

# HIGHLIGHTS

Atlas Economic  
Research Foundation



Winter 1996

## Argentine Minister and Leading Scientist Underscore Environmental Myths

Under the auspices of the Argentine Ministry for the Environment, **Fundacion Republica** (Buenos Aires) and **Fundacion Libertad** (Rosario) hosted a November seminar on "Myths and Realities in the Ecological Debate" in Buenos Aires.

The program, which attracted 80 people from the business, policy and academic worlds, opened with the session, "The Impact of Environmental Regulations." Under the chairmanship of Atlas president, Alejandro Chafuen, who serves as a Commissioner on Environmental Stewardship in Virginia, Julian Morris (**Institute of Economic Affairs**, London), Roger Bate, (European Science and Environment Forum and director of the Environment Unit at **Institute of Economic Affairs**), and Michel Thibaud (editor of *Gerencia*

*Ambiental*, an Argentine environmental management magazine, and former director of the wildlife foundation *Fundacion Vida Silvestre*), discussed eco-labels, sound science, and other regulatory issues.

The second session, chaired by Ponciano Vivanco, president of **Fundacion Republica** (Buenos Aires), focused on "Environmental Myths and Reality" and featured Maria Julia Alsogaray, Argentina's Secretary for Environmental Affairs and Dr. Helmut Metzner, President of the European Academy for Environmental



Professor Helmut Metzner and Maria Julia Alsogaray

Affairs. Alsogaray, who supervised the privatization of the state telephone and steel conglomerates, argued for an increased reliance on market mechanisms to solve and mitigate environmental problems.

## Think Tanks Explore Management Strategies



Wichita workshop participants

To meet some of the new demands of the institute world, Atlas began a series of small, management-oriented

workshops designed to focus on the practical, administrative aspects of running a think tank.

In early October, Atlas co-sponsored the first workshop with the **Kansas Public Policy Institute** (Wichita, KS) and **State Policy Network** in Wichita. Representatives of independent public policy research institutes from Canada and the US

participated in sessions on accounting, finance, and strategic planning techniques.

Joseph Overton (**Mackinac Center for Public Policy**, Midland, MI) described some of Mackinac's successful strategic planning methods. John Cooper, headmaster of the Wichita Collegiate School and formerly president of the James Madison Institute in Florida, spoke about management concepts.

The program was held in Wichita to help strengthen the local prestige of the newly-created Kansas Public Policy Institute. KPPI hosted a dinner for the workshop participants and KPPI donors, featuring James Gwartney of Florida State University, who spoke about economic freedom.

# INSTITUTE NEWS

**Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty** (Grand Rapids, MI) announced the ten winners of its Samaritan Awards for effective, private, faith-based charities. With missions ranging from providing reconstructive surgery for children with serious deformities to supplying hospice care for the terminally ill to offering self-help to entrepreneurs in developing countries, each winner received \$1,000 and the opportunity to compete for an additional \$10,000 award granted by a panel of independent judges. Visit Acton's new web page at <[www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org)> for additional details.

Acton's student conference schedule for 1997 is now available. Currently enrolled seminarians and students interested in exploring the philosophical and theological underpinnings of a free society should contact Acton at 616/454-3080. The first program will be held in California in late February.

**Atlantic Institute for Market Studies** (Halifax, Nova Scotia) launched a major research project on property-rights based fisheries with a November conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. The conference brought together leading international figures in the fisheries including government officials, professors, environmental professionals, union members, and business people, to



Cascade Policy Institute's Kurt T. Weber (right) with Awards Luncheon keynote speaker Lars Larson, a leading Northwest investigative journalist and news anchor

discuss the future of the fishing industry. The AIMS publication, *Taking Ownership: Property Rights and Fishery Management on the Atlantic Coast*, which examines research on Atlantic fisheries from experts around the world, will soon be available. For order information, contact AIMS at 902/429-1143.

Under the guidance of president Michael Watson, **Arkansas Policy Foundation** (Little Rock, AR) recently opened its doors and joined the ranks of statewide public policy think tanks committed to free enterprise, limited government, and individual liberty. Goals for the foundation include promoting free enterprise and economic growth, reforming state government, replacing the welfare state with an "opportunity society," educational reform, promoting a responsible civil order, and building a like-minded political constituency.

**The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** (Dayton, OH) started a "Buckeye Fellows Program" to expand the network of free-market supporters in Ohio and recognize loyal members. Contributions of \$1,000 ensure membership to the program and admission to local events with nationally-recognized speakers, complimentary copies of institute publications, and other opportunities to participate in free-market programs.

**Cascade Policy Institute's** (Portland, OR) 1996 Oregon Better Government Competition Awards Luncheon in October honored this year's award winners. Topics addressed by competition proposals include farmland use reform, reducing barriers to employment among welfare recipients, enhancing private sector provision of educational services, the establishment of Personal Economic Security Accounts (similar to individual retirement accounts), taxicab deregulation, state Medicaid reform, home care for elderly Medicaid recipients, and privatizing services of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

In December, Cascade and the Oregon Tax Research Organization sponsored "Issues 1997-99 Legislative

Seminar" to reach state civic, business, and political leaders.

**The Commonwealth Foundation** (Harrisburg, PA), in cooperation with the Pennsylvanians for Effective Government Education Committee, the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, and **The Reason Foundation** (Los Angeles, CA), sponsored a conference to explore competitive contracting and privatization. The privatization of government assets such as state liquor stores and state-owned airports, education support services, public transit systems, and prison construction and operations were discussed. Over 150 government and business leaders, including Senator Arlen Specter and Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel, participated in the program.

**The Center for World Capitalism of the James Madison Institute** (Jacksonville, FL) awarded its 1996 International Prize to R. David Thomas, founder of Wendy's Hamburgers. The prize is presented annually to an outstanding individual whose life-time accomplishments in business, politics or moral-cultural affairs have advanced the principles of democratic capitalism throughout the world. Thomas was honored at a dinner and reception in mid-November.

**The Institute of Economic Affairs** (London) held several fall conferences including "The Future of Economic Policy," the IEA's eighth annual international state of the economy conference; "International Trade and the Environment," the IEA Environment Unit's third annual program; and "Education and Private Finance," the first conference of the IEA Education and Training Unit.

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Most of the organizations listed in these pages can be reached through the virtual phonebooks on the Atlas web page:

<<http://www.atlas-fdn.org/phonebook>>

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### The Buckeye Institute's

(Cincinnati, OH) recent *Perspectives on Current Issues* include "Can Ohio Cities become Contract Cities," which examines how financially strapped cities can improve services through competitive bidding with private companies; "State Employee Wages Grow Faster than Private Sector," which finds that state employees earn 24.9% more on average than workers in the private sector; and "\$700 Million Plus School Funding Increase is Not the Answer," which argues that reforms in wage law, support service management, and decentralizing school management can improve education better than boosting education funding.

Buckeye's Policy Report, *Taxicab Regulation in Ohio's Largest Cities*, examines the regulatory burdens imposed on the taxicab industry, and finds that regulations in the city of Dayton increase the cost of starting a cab company by at least \$67,000.

Publications from the **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR) include *Public Subsidies, Private Gain: Stop Violating the Oregon Constitution*, which examines public subsidies to private corporations such as professional sports teams and corporate franchisors, and *Tobacco Taxes: Not What the Doctor Ordered* by physician Paul Smith.

### The Commonwealth

**Foundation** (Harrisburg, PA) examined out-of-wedlock births and public policy in *Illegitimacy: Compassion's Offspring*. Author Jennifer Marshall looks at the pitfalls, both economic and moral, of subsidizing unwed mothers. Also recently released, *An Agenda for Pennsylvania*, outlines 65 policy recommendations for more efficient delivery of government services. Topics covered include government reform, education, crime, taxes and spending, Constitutional rights, economic reform, welfare reform, and tort reform.

### Evergreen Freedom

**Foundation** (Olympia, WA) reviewed changes in Medical Savings Accounts in *Health Care Reform: What Did the 104th Congress Do? A Discussion About the New Tax-Exempt MSAs!*

### The Institute of Economic

### Affairs - Health and Welfare Unit

(London) expands its welfare series with *Medicine Prices and Innovations: An International Survey* by W. Duncan Reekie, which examines the impact of allowing greater discretion to drug manufacturers in risk taking and price setting. In *Who Needs Parents? The Effects of Childcare and Early Education on Children in Britain and the USA*, author Patricia Morgan examines research data on childcare and tackles basic questions about third-party childcare. *Stakeholder Welfare* offers a radical overhaul of the welfare system by author Frank Field. And *Charles Murray and the Underclass: The Developing Debate* features two articles by noted social policy analyst Charles Murray and a selection of commentaries on his thesis.

### The Institute of Economic

**Affairs - Environment Unit** (London) issued the first in its *Environment Briefing* series: "The Political Economy of Climate Change Science: A Discernible Human Influence on Climate Documents?" by Roger Bate and "Establishing a Market in Emissions Credits: A Business Perspective" by John Palmisano. Palmisano, director of regulatory affairs at Enron Europe, draws from 14 years of experience with air emission trading to discuss how property rights in emission credits can address problems associated with global warming.

### The Institute of Economic

**Affairs-Ghana** (Accra, Ghana) published "The Potential for Expanded Economic Activity in the Informal Sector." Author Ernest Aryeetey cites three main factors which have constrained the informal sector's potential for growth and employment opportunities: the small and fragmented nature of informal economic activity, the relatively poor quality of labor in that sector, and the absence of links with the formal sector. Aryeetey argues for closer integration of the informal sector with the rest of the economy.

### James Madison Institute

(Tallahassee, FL) addresses violations to the state constitution in the name of economic development in *Public*

### *Subsidies to Private Corporations: Stop Violating the Florida Constitution.*

Author Dale F. Rubin, an attorney, former law professor and author of a similar article for **Cascade Policy Institute**, concludes that there has been a steady increase in corporate welfare over the past several years in Florida. The subsidies, he argues, represent inappropriate handouts of taxpayer funds to finance ventures such as rental apartments, tourist and convention hotels, the relocation of manufacturing facilities, and sport teams and stadiums, even though the state constitution explicitly prohibits the use of public money for such private purposes.

With financial support from **The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** (Concord, NH), Professor Daphne Kenyon of Simmons College, published *A New State VAT? Lessons from New Hampshire* in the *National Tax Journal*.

New releases from **Mackinac Center for Public Policy's** (Midland, MI) *Viewpoint on Public Issues* series include "More Juvenile Justice, Fewer Excuses," "Cutting Taxes to Raise Revenues," "High Time to Reverse Low Standards in Higher Education," "New Energy Tax is Bad Economics and Faulty Science," "What is Corporate Responsibility?," "Pre-Existing Condition Mandate is Unhealthy Policy," "Can Michigan Keep its Status as a Leader in Education Reform?" and "Exploring Medicaid Options."

**National Center for Policy Analysis'** (Dallas, TX) releases of *Brief Analysis* included "Welfare Reform: Building on a Good Start," "Speak No Good: The Tragedy of FDA Gag Rules," "Global Warming Treaty Costs for the U.S.," and "Some Americans Already Have Privatized Social Security."

**Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research** (Boston, MA) released *Survey of Massachusetts Residents Shows Clear Majority Supports School Choice* in October. Recognizing the lack of evidence regarding public opinion, Pioneer commissioned a telephone poll and a series of focus groups to gauge

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## Argentine Institutes Host Judicial Security Programs



Gerardo Bongiovanni (*Fundacion Libertad*), Roberto de Michele (*Fundacion Poder Ciudadano*, Buenos Aires), Ricardo Rojas, and Joseph Morris



Gerardo Bongiovanni, Deroy Murdock, and Antonio Margariti

In November, several institutes coordinated a series of events in Argentina to focus attention on economic development, the rule of law, and corruption of the judicial system.

In Buenos Aires, Ricardo Rojas (*Escuela de Educacion Economica y*

*Filosofia de la Libertad*, Buenos Aires), Roberto de Michele (*Fundacion Poder Ciudadano*, Buenos Aires), and Joseph Morris (*Lincoln Legal Foundation*, Chicago, IL), contrasted judicial traditions and control mechanisms in Argentina and the United States at a program co-hosted by their institutes.

Francisco Texeira (*Instituto Atlantico*, Rio de Janeiro) offered a comparison of legal protection of intellectual property rights in Argentina and Brazil, Deroy Murdock (*Atlas*) discussed the increasing politicization of the judicial system in the US, and Alejandro Chafuen (*Atlas*) described the relationship between corruption and economic freedom. Ricardo Lopez Murphy, chief economist at *FIEL* and an academic advisor of **Fundacion Libertad** (Rosario) delivered the keynote address. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Lopez Murphy is a leading market-oriented economist and political figure of the Argentine Radical Party.

**Fundacion Alberdi's** (Mendoza) seminar also honed in on the importance of judicial security in fostering economic development. Joseph Morris,



Bongiovanni and Chafuen at the set of *A Fondo*

a former US assistant attorney general to Ronald Reagan, conducted the seminar which included two members of the State Supreme Court, the State's attorney general, and leading members of the State Congress and Justice Ministries. The program received widespread press coverage from local radio and television stations and from interviews published in the city's leading newspapers.

**Fundacion Libertad's** (Rosario) event featured Antonio Margariti (Coopers & Lybrand), Deroy Murdock and Alejandro Chafuen as guest speakers. *Newspaper La Capital* interviewed Chafuen and *A Fondo*, a television program produced by Fundacion Libertad, hosted an hour-long program with Murdock, Chafuen, and National senator Alberto Natale.

## Ecuadorian Institute Hosts Workshops in Quito and Guayaquil

The **Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economia Politica** (Guayaquil, Ecuador) held workshops in Quito and Guayaquil under the banner, "Property Rights: Prerequisites for Economic Development and Innovation." The meetings addressed judicial security, property rights issues, and the environment.

Armando Ribas, an Argentine

professor, former national congressman, and co-host of the television program, *Without Frontiers*, spoke on the importance of property rights for a free and prosperous society. Leandro Canto, a well-known Venezuelan author, addressed the need for market-based policies in the oil industry. Franklin Lopez Buenaño, an Ecuadorian professor at the University of New

Orleans, gave a lecture on "Economy, Ecology, and Natural Resources." In the afternoon sessions, Roque Albuja from the Catholic University in Quito, discussed the relevance of intellectual property rights and Francisco Orrego, adjunct fellow at **Libertad y Desarrollo** (Santiago, Chile), compared copyright and industrial property laws in Latin America.

(*Institute News, continued from page 2*)

**The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** (Concord, NH) held its third annual Better Government Competition and Awards Luncheon in late November. The event featured guest speaker Terry L. Morton, commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, addressing welfare reform and the federal legislative impact. Two winning ideas from past competitions were signed into law last spring. These included a proposal for electric deregulation where municipalities act as purchasing agents to serve electric power customers and a proposal requiring one state agency to make annual reports on its economic development programs.

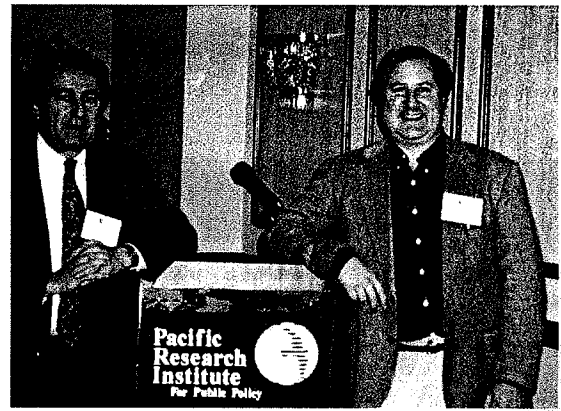
Two fall **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) events featured former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese. At a policy forum in Grand Rapids, MI, Meese described alternative solutions to minimizing juvenile crime. The following day, Meese participated in the center's Debate Workshop, helping students and debate coaches understand the federal government's role in combating juvenile crime (this year's debate topic). Additionally, Mackinac, in conjunction with the **Tax Foundation** (Washington, DC), sponsored the October conference, "Federal and State Tax Policy at the Crossroads."

In an effort to equip state-based think tanks and other grassroots organizations to deal more effectively with environmental issues on the local level, the **Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy** (San Francisco, CA) **National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX) and State Policy Network (Fort Wayne IN), co-hosted a series of environmental workshops in Fort Worth,

Texas. The program, which attracted representatives from organizations in 16 states, focused on local environmental issues and the more effective communication of free-market environmental alternatives. Environmental policy experts, including Bruce Yandle (Clemson University, Clemson, SC), Michael Sanera (Claremont Institute, Claremont, CA), Sam Staley (**Buckeye Center**, Cincinnati, OH), and Fred Smith (**Competitive Enterprise Institute**, Washington, DC), led extensive discussions on water quality, environmental education, local land use planning, public opinion polls and other key issues. An afternoon "brainstorming session" generated ideas for further research and outreach. A conference report will be available from Pacific by the end of the year.

**Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research's** (Boston, MA) Better Government Competition attracted 123 entries, generating dozens of new ideas to improve government delivery of services. Winning ideas, honored at the November Awards dinner, addressed ways to improve group home services for adolescent boys, reduce recidivism amongst drunken drivers, strengthen community policing, and improve public safety through law enforcement reforms. These and other winning awards are described in the publication *Invitation to Change: 1996 Better Government Competition, Series No. 6*.

**The Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT) has been going gangbusters since its establishment in August 1995. Named after George Sutherland, Utah's only Supreme Court



Richard Stroup (PERC) and Steven Hayward (Pacific Research Institute) at the Environment Workshop in Fort Worth, TX



David Salisbury (Sutherland Institute) at an Ideas & Issues Luncheon

Justice, the institute has an impressive series of programs and publications. Recent events include the Wendell Cox "Issues and Ideas" luncheons on light rail and mass transit in Salt Lake City (September) and "The Federalist Papers: The Key to Restoring our Constitutional Republic (November). Its publication series (see *New Publications*) includes *Focus on Utah* policy papers and *To the Point* commentaries.

(*New Publications, continued from page 3*)

the views of Massachusetts residents. Sixty-eight percent of those polled supported charter schools, 60% supported inter-district public school choice, and 56% supported the use of public funds to defray the cost of private or parochial school tuition.

*Capital Comments* from the

**South Carolina Policy Council Education Foundation** (Columbia, SC) include "Has Education in State Improved after Twelve Years of Education Improvement Act's Penny?" and "A Businessman's perspective: ABCs & 123s or OBE?"

**The Sutherland Institute's** (Murray, UT) *Focus on Utah* policy

paper series include "Privatizing the Public Lands" by B. Delworth Gardner and "The Flat Tax: Does it Make Sense?" by W. Cris Lewis. *To the Point* commentaries include "Choice v. Conflict in Education" by Richard Sherlock and "The Death of Racial Quotas" by Maxwell A. Miller.

## FULIDED Organizes Pre-Summit Events on "Sustainable" Development

Timed to precede the Summit of American Presidents held on December 7 and 8, Atlas sponsored events in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on December 2-5, 1996 to heighten awareness and understanding on alternative perspectives. The workshop, "Forum on Science, The Environment, and Development," was organized by **FULIDED** (Santa Cruz).

Father Alberto Bochaty (**Centro de Bioetica**, Mendoza, Argentina) opened with the perspective of putting the human person at the center of the environmental debate. He was followed by Helmut Metzner (European Academy of Environmental Affairs) and Julian Morris (**IEA**, London). The lectures, delivered to a packed audience, received widespread local coverage in newspapers, and on radio and television. In anticipation of Vice-President Al Gore's upcoming visit to Bolivia, Professor Metzner published a

declaration entitled "A Letter to Al Gore," in the local newspaper *El Mundo*, which emphasized the weak scientific evidence of human induced global warming.

Eladio Zuzaeta, former president of the Chilean Timber Trade Association, and Ivo Vranjican Dominis, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Santa Cruz, presented their views on the management of forests and the international scene. In "Finding Win-Win Solutions: the case of the Paraguay-Parana waterway," speakers included Gonzalo Castro, program director for Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC; Walter Arensberg, Chief of the Environmental Division at the Interamerican Development Bank, Washington, DC; and Claudio Mansilla, a local entrepreneur.

Leading newspapers, including *El Mundo*, published a major feature on



Julian Morris speaking on "Ecolabels and Ecopolitics"

market-oriented environmentalism and other material produced by think tanks from different corners of the world.

## Science, Policy, and Journalism in Venezuela



Steve Milloy

During the first week of December, **Centro de Divulgacion del Conocimiento Economico** (Caracas,

Venezuela) organized the seminar, *Science, Policy and Journalism*, at the Universidad Metropolitana. Stephen Milloy, President of the Environmental Policy Analysis Network (Washington, DC), Michael Fumento, author of *Science Under Siege*, and Roberto Iglesias, a Washington-based Latin American journalist, presented views about risk assessment, the politicization of science, and media bias. These issues, which are seldom debated in Venezuela, were addressed to the president of the journalists' association, business executives, academicians and students. The speakers also shared their views through visits to local academic centers and prominent local businesses, and through interviews with *El Universal*, the local newspaper.

## Important Dates to Remember:

February 1, 1997: Deadline for 1997 Sir Antony Fisher Award nominations

April 29-May 1, 1997: Atlas's 29th International Workshop at the Washington Dulles Hilton Hotel in Herndon, VA

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