

# Executive Alert Extra

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

## Bartlett Makes the Case for a Tax Cut

Declaring the \$792 billion tax cut approved by Congress “modest, balanced and fair,” NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett made a case for tax relief in a new study released at a National Press Club news conference. The event was broadcast live on C-SPAN.

Bartlett’s study analyzed the impact and importance of marriage penalty relief, abolishing the death tax, tax credits for research and development, indexing of capital gains and reforming the alternative minimum tax.

Joining Bartlett at the news conference were William Beach of the Heritage Foundation and Alan Reynolds, director of economic research at the Hudson Institute.



*NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett, podium, the Heritage Foundation’s William Beach, left, and NCPA Vice President of External Affairs Jack Strayer at a National Press Club news conference to release an NCPA study making the case for tax cuts.*

## Miller Talks Money and Politics at Policy Forum

The political marketplace is so rigged to protect incumbents that it amounts to a monopoly. However, conventional campaign finance reform proposals to “fix” the problem will only give incumbents an even greater advantage over challengers.

So argued former Reagan Budget Director James C. Miller III at a Sept. 15 Policy Forum luncheon sponsored by the NCPA and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Miller, who is currently a fellow at the Hoover Institution and a John M. Olin Distinguished Fellow at the Citizens for a Sound Economy, discussed his new book *Monopoly Politics*.

## NCPA Welcomes New Board Member



*Justice Clarence Thomas and NCPA board member Virginia Gilder at an NCPA luncheon in Dallas.*

Virginia Gilder has become a new member of the NCPA Board of Directors. Gilder is chairman of The Empire Foundation for Policy Research, a New York-based nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization headquartered in Clifton Park, N.Y. She also chairs Change New York, an organization that supports

lower taxes and limited government.

Gilder grew up in Passaic, N.J., and graduated from Columbia University.

She has been a director for a number of organizations, including Children First America and the Hickory Foundation.

Additionally, she is involved in several historic preservation and visual arts projects.

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NCPA President John Goodman and U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw of Florida meet with Floridians to discuss Social Security reform.

### Seeking Consensus... Social Security Reform Forum

Several serious solutions for reforming Social Security have emerged in the U.S. Congress, including proposals by Sens. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr.; and Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas.

How do these plans differ? What works and what doesn't? Is there a way to combine what works from each plan into one consensus alternative?

Discussing these questions were NCPA President John Goodman and Dan Mitchell, senior fellow with the Her-

itage Foundation at a Sept. 27 forum at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Moderating the forum was CSIS' Brad Belt. Dr. Carolyn Weaver, director of Social Security and Pension Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, delivered commentary.

In conjunction with the forum, the NCPA also released a first-of-its-kind comparative analysis of the major reform proposals.



NCPA President John Goodman, Brad Belt of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Heritage Foundation's Dan Mitchell seek a consensus for Social Security reform at a Washington D.C. forum.



John Snyder of the Citizens Right to Keep and Bear Arms, right, presents the Gun Rights Defender Award to NCPA Senior Policy Analyst Sterling Burnett.

### Goodman Debates School Choice

NCPA President John Goodman and new Dallas Independent School District Superintendent Bill Rojas squared off in a recent debate on the future of public education sponsored by the Dallas Association of Realtors.



Dallas Independent School District Superintendent Bill Rojas and NCPA President John Goodman debate school choice.

The program held at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Dallas included state Rep. Kent Gruesendorf and Harley Hiscox of Alliance - American Federation of Teachers.

Goodman said school vouchers offer low-income families the freedom to select the school of their choice. He also said school choice has empowered families and given them an alternative to public school education.

## NCPA Hosts Clarence Thomas



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas offered his opinions on legal, political and social issues during a recent visit to Dallas. He spoke as part of the NCPA's Hatton W. Summers Distinguished Lecture Series on Sept. 9.

In addition to the lecture, Justice Thomas visited with area college students who are Summers Scholars. He then met with 50 inner city Scouts who participate in the Dallas Police Department's partners in Youth Crime Prevention program sponsored by the Summers Foundation. Justice Thomas ended the day with a reception at the home of NCPA board member Harlan Crow and his wife, Kathy.

1. Assistant Dallas Police Chief Marlin Price, Lt. Jimmy Little and Justice Thomas.
2. Justice Thomas and Girl Scouts.
3. Justice Thomas meets with Summers Scholars.
4. Justice Thomas and NCPA board members Harlan Crow and Dan Cook.
5. Justice Thomas with Hatton W. Summers Foundation Treasurer Tom Walker and his wife, Kitty.
6. Hatton W. Summers Foundation Executive Director Hugh Akin and NCPA President John Goodman.
7. Bob and Dorothy Goddard.
8. Justice Thomas with Fred and Barbara Meyer.
9. Justice Thomas with Don and Ruth Buchholz.

## Goodman Captains Debates on Medicare Prescription Drugs and the Uninsured

If proposals to offer prescription drug coverage to seniors on Medicare are adopted, will competition in health care suffer? Should the tax system be restructured to encourage all Americans to purchase private health insurance?

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

In one debate, NCPA President John Goodman captained a team arguing in favor of a system of tax credits to encourage Americans to purchase their own private health insurance. Joining him were Grace-Marie Arnett, president of the Galen Institute and Robert Goldberg, a Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. The opposition team was led by Robert Kuttner, co-editor of *The American Prospect*. He was teamed with Bruce Vladeck, director of the Institute for Medicare Practice at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; and Karen Davis of the Commonwealth Fund. The show be-



NCPA President John Goodman, Tori Gorman, legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, and Robert Goldberg, Senior Fellow, with the Ethics and Public Policy Center, in the studio during a taping of *DebatesDebates*.

gan airing nationally on Sept. 29.

In a second debate, Goodman's team argued against a new prescription drug entitlement for people on Medicare. He was joined by Robert Goldberg and Tori Gorman, a legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe of Arizona. Team leader Robert Kuttner led the opposition panelists Bruce Vladeck and Karen Davis. That program began airing nationally on Sept. 14.

*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](http://www.ncpa.org).

## Bartlett Discusses Tax Cuts on CNBC, CNN

NCPA Senior Fellow Bruce Bartlett appeared live on CNBC's "Market Wrap" and CNN's "Moneyline" recently to discuss President Clinton's veto of the \$792 billion tax package passed by Congress.

"Critics believed the tax package was so gargantuan it would have overstimulated the economy, but this argument is patently false," Bartlett said. "Indeed, a strong case can be made for a considerably larger tax cut."

The tax cut would have phased in very slowly and had little or no effect on revenues before 2002, Bartlett said.

## Burnett on NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

Sterling Burnett, senior policy analyst for the National Center for Policy Analysis and an expert in the area of gun policy, appeared in a recent episode of the PBS program, "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," to discuss the growing debate over gun control and whether new laws are needed to end gun violence.

Burnett argued that none of the proposed reforms would have prevented the massacre in Los Angeles, Calif., or any other recent shooting.

Said Burnett: "Some proposals would actually reduce public safety by making guns less accessible in times of need."

### NCPA 1999 FALL EVENT SCHEDULE

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®

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