

Executive Alert Extra

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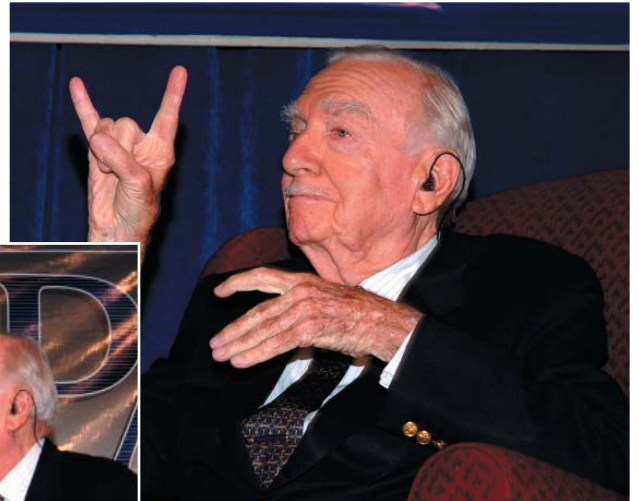
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

MAY/JUNE 2006

Cronkite: Vouchers Might Help Education; Life in Space Will Be Commonplace

Walter Cronkite, journalist and former CBS news anchor, said school vouchers might help public education at an NCPA/Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series luncheon.

Cronkite agreed with NCPA Board Chairman Pete du Pont that vouchers would give parents more choice about their children's education and better prepare students for the future. In addition, Cronkite, a long-time advocate of the U.S. space program, said, "I think that landing on the moon will probably be viewed in the future as the most important achievement of our time." He also predicted that 500 years from now humans will not only be working in space, but also living in cities there.



Former University of Texas student Walter Cronkite (above) and with NCPA Board Chairman Pete du Pont.

Baggett Elected NCPA Board Secretary



W. Mike Baggett

The NCPA Board of Directors has elected W. Mike Baggett board secretary. Baggett is chairman and CEO of Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C., and is a well-known author and lecturer before judicial conferences, bar associations, law schools, trade and industry groups. Under Baggett's leadership, Winstead has grown into a top-tier regional law firm with offices in major commercial and financial markets throughout Texas and in Washington, D.C. Baggett is author of three widely used legal books. He also will serve as NCPA corporate secretary.

Bush Reappoints Saving as Trustee

NCPA Senior Fellow Thomas R. Saving was reappointed as Public Trustee of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund by President Bush in an Easter recess appointment.

Dr. Saving and Dr. John Palmer, Dean of the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, who also was reappointed, were first appointed by President Clinton and are the first Trustees to serve more than one term.

Saving leads a team of economists at the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M that has developed a computer simulation model for the NCPA to evaluate economic and demographic factors affecting elderly entitlements.

Making Markets Work—D.C. Briefing, Congressional Testimony

Consumers may soon be able to shop for health care the way they shop for groceries. But in order for patients to become savvy shoppers in the health care marketplace, they must be able to discover what procedures cost and compare them based on price as well as value. Policymakers can use existing technology to make price and quality information transparent.

The NCPA sponsored a news conference, “*Transparency Problem Solved: Empowering Patients Through New Technology*,” at the National Press Club to explain transparency to Capitol Hill staffers and national media. The next day, NCPA President John C. Goodman testified about the impact of transparency and its affect on cost and quality of patient care at a hearing held by the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Both events focused on new technology that is currently being used by HealthMarket, a subsidiary of UICI. The technology also employs price and quality data that is collected, processed and presented by Subimo.



William Gedwed (above), chairman, president and CEO of UICI with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and NCPA President John C. Goodman (right) testify before the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Wayne Singer (right, center), senior vice president of marketing for eMedicalfiles, Inc., explains how transparency works. Peter Gaillard (center and above right), senior vice president for product development at HealthMarket, explains the technology to congressional staffers and reporters at a National Press Club news conference.

NCPA Publishes New Book About Women and Outdated Laws and Institutions

The single most important economic and sociological change in our society in the past 60 years has been the entry of women into the labor market. Yet a new NCPA book, *Leaving Women Behind: Modern Families, Outdated Laws*, says outdated laws and institutions reflect the distant past.

“Our public policies simply have not kept pace,” said Kim Strassel, senior editorial page writer of *The Wall Street Journal* and co-author of the book with NCPA President John C. Goodman and NCPA Senior Fellow Celeste Colgan. “Tax law, labor law and a host of other institutions are still designed from top to bottom to favor women who remain in the home and are often unfair to married women who enter the labor market,” Strassel said.

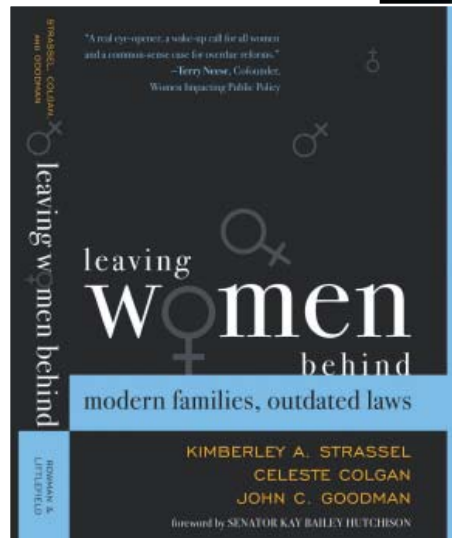
“The highest tax rates in our economy are mainly paid by women wage earners, who often pay taxes at rates that are twice those paid by such multi-millionaires as Warren Buffet and Bill Gates,” Goodman added.

Unlike many other writings on “women’s issues,” *Leaving Women Behind* does not assume that in order for some people to be successful we must limit the freedom or raise the taxes of others. Instead, the authors suggest changes needed to bring aging institutions in sync with 21st century society.

“This book assumes that women in our society are capable of making the right choices and are perfectly capable of living productive, satisfying lives, provided misguided public policies do not hold them back,” Strassel added.



Kimberley Strassel
Senior Editorial Page Writer
The Wall Street Journal



Former Putin Adviser Headlines Inaugural NCPA Policy Forum; Says Russia Needs Free Markets for Economic Growth, Better Productivity



Andrei Illarionov (left), former economic adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, told attendees at the inaugural edition of the NCPA Policy Forum that the Russian economy suffers from an economic disease that usually affects third world countries—sluggish to nonexistent growth and low productivity. The cause, he said, is the absence of free markets.

Illarionov said that the Russian economy has steadily declined with the loss of political and economic freedom. He pointed out that the Russian ruble has fallen precipitously over the past two years, and output by Russia’s oil industry is stagnant.

The next edition of the NCPA Policy Forum series will be held on May 17. The featured speaker is ABC News Correspondent and Co-Ancor of 20/20, John Stossel.



NCPA President John C. Goodman (left, above) leads a discussion about removing barriers to the adoption of consumer-directed health care at the World Health Care Congress in Washington, D.C. (L-R) Jeff Cava, executive vice president of human resources and administration at Wendy's International, Mark Trail of the Georgia Department of Community Health and Robin Downey, vice president and head of product development at Aetna, also participated.

Goodman, Saving Push for Adoption of Consumer-Directed Health Care, Reforms for Social Security and Medicare



NCPA Senior Fellow and Trustee of Social Security and Medicare Thomas R. Saving (above) explains the unfunded liabilities of both programs to congressional Chiefs of Staff.

Events Schedule

May 1—Capitol Hill Briefing
2006 Report by the Public Trustees of Social Security and Medicare
 B318, Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C.
 4:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.



May 4—NCPA Book Release
“Leaving Women Behind: Modern Families, Outdated Laws”
 Cato Institute
 1000 Massachusetts Ave., NW
 Washington, D.C.
 11:00 a.m.—1 p.m.
Special Guest: Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison



May 7-10—NCPA Chairman’s Council Conference
 London, England

May 17—NCPA Policy Forum
John Stossel
 ABC News Correspondent &
 Co-Ancor of 20/20
 Belo Mansion, Dallas
 Noon—2 p.m.



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Editor.....Richard W. Walker

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