



Highlights

Atlas Economic Research Foundation Board of Directors' Dinner & Address

On September 8, 1994, Atlas hosted its board of directors' dinner at The Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner, Virginia. The event honored Atlas's board of directors and close friends and supporters. It also offered an opportunity for advocates of a free society to gather and share successes, challenges, and visions. "Highlights" of the evening are featured in this issue, including the president's challenge to institutes and their supporters, the honoring of a long-time dedicated free society leader, and remarks by Dr. Walter Williams on morality and public policy.



Top: Marty Zupan (*Institute for Humane Studies*), Atlas board member George Pearson, Ed Crane (*Cato Institute*), and Walter Williams



Far left: Atlas chairman of the board Bill Sumner with Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen



Left: Atlas board members Dorian Adams and John Blundell (*Institute of Economic Affairs*)

Walter Williams on Morality vs. Law: A Cruel Dilemma

Walter Williams, syndicated columnist, author, and John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, stimulated the audience with his views on morality and the law in his

dinner address.

Drawing from the visions of Atlas founder, Sir Antony Fisher, Professor Williams posited a framework in which capitalism and a high standard of morality are natural tendencies of man-

kind. Most of the problems we encounter, said Williams, stem from a breakdown in morality—a demise which occurs increasingly with the growth of government intervention.

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Public Policy Institutes—Rising Above the Academy on Critical Issues

“Where were the academicians in the fight against socialized medicine?” asked Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen in his address to the supporters and institute representatives at the Atlas board dinner. “Where are they in the many difficult debates that threaten to lead the United States towards more government intervention and less individual liberty?” Increasingly, the voices that are being heard in educating and informing the public are those that belong to free market, public policy institute leaders and their affiliated scholars.

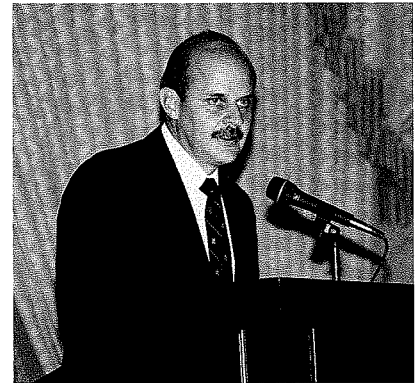
Despite the fact that the U.S. academic establishment receives over 100 times the amount of funding contributed to the entire free market and conservative community, our free market colleagues are the ones with the courage to challenge liberty-threatening proposals and the vision to influence vital changes.

It was the free market establishment, for example, that developed realistic strategies for improving the current system of health care with a well-orchestrated barrage of books, reports, conferences, and lecture programs. Institute leaders, including John Goodman of the **National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX) and Ed

Crane of the **Cato Institute** (Washington, DC), were at the forefront in warning of the dangers of government seizure of health care. They reached out to nontraditional alliances such as the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, who distributed copies of NCPA’s and Cato’s groundbreaking book, *Patient Power* (an award winning publication in the 1993 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Awards).

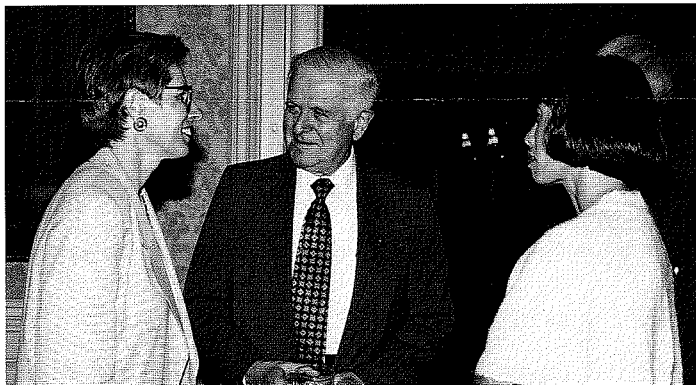
State-based institutes also actively battled for market-based health care. **Evergreen Freedom Foundation** (Olympia, WA) brought nationally-known policy management expert Donald Devine to its National Town Hall meeting on health care. The **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) published a critical analysis of the Clinton health care plan by columnist and scholar Doug Bandow. And the **Ethan Allen Institute** (Montpelier, VT) invited Devine to address its members and to meet with Vermont legislators. On this important topic, the institutes achieved success. Yet, amidst the flurry of activity, “Where were the academicians?”

The independent institutes that Atlas works with perform crucial functions by engaging in intellectual exchange and by providing viable means



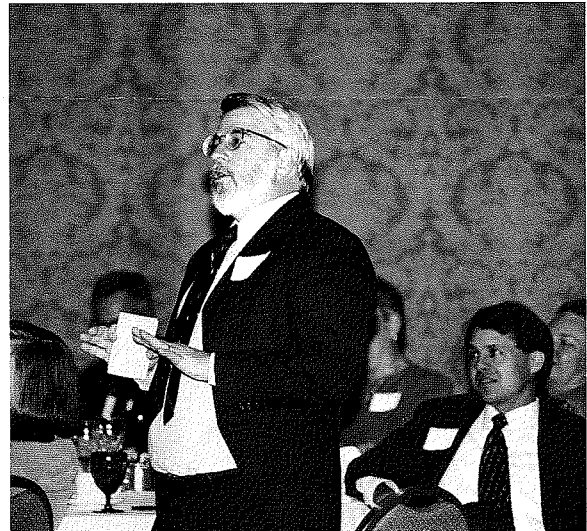
Alejandro Chafuen

to promote the free society and its attributes. Chafuen questioned whether the academy, at least in the United States, is sufficiently fulfilling that role. “Atlas is meeting that challenge and expressing our opinions on seemingly unpopular ideas when others are silent,” remarked Chafuen. He concluded his remarks by paraphrasing insights shared by executive vice president Leonard Liggio: “There is no guarantee that good ideas will prevail in the future. We must keep working, always looking for opportunities to promote good ideas better. Wisdom and honesty are the best weapons a peaceful person can have to fight ignorance and injustice. As long as we use them artfully, we can make progress.” Our supporters can rest assured that Atlas is working to these ends.



Left: Becky Norton Dunlop (Secretary of Natural Resources, State of Virginia), Fred Singer (Science & Environmental Policy Project), Atlas environmental research associate Jo Kwong

Right: Fred Smith (Competitive Enterprise Institute)



Atlas Passes the 100 Institute Mark

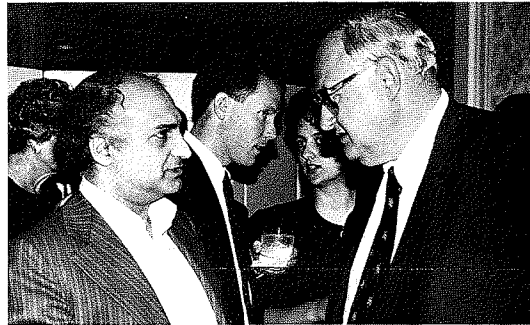
Since its founding in 1981, Atlas has remained true to its mission of establishing, developing, advising, and supporting independent public policy institutes around the world. This year, Atlas passed the "100 mark" in number of institutes assisted—all with the help of its many generous supporters and dedicated leaders.

Alejandro Chafuen took the opportunity to thank the supporters who were present at the board dinner, noting that the number "100" likely underestimates the breadth of their contributions. For each institute that is started, and even in the rare instances in which they "fail," there is a ripple effect that ex-

tends well beyond the institute's initial reach. In most cases, the institute leaders succeed in reaching new people—businessmen, students, educated laymen, and other opinion leaders—and

raising new funds to launch even bigger, more ambitious efforts.

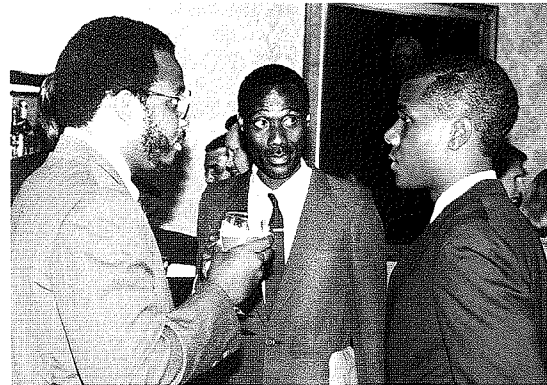
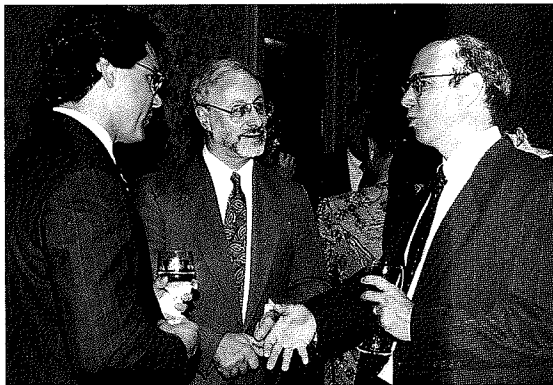
All of this, of course, would not be possible without the generous support of Atlas's donors. Thanks to you all!



Top: Imad A. Ahmad (Minaret of Freedom, Bethesda, MD) with Leonard Liggio, Atlas executive vice president.

Bottom left: Wayne Gable (Center for Market Processes), Charles Rowley (Locke Institute), and Atlas board member James Arthur Pope

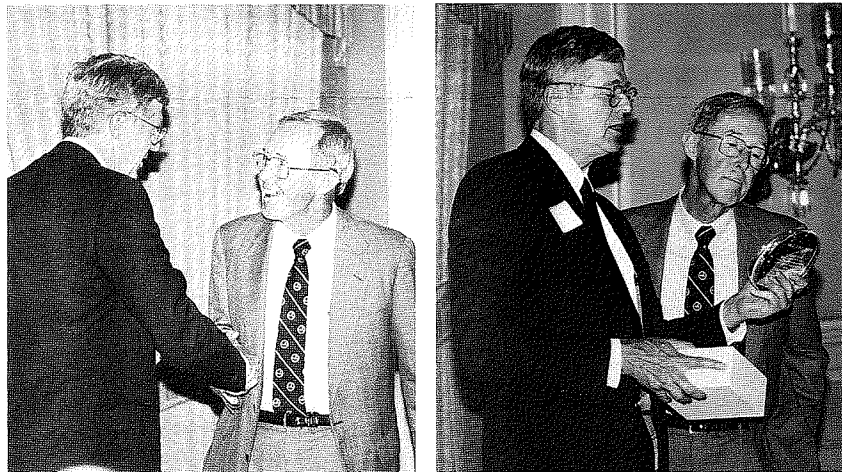
Bottom right: John White (Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies), Patrick Addey (IEA-Ghana), Atlas adjunct fellow Deroy Murdock



Supporters of a Free Society Honor Bill Law

The Atlas board dinner provided the opportunity to honor a long-time crusader for the free society. Charles Koch, chairman of the board of the Institute for Humane Studies, paid tribute to William Law of Brookfield, Wisconsin, for his many years of devoted leadership and service. Bill has been a member of the IHS board and executive committee; founder of Brookfield Academy, a prominent prep school in Milwaukee; chairman and board member of the **Foundation for Economic Education** (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY); founding board member of **Citizens for a Sound Economy** (Washington, DC); guiding force of the Wis-

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Charles Koch and Bill Law

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Williams cited the 19th century French philosopher and economist, Frederic Bastiat: "When law and morality contradict one another, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his sense of morality or losing respect for the law." Americans, warns Williams, are increasingly encountering Bastiat's cruel dilemma. As the government intrudes into the more trivial aspects of our lives, our moral priorities are undermined as "responsible" people develop contempt for the law. The "new criminalization" of law, with its increased complexity and arbitrary provisions, is such that "no American can rely on his moral compass or common sense to steer him clear of prosecution. These laws damage the societal sense of morality."

As another example of declining morality, Williams cited the \$16 trillion federal debt and governmental spending at \$4 billion per day. "Profligate spending is another example of moral decline because we've lost fiscal discipline and regard for future generations."

From a public choice perspective, it is clear that there is little incentive for any one person to reverse this trend and downsize government. In fact, the incentives work in reverse, with a ratcheting effect towards bigger and bigger government. In essence, we've become a "nation of thieves" in which politicians vie to capture taxpayer dollars for their personal and constituent benefit.

The spiral of moral decline continues as politicians find creative ways to bolster their benefits. Williams cited the political strategy of criminalizing behavior which had previously been



Walter Williams, John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University

lawful and reasonable. Hence, the Endangered Species Act has made criminals out of people who use their own property for business or pleasure, even when their actions pose no harm to others. "Health and safety" regulations have made criminals out of people who seek nontraditional medical treatment. Speed limits have made criminals out of people who exceed mandated speed limits.

The absence of a moral foundation for laws creates a serious legitimacy problem for governments. Faced with a citizenry that questions the basis of the laws, moral decline once again sets in. Coercive "respect" and compliance for the laws are achieved by imposing

draconian penalties for minor offenses.

Concluding with strong words of caution regarding our ability to "amputate the heavy hand of government," Dr. Williams offered a tremendous challenge to the institutes in the Atlas network. Can we stand by and live in a society where "liberty is no longer the normal state of affairs?" In particular, he gave us all something to ponder: How valid is the "10th Amendment movement," in which states are refusing to enforce federal legislation unless it's specifically prescribed in the Constitution? Such a revolt is minor when we consider that our founding fathers went to war with Great Britain over a 67 cent per person annual tax!

(Law continued from page 3)

consin Forum which familiarizes people with the benefits of liberty.

Beyond these outstanding accomplishments, it is the essence of Bill's character and his many fine personal attributes that Atlas and others sought to honor. Bill's thorough knowledge

of liberty —its literature, philosophy and methodology—and his willingness to share his knowledge and guidance, make him a true leader. As noted by Mr. Koch: "Bill is a scholar, able to read in French and Spanish, with an unquenchable quest for knowledge. He integrates what he learns in every as-

pect of his life. Bill practices what he preaches in his personal and professional life and he lives by the values of liberty...He is a true renaissance man."

As a token of appreciation, Bill was honored with a crystal plaque commemorating his many contributions.