

# Executive Alert Extra

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999

## Goodman Tells Congress... “Use the Tax System to Insure the Uninsured”

The problem of the uninsured in America is a very real one. The count stands at 43 million and rising. Moreover, it is occurring in the midst of a booming economy with unemployment at all-time lows.

That was the bad news NCPA President John Goodman delivered to members of Congress at a June 16 hearing of the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee.

“We’re spending an enormous amount of money to fix the problem, but the more we spend, the worse the problem seems to get,” Goodman testified.

Currently, the U.S. spends more than \$100 billion a year on tax subsidies for employer-provided health insurance. Yet some families have lavish health coverage — subsidized by the federal government to the tune of 50 cents on the dollar — and other Americans get no tax relief when they purchase their own insurance.

Goodman proposed to convert existing programs into a refundable tax credit for every person who obtains private health insurance. Any unclaimed tax credit money would be given to state governments as a block grant with one proviso: that it be spent on indigent health care.



NCPA President John Goodman testifies at a hearing of the House Ways & Means Committee on reforming the U.S. health care system.

## Cox Analyzes the New Economy

Is America’s recent economic success just a mirage, sure to vanish in the 21st century? Not according to economist W. Michael Cox of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, who was the featured speaker at the NCPA’s June 22 Policy Forum luncheon in Dallas. His talk, “*Good News You Need to Know*,” explained why the good times will last well into the future.

“Since the early 1970s, there’s been an explosion of choice in the marketplace,” Cox said. “We’re getting more for less, and that’s great news for the consumer as we head into the 21st Century.”

Cox, who also is a Senior Fellow at the NCPA, said a number of factors have



W. Michael Cox, chief economist at the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas and an NCPA Senior Fellow, is interviewed by KDFW-TV reporter Scott Warner, following his Policy Forum address.

come together to create the current economic boom. He cited the invention of the microprocessor in 1971 as having had the biggest impact on the economy since the utilization of electricity 100 years ago.

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## NCPA Kicks off On-line Advertising Campaign

The National Center for Policy Analysis broke new ground in August with the kick off of one of the nation's first public policy on-line advertising campaigns. Online banner ads began appearing August 1 on Yahoo, Slate Magazine and Newsmax to highlight the NCPA Channel, Daily Policy Digest and the Social Security Calculator. They will continue to run through December. The NCPA web site is located at [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org).

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John Fund,  
Editorial Writer, The Wall Street Journal

## Burnett Warns U.S. Mayors About Costs of Global Warming Pact

NCPA Senior Policy Analyst Sterling Burnett addressed the U.S. Conference of Mayors semi-annual meeting in New Orleans in June to discuss the economic effects of the Kyoto global warming accord on America's cities.

Proponents of the Kyoto accord believe human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide are contributing to global warming. Opponents say conclusive evidence is not available.

## NCPA Releases Death Tax Study at National Press Club

"The estate (death) tax is an attack on the American Dream and does more harm to the nation's economy than is justified by the miniscule amount of revenue it collects." So argued National Center for Policy Analysis Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett in a new report unveiled at an August 18 news conference at the National Press Club.

The report used a cost-benefit analysis to show how the federal government's least significant revenue source - 1.3% of total federal tax revenues in 1998 - puts many small businesses' survival in jeopardy and is increasingly becoming an attack on middle-class saving and investment.

"Since most small businesses are undercapitalized to begin with, the death tax can literally suck the lifeblood out of a business," concluded Bartlett.

Carried live on C-SPAN2, the news conference also featured presentations from invited representatives on the death tax's effects on small business, ranches and farms and on capital formation.

Speakers included Martin Regalia of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Ken Wertz of Price Waterhouse Coopers; Pat Wolff of the American Farm Bureau Federation; and Dorthy Coleman and Elwyn Darden of the National Association of Manufacturers.



Professor Morgan Reynolds, director of the NCPA's Criminal Justice Center, discusses the pitfalls of further gun legislation at the National Press Club.

## Reynolds Advises Against More Gun Legislation

In the emotional aftermath of recent school shootings, the U.S. Senate has passed a 648-page juvenile crime bill that includes a myriad of new gun control measures.

Dr. Morgan Reynolds, director of the NCPA Criminal Justice Center, argues that none of these proposed rules would have prevented the massacre.

Reynolds made his remarks during an Academics for Public Safety press conference at the National Press Club recently. The group unveiled a letter to Congress advising against further gun legislation. It was signed by nearly 300 economics and law professors.

Appearing with Reynolds were University of Chicago professor John R. Lott, Jr., and Georgetown University of Law professor Robert Cottrol.

## Goodman Leads Debates on Medicare, Social Security Privatization



1. NCPA President John Goodman; Robert Goldberg of the Ethics and Public Policy Center; and Robert Kuttner, co-editor of *American Prospect*.

2. Tom Saving, director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M University.

3. Dr. Goldberg.

4. Dr. Goodman and *Wall Street Journal* editorial writer Amity Schlaes.

5. Amity Schlaes and Dr. Saving.

Suddenly Medicare and Social Security reform are back in the news, propelled in large part by a booming economy, and the hope there might be enough money available to rescue these two massive federal entitlement programs from bankruptcy.

That's why the NCPA recently sponsored two new episodes of *Debates-Debates*, a nationally televised program on PBS.

In one debate, NCPA President John Goodman captained a team arguing that seniors on Medicare ought to be able to choose private health



insurance instead. Joining him were Tom Saving, director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M University; and Robert Goldberg, a senior research fellow with the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

The opposition team was led by Robert Kuttner, co-editor of *American Prospect*. He was teamed with Ron Pollack, executive director of the liberal Families USA; and Dr. Sid Wolfe, director of the Public Citizen's Research Group. The show began airing nationally on July 21.

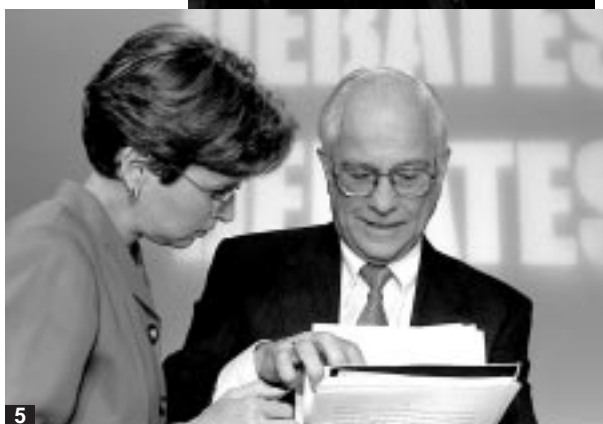
In a second debate, Dr. Goodman's team argued for Social Security privatization. He was joined by Dr. Saving and Amity Schlaes, editorial writer for the *Wall Street Journal*. Team leader Robert Kuttner led

the opposition panelists Richard Leone, president of the Century Foundation; and Dr. Heidi Hartmann, director of the Institute for Women's Policy Research. That program began airing nationally on August 4.

*DebatesDebates*, sponsored by NCPA, brings together some of America's foremost

experts to participate in formal debates of current public policy issues.

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 at [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org).



## NCPA Interns Excel

Three bright, impressive college students experienced policy analysis firsthand while working as interns for the NCPA this summer. Two served as Koch Fellows, sponsored by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, and another represented the NCPA under the Russell and Phoebe Perry Internship Program. All worked in the NCPA Washington office and made significant contributions to the institute.

**Matthew Paul Moore**, a Russell and Phoebe Perry Public Policy Intern, is pursuing a master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The Crossett, Ark., native has been working in the NCPA Public Affairs/Media Department since August helping to organize briefings and press conferences on Capitol Hill. He also wrote



From left, NCPA interns Matt Moore, Nicole Schiereck and Ryan Oprea.

articles on the gender wage gap and Medicare reform for the Dallas Morning News.

**Ryan Oprea**, a Koch Fellow and senior at Hillsdale College in New York, spent much of the summer doing research for a soon-to-be released NCPA study on welfare reform in the 50 states. The Claw-

son, MI, native also wrote a 3,000-word article for Reason Magazine on the politics of electricity deregulation.

**Nicole Schiereck**, a Koch Fellow from Honolulu, HI, is a law student at Cornell University in New York. She worked this summer with Dr. Morgan Reynolds on projects dealing with prison industries and pri-

vativizing probation. She also gathered research for Sterling Burnett on gun control and murder rates in 15 foreign countries. Nicole's op-ed article on how concealed weapons prevent crime was distributed nationally by Knight-Ridder Tribune News Service.

## NCPA Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Public Affairs and Marketing Director Julie Hillrichs

**Julie Hillrichs** has joined the NCPA as director of marketing and public affairs, with responsibility for overseeing the marketing of all NCPA events, briefings and publications. She

also acts as the center's chief spokesperson.

Before joining the NCPA, Ms. Hillrichs handled media relations at the Texas Railroad Commission, first, as its Director of Public Information and later as the Communications Director for Commissioner Charles Matthews. Her most extensive media relations experience was gained while fulfilling a variety of roles for U.S. Senator Phil Gramm between 1990 and 1998.

Ms. Hillrichs began her career as a staff writer for the Des Moines Register's "Neighbor's Section" and the Midland Reporter-Telegram in Midland, Texas.

**Abby Haran** is the NCPA's new events secretary. Ms. Haran is responsible for assisting the events department with the planning and coordination of NCPA special events.

Prior to joining the NCPA, Ms. Haran

previously worked as an intern for the Conservative Political Action Committee (CPAC) in Washington, D.C., assisting with conferences, banquets and other CPAC events. Her other public policy experience includes a stint with the American Conservative Union based in Alexandria, Va.

Ms. Haran graduated in May 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Trinity University in San Antonio.



Events Secretary Abby Haran

## Moving Up

Congratulations to Krishonne Chester, who has been promoted to production coordinator. Ms. Chester now is responsible for all pre-press preparation of NCPA studies, backgrounders and Brief Analysis, and deals with the printer and mail house in



Production Coordinator Krishonne Chester

seeing to it that printing schedules are met. She continues to prepare graphics and text for the publications. She reports to Senior Scholar Dorman Cordell.

## NCPA 1999 FALL EVENT SCHEDULE

- September 9  
Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas  
*Summers Lecture, Dallas*
  - September 15  
Former OMB Director James Miller  
*NCPA/Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forum, Dallas*
  - October 3-6  
Chairman's Club Conference  
*Jackson Hole, Wyoming*
  - November 3  
Former President Gerald Ford  
*Summers Lecture, Dallas*
  - November 10  
Economist Lawrence Kudlow  
*NCPA/Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forum, Dallas*
- Call the NCPA Events Department at 972-386-6272 for details.

## Executive Alert Extra®

Editor.....Julie Hillrichs

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