

Executive Alert Extra

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

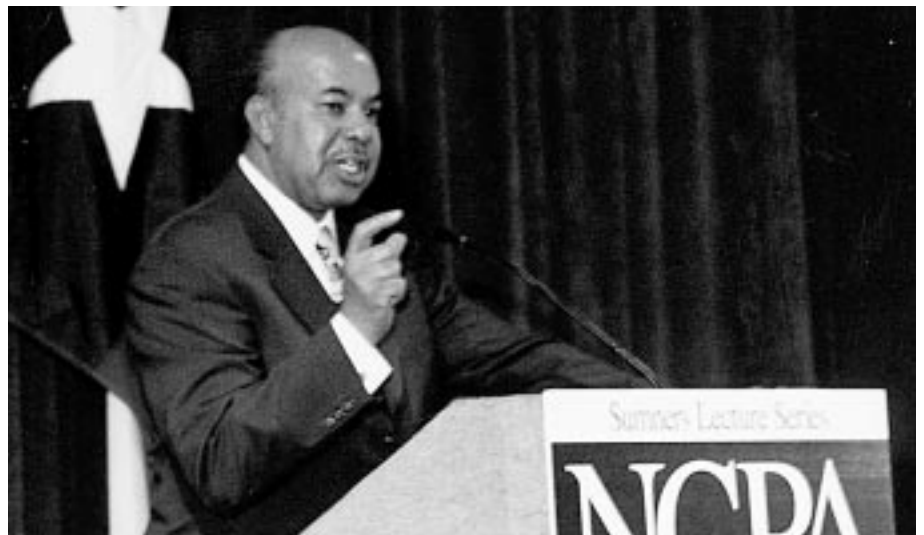
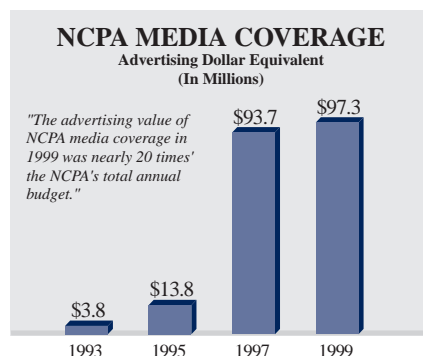
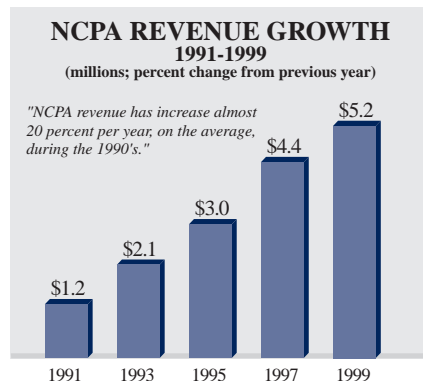
MARCH/APRIL 2000

NCPA Ideas Inspire Record Year

The National Center for Policy Analysis reached a number of significant milestones in 1999.

Thanks to the financial support of our donors who expressed faith in the Center's ideas, vision and effectiveness, the NCPA finished the year with a record \$5.2 million in contributions. That represents an increase of 24 percent over 1998.

The NCPA also reached a new record in terms of its visibility in the national news media. According to Burrelle's news analysis, the NCPA recorded over 50,000 column inches of newspaper coverage about its ideas, people and publications. The advertising value of the NCPA's print, radio and television coverage totaled \$97.3 million - almost 20 times the institute's budget.



University of California Regent and affirmative action foe Ward Connerly kicks off the NCPA's 2000 Sumners Lecture Series in Dallas.

New Online Social Security Calculator Shows What You Will Pay, What You Will Get

The NCPA has a new online calculator that will allow workers to determine their personal stake in Social Security. The calculator shows people what they will pay in taxes, what they will receive in benefits, and what they would have received if they had invested the same dollars in a private account. It makes projections for about 500 different occupations.

"Find out what you're going to pay and what you're going to get," said NCPA Senior Scholar Dorman Cordell. "For younger workers in particular, the NCPA's calculator is more accurate than any existing calculator, including the estimates of the Social Security Administration."

The NCPA calculator — which can be found at the NCPA's web site, www.ncpa.org - also shows workers how high the payroll tax rate will have to reach by the time of their retirement to

pay for Social Security, Medicare and all other senior health benefits promised under current law. (See related story on page E2.)

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Frist: NCPA Offers Real Solutions for Prescription Drugs

“The elderly need insurance coverage for prescription drugs,” said U.S. Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., at a Capitol Hill briefing sponsored by the National Center for Policy Analysis.

“However, this coverage is best provided by the private sector,” said Frist, who pointed to a new NCPA study showing that private insurers could provide the elderly with comprehensive coverage, including coverage for drugs, without any new taxpayer money.

The study, produced by Mark Litow of Milliman & Robertson, one of the nation’s leading health care actuarial firms, showed that the key to the prescription drug problem is greater efficiency.

Because Medicare coverage is incomplete, many seniors spend \$1,600 or more on supplemental Medigap insurance and still lack coverage for drugs. Yet the combination of Medicare and Medigap insurance leads to a great deal of waste. The M&R study showed that for the same amount of money private insurers could provide a much richer package of benefits, including coverage for prescription drugs.

As part of the briefing, Frist outlined a new bipartisan proposal that would allow the elderly to leave Medicare and enter private sector health insurance plans.



U.S. Sen. Bill Frist, NCPA President John Goodman, and Mark Litow of Milliman & Robertson unveil a new NCPA study on prescription drugs.



NCPA Senior Fellow Robert Goldberg is interviewed by National Journal correspondent Marilyn Sarafini.

Bartlett Testifies on Social Security Earnings Test

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett recently testified before the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Social Security where he urged Congress to repeal a “fundamentally unfair” law that penalizes senior citizens who choose to work.

“The Social Security earnings test should be scrapped in its entirety,” said Bartlett, a nationally recognized expert on the issue, who was invited to testify before the committee.

The Social Security earnings test limits the amount of income seniors may earn before losing their Social Security benefits. Current law reduces benefits by \$1 for every

\$3 in earnings above \$11,280 annually for retirees between 65 and 70 years of age.



NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett argues for repeal of the Social Security earnings test before the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

NCPA Health Plan Gains on Capitol

Sen. Jim Jeffords, R-Vermont, was joined by a bipartisan group of congressmen to introduce legislation based on an NCPA proposal to grant tax relief for people who purchase their own health insurance.

“The sponsors of this bill have made a bold, bipartisan effort to solve one of the nation’s most pressing problems,” said NCPA President John Goodman.

The key to the proposed legislation by Jeffords, Sens. John Breaux, D-La., Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, is the concept of a fixed-sum, refundable tax credit for those who buy their own health insurance. The concept has long been advocated by NCPA scholars.



NCPA Senior Policy Analyst H. Sterling Burnett explains why we should fear the global warming treaty at the Institute for Economic Freedom in Nassau, Bahamas.

Burnett Appointed To e-Texas Citizens Commission

NCPA Senior Policy Analyst H. Sterling Burnett has been appointed by Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander to the new e-Texas Citizens Commission. Burnett will serve on the Environment and Natural Resources task force.

"I'm confident that Sterling Burnett will be an integral part of the e-Texas team," Rylander said. "We must have the advice and counsel of public policy experts if we hope to realize our goals."

e-Texas was formed to look for ways that the state of Texas can save tax dollars, give power back to citizens and communities, increase the use of technology, and focus government operations on customer service. The overriding goal of the task force will be to create smaller, smarter government, and will have the full support of the comptroller's office.

Moving Up

Congratulations to NCPA staff members who have received recent promotions and are taking on new assignments in the Dallas and Washington, D.C., offices.



Joan Kirby

The NCPA's innovative policy ideas and publications to the Washington and New York press and policy communities. She also serves as Washington press liaison for the NCPA's Dallas and Washington-based policy experts, in addition to coordinating press conferences and congress-

Joan Kirby has been promoted to director of Government and Media Affairs in the NCPA's Washington, D.C. office. In this role, Joan focuses her efforts on marketing the

sional briefings. She also manages the NCPA's successful Washington internship program. She is currently an associate member of the National Press Club and serves on the Public Relations, Oral History and Scholarship Committees.



Jan Leek

managing all aspects of the NCPA's Internet site, "Idea House." She works closely with all other NCPA departments to ensure "Idea House" is updated daily with the latest NCPA publications, news releases, and event information. Jan is also responsible for marketing Idea

Jan Leek has assumed the role of acting manager for on-line marketing at the NCPA. She also serves as coordinator for on-line services. In her new role, Jan is responsible for

Lucy Zaconne Retires



Lucy Zaconne

and she has been one of the most dedicated employees our organization has ever known. She will be missed by each and every one of us," said Rena Brand, vice president of NCPA Finance and Administration.

Lucy joined the NCPA as a part-time employee in September 1992 in the Marketing, Media and Events Department, and during her tenure she was responsible for assembling and pasting up newspaper clips of various NCPA fellows, researchers, officers and contributors, and putting together media packets and biographies. In 1998, she became the administrative assistant in Finance and Administration, handling personnel record keeping, employee forms and supply orders.

Lucy Zaconne retired on Jan. 31 after eight years of service to the NCPA.

"Lucy has been a mainstay of the NCPA for nearly a decade,

House, including researching and implementing advertising campaigns for the site.



Chuck Milliken

provides needed technical support for both office's staffs, purchases and installs new equipment, as well as upgrading existing equipment, and is responsible for maintaining the NCPA's award-winning web site "Idea House" and its daily newsletter, "Daily Policy Digest."

Chuck Milliken is now the NCPA's network administrator in the Dallas headquarters. In his new role, Chuck is responsible for the management, repair and maintenance of all the

NCPA 2000 EVENT SCHEDULE

April 4
John Stossel, ABC News, 20/20
Correspondent
Summers Lecture, Dallas

April 28
The Rev. Robert Sirico of the Acton Institute
for the Study of Religion and Liberty
NCPA/Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forum, Dallas

October 20
Former Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr
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
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.

We Need Your Help

Because we appreciate your support and would like to expand our readership, please let us know of others who would be interested in the work of the NCPA.

For a *limited* period, we will mail to them complimentary issues of **Executive Alert Extra**. With the growing interest in public policy issues and the need for solid, reliable information, particularly as it pertains to Social Security, taxes and health care reform, it is more important than ever to share our ideas with a wider audience.

Enclosed with this issue of **Executive Alert** is a special envelope for you to include your suggestions.

If you'd like, we'll be sure to let your referral know of your recommendation. Thank you.



NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett explains why tax cuts aren't more popular at a Policy Review briefing in Washington, D.C.

Bartlett: Why Tax Cuts Aren't More Popular?

Although taxes are at an all-time high, polls suggest that interest in a tax cut is at an all-time low. That's the conclusion of NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett who was featured at a recent briefing hosted by the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Bartlett said supporters of tax cuts need to be more sophisticated. "They cannot just declare their support for tax cuts and expect hungry voters to react as if they are being thrown red meat," he said.

Bartlett has recently critiqued tax proposals made by several presidential candidates including Gov. George W. Bush, U.S. Sen. John McCain, Gary Bauer and potential Reform Party candidate Donald Trump for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

NCPA Sponsors Debates on Global Warming

Should the Clinton administration vigorously pursue ratification of the Kyoto global warming treaty? Would such a treaty pose a serious threat to U.S. sovereignty and national security?

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

In one debate, Dr. Richard Schmalensee, Dean of the Sloan School of Management at MIT, captained a team arguing that the proposed Kyoto global warming accord is a disaster. Joining him were Dr. Thomas Gale Moore, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution; and Dr. Richard Lindzen, a professor of meteorology at MIT. The opposition team was led by Eugene Linden, science editor at Time Magazine. He was joined by Dr. George Woodwell, senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; and John Passacantando, executive director for Ozone Action. The show began airing nationally on Dec. 20.

In a second debate, Frank Gaffney, former assistant secretary of Defense for

International Security Policy; led the affirmative team arguing that the Kyoto accord threatens U.S. sovereignty and national security. His teammates included Jeremy Rabkin, a professor at Cornell University; and John Bolton, senior vice president of the American Enterprise Institute. The opposition team was led by Michael Oppenheimer, director of the Environmental Defense Fund. He was teamed with George Woodwell, director of the Woods Hole Research Center; and John Passacantando, executive director of Ozone Action. That program began airing nationally on Jan. 11.

DebatesDebates, sponsored by the 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 - www.ncpa.org.

Executive Alert Extra®

Editor.....Julie Hillrichs

The NCPA is a research and education organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. You can contribute to our effort by mailing your donation to our Dallas headquarters or logging on to our web site at www.ncpa.org, and clicking "Join Us."

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