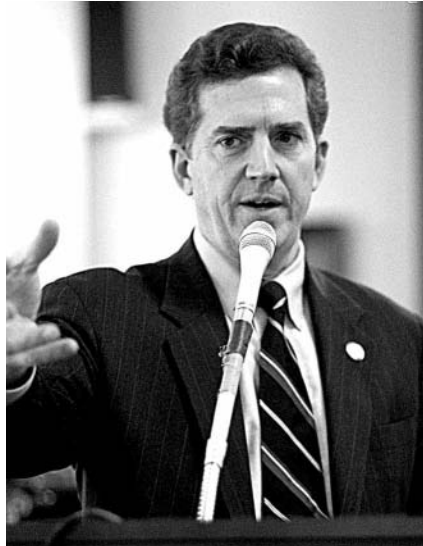
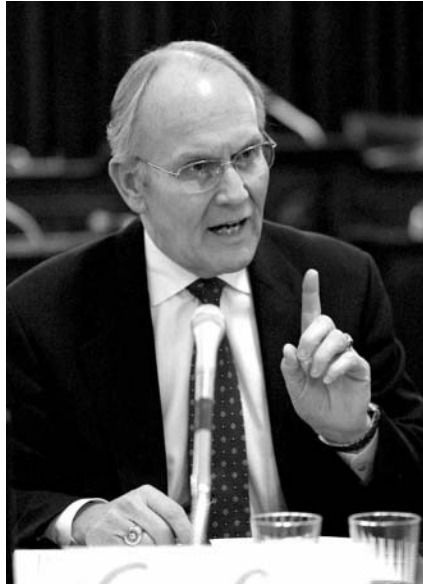
Two days after President Bush's State of the Union, the NCPA hosted a standing-room only Capitol Hill briefing on one of the president's key domestic policy issues – increasing "Patient Power."

Moderated by NCPA President John C. Goodman, the briefing featured presentations on Medical Savings Accounts by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), Flexible Spending Accounts by Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC) and Health Reimbursement Arrangements by Ronald Bachman of PricewaterhouseCoopers. All three discussed what barriers currently exist for these accounts, what problems employers and employees have in using them, and what reforms would increase their availability and attractiveness.

## Bartlett Debates Bill Gates (Sr.) Over the Estate Tax

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett debated the merits of abolishing the estate tax with Bill Gates Sr. (father of the founder of Microsoft) at a recent forum co-hosted by the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute. Gates argued that the estate tax is needed to combat growing inequality. Bartlett responded by asking why inequality per se is bad as opposed to poverty or a declining standard of living? Even if one accepts that inequality is bad, how does the estate tax reduce it? Bartlett noted that, ironically, inequality grew sharply when the estate tax reached its peak.

Bartlett was asked why someone as wealthy as Gates is an ardent proponent of maintaining a steep estate tax? Bartlett said: "It makes perfect sense that someone like Gates, whose son is extremely wealthy in his own right, wouldn't care if his money is bequeathed or not. What is truly surprising is the high popularity of repealing the estate tax among people who are never likely to be subjected to it."



Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) (top) and Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC) discuss ways to expand patient power during a recent NCPA briefing.



NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett.

## Bartlett Testifies Before Democratic Policy Committee

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett, a veteran of the Reagan and first Bush administrations, testified about the merits of the President's economic plan and the impact of deficits on interest rates before the Democratic Policy Committee.

"Concerns about projected future budget deficits are legitimate, but often uninformed," said Bartlett. "Deficits have very little impact on interest rates," he said.

Bartlett also noted that "the tax initiatives proposed by President Bush will raise private saving and increase the nation's productive capacity. Think of them as investments that will pay dividends not only in terms of higher growth and living standards, but also in terms of more federal revenue."

## Colgan Confirmed for NCH Post



NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan has been confirmed by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for a position on the National Council on the Humanities. Colgan was appointed to the position by President Bush. The Council is comprised of a panel of experts who analyze and judge proposals for grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council represents the final guidance to the chairman to approve or disapprove applications. Colgan's term expires in January, 2008.

## Hubbard Pitches Jobs and Growth Package

R. Glenn Hubbard, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, spoke to an NCPA sponsored luncheon at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, explaining the thinking behind the president's jobs and growth proposal to local business and community leaders. Hubbard, who has been a longtime advocate of ending the double taxation of dividends, is the person most responsible for putting together President Bush's economic plan.

Noting that the Administration's proposals would be good for workers and investors alike, Hubbard said as much as 40 percent of the cost of the Administration's proposal would be offset by higher economic growth.



R. Glenn Hubbard (right) and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas President Robert McTeer (left).



Ray Hunt (right) introduces R. Glenn Hubbard.



NCPA Board Member Dan Cook (left), NCPA Executive Vice President Jeanette N. Goodman (center), and Bud Smith (right).

## Chairman's Club Breakfast

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett briefed NCPA Chairman's Club members in Dallas on the Bush budget and its impact on the economy.

Said Bartlett: "As a share of GDP, the deficit in this decade will reach about half as high as that in the 1980s. He also said that budget deficits have very little impact on interest rates."



Walter Viney (left), Roger Harrington (center), and NCPA Director of Development Betty Guerra (right).



Bruce Bartlett (center) speaks with Fred Meyer (above left) and new NCPA Board Member Don Buchholz (above right).



Dave Konker (left) and Peter Townsend (right).

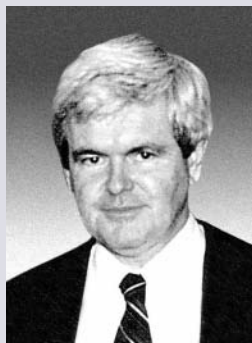
## NCPA 2003 Event Schedule

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.



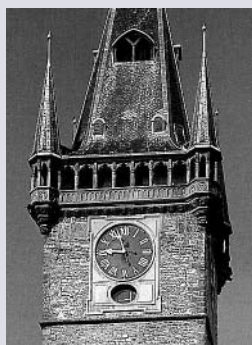
### Summers Lecture Series with Bernard Goldberg

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2003  
Time: Noon  
Location: Grand Ballroom, Wyndham Anatole  
Topic: Media bias



### Thinking Outside the Box on Healthcare

Date: Monday, March 24, 2003  
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (TBC)  
Location: American Enterprise Institute  
Speakers: **Newt Gingrich**  
**Tom Saving**  
**John Goodman**



### NCPA Chairman's Club Conference, Prague, Czech Republic

Date: Rescheduled Fall 2003  
Location: Prague, Czech Republic  
Topic: Central and Eastern Europe  
Host: **Václav Klaus,**  
**President, Czech Republic**



*Michael F. Cannon, NCPA Director of Government Affairs.*

## Cannon Joins NCPA's DC Office

Michael F. Cannon has joined the NCPA's Washington, DC office as the Director of Government Affairs. In this role, Cannon will represent the NCPA before the Bush administration, on Capitol Hill and will serve as a liaison to other think tanks, trade groups and policy organizations. Cannon comes to the NCPA from the U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee, where he served as a domestic policy analyst, formulating policy and counseling Senators on health, education, labor, welfare and Second Amendment legislation, among other duties.

"I am excited to have Michael on board," said NCPA President John C. Goodman. "He is highly regarded for his Washington savvy as well as his insights into a wide range of policy issues from health care to education to economic policy."

## 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)

## Other Staff Changes

The NCPA at the first of the year promoted several members of the Dallas staff to acknowledge and reflect the duties for which they have been responsible for some time.

Janice Estes is the Chief Financial Officer. Estes, a certified public accountant, also supervises employee benefits and personnel. Rick Smith is Director of IT/Online Services. Smith directs the NCPA's online department which oversees the NCPA's Web sites and provides IT support to all NCPA offices. Also in the online department, Jan Leek is now the Online Manager. Leek has been with the NCPA for over ten years, serving in a variety of roles.