

*Helping to Save At-Risk Youth***Mexico, Haiti, and South Africa Are Subjects of Forums****Cato Events**

**February 13:** A Policy Forum examined "The Constitutional Future of South Africa" with talks by four speakers: George B. N. Ayittey of American University, author of a forthcoming Cato book, *Africa Betrayed*; Walter E. Williams of George Mason University, author of *South Africa's War against Capitalism*; Cato chairman William A. Niskanen; and Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, chief minister, Kwazulu Legislative Assembly. They discussed the importance of private property, free markets, and limited constitutional democracy.

**February 18:** Cato adjunct scholar Richard A. Epstein, professor of law at the University of Chicago, and John Echeverria, chief counsel to the National Audubon Society, debated the question "Are Property Rights Opposed to Environmental Protection? *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council*" at a special Policy Forum. Epstein argued that the government authority that seeks to bar a South Carolina resident from building on his beach-front property had not shown that his plans were dangerous to anyone; thus the regulation is a "taking" that requires compensation under the Fifth Amendment. Echeverria responded that the prohibition on Lucas's building on his property was not a taking but an abatement of threatening behavior and therefore requires no compensation.

**February 25:** A noon Policy Forum entitled "Ozone Nonattainment: A \$26 Billion Charade" focused on the Environmental Protection Agency's study of urban smog. K. H. Jones, president of Zephyr Consulting, argued that most of the urban areas designated as "ozone nonattainment" regions by the EPA are actually in compliance with federal standards. He argued that by including 1991 data, which reflected favorable weather conditions, in the calculations and facilitating the appeals process, which is already available to nonattainment regions, the Bush administration could begin lifting a \$26 billion annual



Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi, chief minister of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, greets participants after his address at a Cato Policy Forum, "The Constitutional Future of South Africa."

regulatory burden. David Hawkins, senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, argued that the pollution controls are needed because the weather data Jones wants to include are exceptional and smog remains a long-term problem.

**February 27:** "The Haitian Boat People: Should America Re-Open the Gates?" was the issue debated at a Policy Forum. Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.) said that most of the boat people are economic, not political, refugees and thus do not qualify for asylum. He warned that allowing the Haitians to stay would be an invitation to many others to come to the United States. Wade Henderson, Washington director of the NAACP, countered that there is evidence that returnees are being persecuted by an oppressive



regime and that the U.S. government is denying the boat people due process. He said the administration's asylum policy reflects a double standard and suggested that the Haitians are being turned back because they are black.

**February 28:** A Policy Forum addressed "Predatory Pricing: Where's the Beef?" Cato adjunct scholar Thomas J. DiLorenzo, an economics professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, argued that there is no need for legislation to protect independent gasoline dealers against predatory pricing by major oil companies because such pricing is irrational. DiLorenzo said no businessman would commit to a strategy of cutting prices and losing money for an indefinite period in hopes of driving out competitors and later being able to raise prices to monopoly levels. He added that since competition is a rivalry, selling below cost is a normal practice that historically has not led to monopoly. Phil Chisholm of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America argued that independent gasoline retailers were harmed during the Persian Gulf crisis when major oil companies charged their own retailers below-cost prices and charged the independents more. He conceded that there was no predatory intent and no likelihood of monopoly emerging from that pricing policy.

**March 5-6:** Monetary experts from around the world participated in Cato's 10th Annual Monetary Conference,



Rep. Bill McCollum (left) and Wade Henderson, Washington director of the NAACP, debate whether Haitian immigrants should be sent back.





Roberto Salinas-Leon, academic director of the Mexico City think tank CISLE and an adjunct scholar of the Cato Institute, discusses the North American Free Trade Agreement as Ian Vasquez, assistant director of Cato's Project on Global Economic Liberty, listens.

**"Money in Transition: From Plan to Market."** Speakers included Vaclav Klaus, finance minister of Czechoslovakia; Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr., editor-in-chief of *Forbes*; Paul Craig Roberts of the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Wayne Angell, a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Nikolai Petrakov, an economic adviser to former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev; Oleksander V. Savchenko, formerly of the National Bank of Ukraine; Oleg Bogomolov of the Institute of International Economic and Political Studies (Russia); Pedro Schwartz of the National Economic Research Associates (Spain); and Annelise Anderson and Judy Shelton, both of the Hoover Institution. The papers focused on methods of moving from a state-controlled monetary system to a market-based monetary system.

**March 12:** A Policy Forum examined **"The United States and Mexico: International Competitiveness and Free Trade."** Roberto Salinas-Leon, academic director of Mexico's Center for Free Enterprise Research, gave a glowing report on the liberalization and privatization of the Mexican economy, but he lamented Mexico's dependence on foreign aid to finance the so-called strategic state-run sectors of its economy. He advocated a switch from aid to trade. James Bovard, Cato associate policy

analyst and author of *The Fair Trade Fraud*, criticized the pervasive protectionism of the United States and emphasized the harm U.S. trade barriers cause Mexican producers.

**March 23:** A Policy Forum explored the question **"Should Government Rush to Regulate Credit Information?"** Daniel Klein, assistant professor of economics at the University of California at Irvine, argued that proposed regulations on credit bureaus, ostensibly to protect consumers' privacy, ignore the legitimate role of credit bureaus. By driving up the bureaus' costs and compromising the completeness of credit records, the new regulations would par-

ticularly hurt consumers with the weak credit standing. Klein also pointed out that bureaus and creditors have an interest in accuracy. Ed Mierzwinski of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group defended the regulations on the grounds that credit reports are full of errors and current law forbids consumers' suing credit bureaus for damage caused by erroneous reports.

**March 25:** **"Teaching Entrepreneurship to At-Risk Youth"** was the topic of a Policy Forum. Steve Mariotti, president of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, explained his program that teaches inner-city students how to start their own businesses. The program, highlighted twice on "ABC News," has helped students develop self-esteem and key skills and kept them from turning to crime.

**March 31:** A Cato conference was held on **"The New World Order and Its Alternatives: America's Role in the 1990s."** Among the speakers who proposed options for America foreign policy in the post-Cold War era were Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa); Cato senior fellow Doug Bandow; Richard Rosecrance of UCLA; Owen Harries, editor of *National Interest*; Joseph S. Nye, Jr., of the Harvard University Center for International Affairs; Jenonne Walker of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Earl Ravenal of Georgetown University; Ben Wattenberg of the American Enterprise Institute; Leonard Liggio of the Institute for Humane Studies; and Ted Galen Carpenter, Cato's director of foreign policy studies. ■



Oleksander Savchenko of the Central Bank of Ukraine and Nikolai Petrakov, former economic adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev, were among the international policymakers discussing monetary aspects of the transition to a market economy at Cato's Tenth Annual Monetary Conference.

