

*Norquist: How the feds destroyed the cities*

# Social Security and Health Care Focus of Forums

◆**August 3:** John Norquist, the Democratic mayor of Milwaukee, discussed his book *The Wealth of Cities: Revitalizing the Centers of American Life* at a Book Forum. Norquist contends that the natural advantages of cities as centers of commerce, innovation, and culture have been undermined by a half century of ill-conceived education, welfare, housing, transportation, crime, and environmental policies. Norquist proposed market alternatives: school choice; competition for public works; and “real work,” not “workfare.”

◆**August 5:** A panel of top health care experts examined whether managed care needs government regulation and, if so, what kind at a Policy Forum, **Mismanaged Care? Should the Government Regulate HMOs?** Alan Mertz of the Healthcare Leadership Council advocated a system of external review that would help patients get treated faster and avoid unnecessary lawsuits. M. Stanton Evans contended that managed care is similar to Europe’s “global budgets” that have led to a rationing of care for the elderly, waiting lists, and cutbacks in research. Andrew Webber of the Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care proposed a “mixed model” of government regulation and private enterprise mechanisms. Sue Blevins of the Institute for Health Freedom recommended that families be given tax credits for health insurance.

◆**August 18:** James B. Jacobs, New York University professor of law, discussed his book *Hate Crimes: Criminal Law and Identity Politics* at a Book Forum. He argued that hate crime laws are the result of status-symbol politics and may unintentionally exacerbate racial tensions. Jacobs noted that every hate crime is already a crime punishable by existing laws. David C. Friedman of the Anti-Defamation League commented.

◆**August 20:** Author Tom Bethell discussed his book *The Noblest Triumph: Property and Prosperity through the Ages* at a Book Forum. Bethell gave an overview of the way property rights have affected economic progress around the world from the Roman Empire to contemporary times. According to Bethell, private property fell into intellectual disrepute more than 100 years

ago and has only recently gained renewed scholarly attention for its connection to justice and prosperity. Richard Messick, a consultant to the World Bank, provided comments based on his first-hand experience working for international organizations in Third World nations.

◆**September 2:** At a Policy Forum titled **Should the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty Be Scrapped?** Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for foreign policy and defense studies at Cato, argued that America should withdraw from the 26-year-old ABM treaty as soon as possible. William Lee of the National Coalition for Defense said the ABM treaty was invalid at its inception because the Soviets were in massive violation of article I when they signed it in 1972. Jack Mendelsohn, a member of the SALT II and START I delegations, defended the treaty’s continued existence as a form of mutual deterrence.

◆**September 3:** The Cato Institute hosted a reception for the 50th anniversary of the Mont Pèlerin Society.

◆**September 3:** Stephen Moore, director of fiscal policy studies at Cato, and Dean Stansel, policy analyst at Cato, went to the National Press Club to release the fourth biennial **“Fiscal Policy Report Card on America’s Governors.”** Only two of the nation’s governors, William Janklow of South Dakota and John Rowland of Connecticut, received a grade of A. The governors with the most fiscally conservative records—the tax and budget cutters—got the highest grades.

◆**September 4–7:** Talks were given at **Cato University** in Chicago by Tom Palmer, director of the Cato Project on Civil Society; Steven Landsburg, professor of economics at Rochester University; Stephen Davies, professor of history at Manchester University; Robert Levy, senior fellow at Cato; and psychologist Nathaniel Branden.

◆**September 5:** Ed and Kristina Crane hosted the 14th annual **Salmonfest** at their home.

◆**September 9:** Rep. William Thomas (R-

Calif.) was the featured speaker at a health care conference, **An Alternative Vision of Health Care Reform**, jointly sponsored by the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation, and the Galen Institute. Robert Moffit, the Heritage Foundation’s director of domestic policy, cited several examples of states driving up health care costs as a result of overregulation. Victoria Caldeira of the National Federation of Independent Business, said that overregulation has made health care the number-one problem for small businesses. Melinda Schriver, senior researcher at the Galen Institute, reported results of a study revealing that the most regulated 16 states have experienced high growth in the number of uninsured people and a decline in private insurance coverage. Michael Tanner, director of health and welfare studies at the Cato Institute, recommended implementing a universal tax credit to give individuals an incentive to purchase insurance against high-cost risky events. Eugene Steuerle, senior fellow at the Urban Institute, suggested that a credit-based system of health care would be more efficient than providing subsidies. Fred Barnes, executive editor of the *Weekly Standard*, suggested that total opposition from the health care industry is needed to overcome media support of government regulation.

◆**September 10:** Jacob Sullum, a senior editor at *Reason* magazine, discussed his book *For Your Own Good: The Anti-Smoking Crusade and the Tyranny of Public Health* at a Book Forum. Sullum declared that the myths peddled by the anti-smoking movement in support of restrictions on smoking are an attempt to control voluntary behavior. Matthew Myers, executive vice president and general counsel of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said that the tobacco control movement is designed to reduce the death toll from tobacco use.

◆**September 15:** Eighteen years after his path-breaking Cato book that changed the Social Security debate, Peter Ferrara, an associate policy analyst at the Cato Institute, has returned to offer a “practical and workable” privatization plan. At a Book Forum, *A New Deal for Social Security*, Ferrara argued that privatized Social Security

At an August 5 Policy Forum, Sue Blevins of the Institute for Health Freedom deplors tax laws that distort health care purchasing.



Security Privatization, discussed the Chilean system as an example of successful privatization. Other speakers were Brink Lindsey on trade deficits, Darcy Olsen on the new paternalism and its effects on women, and Cato president Ed Crane on campaign finance reform and the faltering GOP.

◆September 16: Clint Bolick, vice president and litigation director of the Institute for Justice, discussed his book *Transformation: The Promise and Politics of Empowerment* at a Cato Book Forum. Bolick said that public policy addressing inner-city poverty should not be top-down as it is now. Instead, it should foster solutions that come directly from the people themselves. Clarence Page of the *Chicago Tribune* and Jim Pinkerton, a lecturer at the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management, commented on Bolick's book.



Cato president Edward H. Crane welcomes members of the Mont Pelerin Society to a reception in honor of the society's 50th anniversary.

◆September 23: The political correctness movement that attempted to stifle intellectual debate during the 1980s hasn't disappeared, said authors Alan Charles Kors, professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvey A. Silverglate, civil liberties attorney in Boston, at a Book Forum. Discussing their book *The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses*, Kors and Silverglate described how universities enforce a politically correct agenda through censorship, double standards, and kangaroo courts.

Milwaukee mayor John Norquist tells a Cato forum that ill-conceived federal policies have undermined the natural advantages of cities.



Clint Bolick unveils his new book *Transformation* at a September 16 Forum. Clarence Page of the *Chicago Tribune* and Jim Pinkerton of *Newsday* commented.

Fred Barnes of the *Weekly Standard* tells a health care conference that media support for government regulation is a major obstacle to free-market reform.

◆September 24: Boston University professor Randy Barnett discussed his book *The Structure of Liberty: Justice and the Rule of Law* at a Book Forum. Barnett suggested that there are three basic problems that a legal system must solve: knowledge, interest, and power. He argued that the only system proven to address all three problems is one of property, freedom of contract, the rule of law, and constitutional limitations on power. Mark Tushnet, associate dean for research at the Georgetown University Law Center, and David Forte, a professor of law at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, commented.



is inevitable because reforms are impossible within the current pay-as-you-go system. Coauthor Michael Tanner, director of health and welfare studies at Cato, presented a concrete proposal for Social Security based on savings and investment. Sen. Rod Grams (R-Minn.) announced that he plans to submit legislation based on the Ferrara-Tanner model. Sam Beard, founder and president of Economic Security 2000; C. Eugene Steuerle of the Urban Institute; and Wendell Primus, director of income security at the Center on

Budget and Policy Priorities, commented on Ferrara and Tanner's book.

◆September 16: Patrick J. Michaels, Cato's senior fellow in environmental studies, presented the keynote address at the **Toward an American Renaissance** seminar in Chicago. Michaels shone the spotlight on the scare tactics employed by environmentalists and the government to alarm citizens about global warming. José Piñera, co-chairman of Cato's Project on Social

◆September 28: While entertaining an overflow crowd at a reception to celebrate the publication of his book *Eat the Rich*, P. J. O'Rourke, Mencken Research Fellow of the Cato Institute, warned that libertarians need to arm themselves against liberals who will be using every piece of the current bad news to increase the long reach of government into the lives of citizens. ■