

# Executive Alert Extra

VOL. 9, NO. 1

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2003

## Sumners Lecture Features O'Beirne

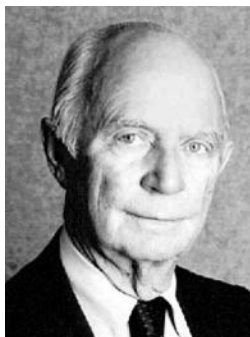
Speaking just days before the election, Kate O'Beirne, Washington editor of *National Review* and co-host of CNN's *Capital Gang*, told a Dallas luncheon that she foresaw that Republicans would win the Senate and hold onto a narrow margin in the House.

O'Beirne, who spoke as part of the NCPA's Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series, also discussed the need to reform public policies that do not properly reflect a mobile labor market in which both spouses in a typical family work for wages. Among the needed reforms: personal and portable pensions and personal and portable health insurance.



NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett (left) and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan (right) visit at a reception hosted by the NCPA in honor of Dr. McClellan's recent appointment and confirmation.

## Gordon A. Cain, R.I.P.



We are especially saddened by the loss of NCPA board member Gordon Cain. Cain's living epitaph is his practice of employee ownership that enriched managers, workers, investors and the general economy, and is outlined in his book *Everybody Wins!*

Chairman of the Board of Sterling Chemicals, Cain also co-founded The Sterling Group, a merchant banking firm that specializes, sponsors and invests in leveraged acquisitions primarily in the petrochemical industry.

Mr. Cain said, "I give because it is needed." Over the past 14 years he steadfastly supported public policy research. When asked why he invested so much money in public policy research instead of publicly elected officials, he responded by stating that "great ideas will disappoint you less."

Gordon Cain was our friend, counselor and supporter. He will be greatly missed.

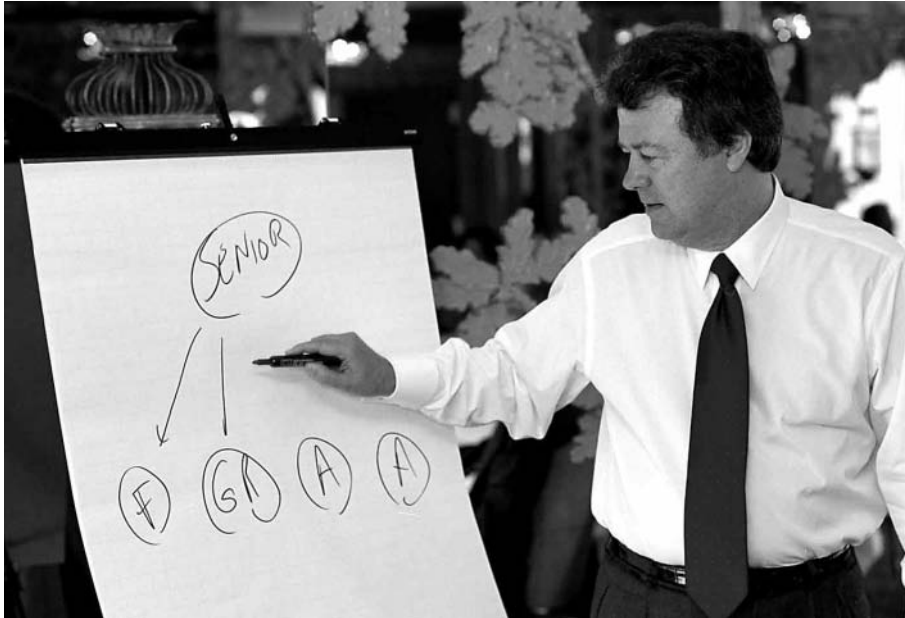
## Alphonso Jackson at Policy Forum



Home ownership remains vibrant in America and is spreading to all socio-economic groups, according to Alphonso Jackson, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jackson spoke at a recent Policy Forum co-sponsored by the NCPA, Dallas

Federal Reserve Bank and the Dallas Affordable Housing Coalition.

Noting a 68 percent increase in home ownership, Jackson said the rise not only builds wealth for all Americans, but also stabilizes neighborhoods and enriches the lives of children. Jackson credits increased home ownership to Bush Administration initiatives to educate prospective buyers about the home-buying process and to teach builders and developers that they have a legal responsibility to prevent discrimination and provide affordable housing.



*NCPA President John C. Goodman.*

## Health Care Advisory Group

NCPA Policy Chairman Pete du Pont, President John Goodman and Senior Fellow Greg Scandlen briefed NCPA Health Advisory Group members at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. in November on the outlook for health care legislation over the next two years. Bush Administration officials also briefed the group on consumer-driven health care tax credits for the uninsured and other initiatives that will be legislative priorities for the Bush Administration over the next two years.



*John Hoff, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



*Josephine Robinson, White House Assistant Director of Public Liaison.*



*NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan.*

## WIE Featured at Manhattan Lunch

NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan was the featured speaker at a Manhattan Institute luncheon on public policy issues affecting women in the economy at the Harvard Club in New York City. Colgan discussed the work of the NCPA's Women in the Economy project, particularly devising ways to make health and retirement benefits portable to more adequately meet the needs of the modern working household.



*Terry Neese, Women Impacting Public Policy.*

## Women in the Economy Briefing

The NCPA's Women in the Economy project hosted a Capitol Hill briefing in the fall to discuss how employer-sponsored health and retirement benefits need to be reformed to better reflect the flexibility needs of the modern working household.

Panelists discussed ways to make health insurance and retirement benefits portable, so that people can take their health insurance and retirement plans with them when they switch jobs or move in and out of the labor market. In addition, the briefing discussed how to enable entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses, including home-based businesses.

# NCPA Events

1. *Alphonso Jackson and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas President Bob McTeer.*

2. *Kate O'Beirne and Don Buchholz.*

3. *Kate O'Beirne and NCPA President John C. Goodman.*

4. *Dan Cook, Texas State Senator Florence Shapiro and Jim Davis.*

5. *Margaret Rabbitt, Kim Dignum and NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan.*

6. *Russ Labrasca, William Walton and NCPA Director of Development Betty Guerra.*





NCPA President John C. Goodman (right) and Atlas Economic Research Foundation Trustee Rene Scull. Photo taken by Atlas Foundation Senior Fellow Derooy Murdock.

## Goodman in Spain

NCPA President John Goodman traveled to Madrid, Spain in October to participate in two events. He spoke to an Atlas Economic Research Foundation conference on how think tanks can promote policy ideas on the Internet. He also addressed a Fraser Economic Freedom Network conference on Social Security privatization in countries around the world.

The Atlas conference brought together many organizations, including the NCPA, that owe their existence to boundless energy and vision of Sir Antony Fisher. Inspired by the success of his London-based Institute of Economic Affairs, which became known as Margaret Thatcher's think tank, he founded the Atlas Economic Research Foundation to assist in the creation of free-market think tanks world-wide and guide them through their infancy. After hearing Goodman speak at Stanford University in 1980, Sir Antony urged him to found the NCPA, and even provided the initial seed money. By the time of Fisher's death, his think tank family included 40 institutes in 20 countries.

Fisher's work was inspired by his mentor, F.A. Hayek, who said: "Unless we can make the philosophic foundations of a free society once more a living intellectual issue...the prospects of freedom are indeed dark. But if we can regain that belief in the power of ideas...the battle is not lost."

## NCPA Celebrates the Holidays



To celebrate the holiday season, the Dallas staff gathered for a festive lunch and a white elephant gift exchange.



## Barnett Promoted

Joe Barnett has been promoted to Director of Publications. In this role, Barnett is responsible for working with academic authors, independent experts and NCPA policy staff in the writing, editing and printing NCPA books, studies and periodicals. In addition, he edits *Executive Alert*, the NCPA's bimonthly compilation of the best in public policy research, summarized for the general reader.

As he has for many years, Barnett also edits *Daily Policy Digest*, the NCPA's e-mail and Web-based newsletter summarizing public policy research news. DPD has published more than 11,000 articles on public policy research drawn from major publications, academic research and think tanks worldwide.

As an NCPA staff member for seven years, Barnett has conducted research, written and edited studies in the areas of economic, education, welfare, tax and regulatory policies.

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