

# HIGHLIGHTS

Atlas Economic  
Research Foundation



Spring 1999

## Celebrating Think Tank Contributions to Liberty

Each day, Atlas works with public policy institutes around the world that share a common commitment to the preservation and enhancement of liberty. In February, representatives from 18 countries gathered in Dallas, TX to celebrate the vital contributions Atlas think-tank colleagues make to strengthen the free society. In virtually every case, our colleagues make great personal sacrifices to fight for ideals and principles they strongly believe in. Some have given up high-paying professional jobs on Wall Street or in medical and law practices. Still others face daily risks to their lives, and to the lives of their families, simply to stand up in support of individual rights and liberties. The gathering provided an opportunity for free-market supporters to learn about the personal contributions our friends are making, to celebrate these gifts, and to offer mutual encouragement for upcoming and ongoing challenges.

Atlas workshops focus on exploring effective strategies for think-tank leaders. Two energetic former US state governors provided valuable insights based on their front-line experiences. Speaking at the workshop's opening dinner at the Park City Club in Dallas, the Honorable Pete du Pont, former Governor of Delaware, challenged think tanks to respond to changes in public policy caused by technological progress. "The empowerment of technology is changing the way the world works, giving power to individuals. As information becomes

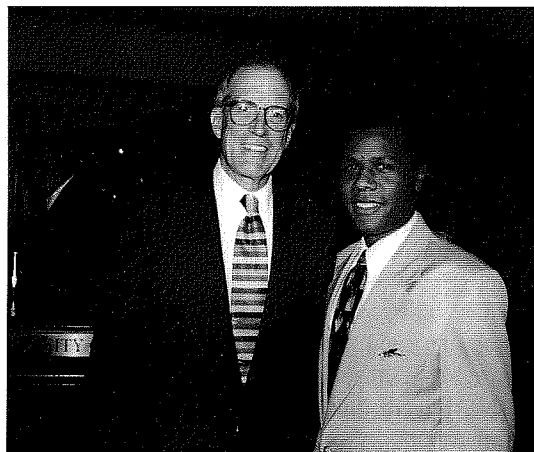
readily available, governments are no longer able to set the agendas or to control the information available to their citizens...Technology is setting us free. What a glorious opportunity for freedom lovers," said duPont.

In the same mood of encouragement, George Allen, former Governor of Virginia, said, "Our mission is to bring creative and powerful ideas

economic development.

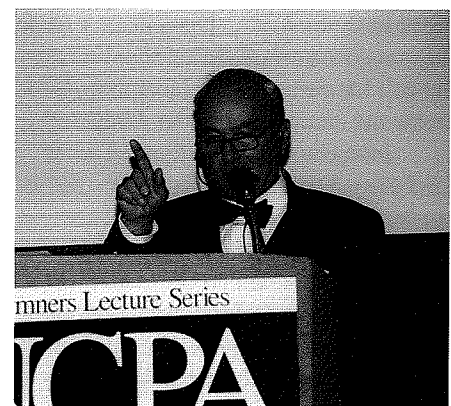
Speaking at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Armando Ribas, former National Congressman and a consultant on monetary issues in Argentina, declared that "the American experience is the greatest experiment in freedom in the world. Despite the crumbling of the

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Governor Pete du Pont (left) and Atlas adjunct fellow Deroy Murdock

to the fore, based on common sense Jeffersonian principles. The most important characteristic is the will to win and to keep fighting for the things you believe in." Stressing the idea that the US states are "laboratories for ideas," Allen described how he put principles into action in the areas of welfare, regulatory, and educational reform, and



Manuel Ayau (Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala)



(left to right): Governor George Allen with Brian Crowley (formerly of Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, Nova Scotia) and Carolina Bolivar (Instituto Cultural Ludwig von Mises, Mexico)

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Berlin wall, socialism is still alive, especially in Europe.” Ribas described the error of blaming Latin America’s problems on its monetary situation. “The problem is not monetary... it is the government,” he said.

From the other side of the Atlantic, The Rt. Hon. David Davis, a Member of Parliament in Great Britain, echoed the perspective that competing state level programs offer the US an advantage in experimenting and advancing new ideas. Speaking on “The Politics of Welfare Reform,” Davis challenged the “something for nothing” mentality of entitlements that has been so brilliantly leveraged by Tony Blair and Bill Clinton. Because “freedom works,” there is no need to adopt their strategies. Rather, “We need to illustrate that public services are not free and that services provided by the state are at best, third rate. Discontent with the state delivery of services generates the call for change. Our jobs, then, is to create the demand for better services.”

John Goodman (**National Center for Policy Analysis**, Dallas, TX) presented a slide program to illustrate how everyone is made worse off by government entitlement programs. He offered a program of social security reform based on a choice of public or private investments, differential tax rates, and secure pensions for current retirees.

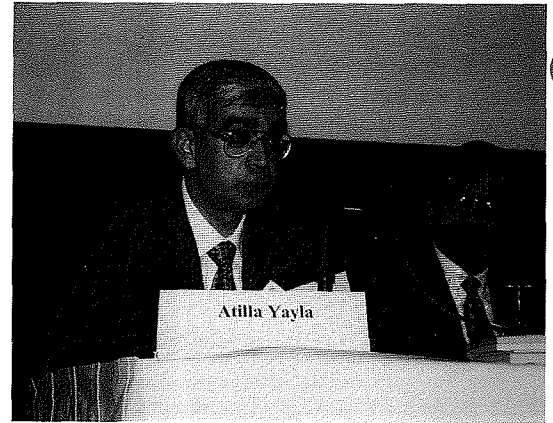
Speaking on the panel “Heroes of the Free-Market Movement,” inspirational leader Manuel Ayau (Universidad Francisco Marroquín, Guatemala) told the story of Guatemalan businessmen’s efforts to establish a think tank in 1958, “in the image of the

**Foundation for Economics and Education.”** Their efforts led to the creation of Universidad Francisco Marroquín, a university with the goal “to teach influential people that freedom works.” In the spirit of David Davis’s comment that poor state services generates a demand for better services, Ayau described how the new university succeeded, in part, due to the deteriorating condition of state higher education.

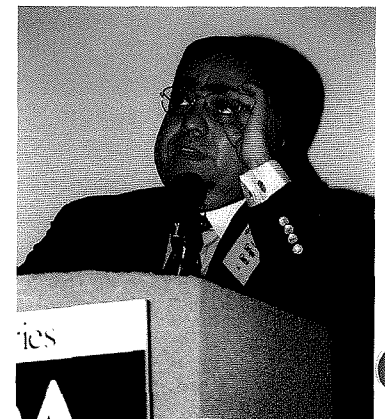
Enrique Ghersi (**CITEL**, Peru) showed how free-market ideas can take hold in a country, based on his experiences in Peru. He offered this paradoxical synopsis of the Peruvian political landscape: In the 1990 presidential campaigns, free-market candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, lost the election to Alberto Fujimori, who espoused traditional interventionist ideas. Fujimori won the election, but today, governs using Llosa’s economic agenda. Ghersi explained that politicians are followers. “If we can win public understanding, we can win the ideological battles.”

From one of the newer institutes, Parth Shah (**Centre for Civil Society**, India) shared the trials of setting up a think tank in a country where “no one actually has any idea what a think tank does.” He described how elements of the Indian culture – from its tradition of dependence upon the government sector to its lack of a tradition of liberty in intellectual circles – poses very different obstacles than those faced by western institutes.

Shah added a very moving personal note to his story. For many years, right up until his recent move to India to launch the center, Shah led a comfortable existence as an economics professor at the University of Michigan. When struck with a serious illness, he reflected on how he had achieved many of his life’s ambitions, with the exception of setting up a think tank in India. Upon a healthy recovery, he committed himself to achieving this aim for his fellow Indians. So many people now benefit from his good health!



(left to right): Atilla Yayla (Association for Liberal Thinking, Turkey) and Parth Shah (Centre for Civil Society, India)



Enrique Ghersi (CITEL, Peru)

Atilla Yayla (**Association for Liberal Thinking**, Ankara, Turkey) also described the difficulties of running a free-market think tank in a culture with few supporting traditions. Attracting and maintaining a competent staff is one of the daily challenges. More life threatening, however, is the weakness of Turkey’s civil society. “If the military comes to power,” said Yayla, “I will be one of the first ones jailed.”

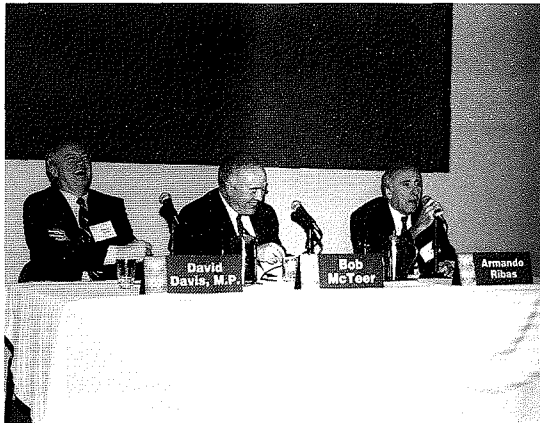
Jail threats are nothing new to Michal Semin (**Civic Institute**, Czech Republic), who earned a night in jail for participating in a discussion group on Aristotle. His experience aptly illustrates the theme of Pete du Pont: that technology is dismantling the government’s ability to control information. “The activities most attacked by the communist regime,” said Semin, “were the independent

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Photographs by Deryo Murdock



(left to right): The Rt. Hon. David Davis (House of Commons, UK), Bob McTeer (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, USA), and Armando Ribas (Argentina)

mission, 2) use of business marketing strategies, and 3) reliance on a visionary leader. Rather than focusing on discussions of media bias, we need to just “become” the media, since media is the driver of our ideas.

Brian Crowley, the founder of **Atlantic Institute for Market Studies** (Halifax, Nova Scotia) and editorial writer for Canada’s national newspaper *The Globe and Mail*, summed up the think tank media challenge: to make your self-interest coincide with that of the media. Crowley cautioned that journalists are moved much more by personal relationships, than by the best ideas. Scour publications for articles of interest and begin systematically providing information to the key authors. When we help them look good, we begin to make our interests coincide. “It’s really quite easy,” says Crowley, “if we don’t care who gets the credit. Once credibly established with the journalist, then, and only then, can you really expect media people to take an interest in the things that *you* think are important.”

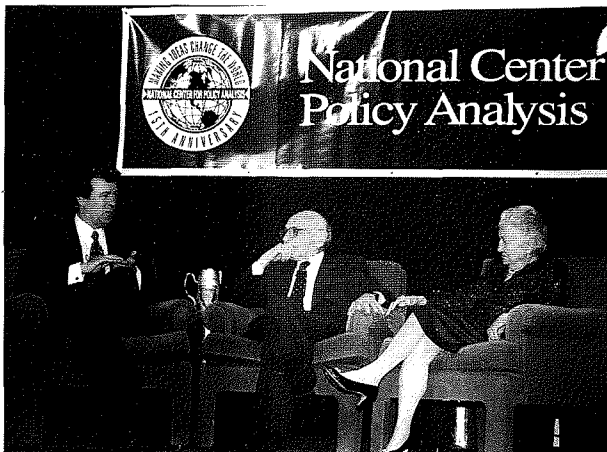
Although the Atlas program ended with the media panel, participants had more to look forward to. That same evening, the NCPA held its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala dinner with Milton and Rose Friedman at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel where Atlas hosted its workshop events. Joined by more than 600 free-market supporters, Atlas colleagues joined in the celebration of one of its great institute leaders, the National Center for Policy Analysis.

One of the greatest rewards we experience at Atlas is learning of new institute efforts, particularly if Atlas had a hand in the germination. We have just discovered that efforts are underway to start a free-market think tank in Nicaragua, largely prompted by the heroes panel of this workshop. Thanks to all of our colleagues for the sacrifices they make, each day, in the good fight in the war of ideas. ❖

(left to right): Cristián Larroulet (Instituto Libertad y Desarrollo, Chile) and Phillip Truluck (The Heritage Foundation, USA)



Below (left to right): John Goodman (NCPA, USA) with Milton and Rose Friedman



the session “Marketing Ideas: Lessons for Think Tanks” featured seasoned media experts. Brent Bozell (**Media Research Center**, Washington, DC) gave his version of the “think tank problem.” “We go out and work on ideas we think are critically important to the public, but we don’t try to package them in a way the

public wants to accept them. If we were private businesses, we would go out of business.” He urged everyone to put a marketing and public relations spin on every single product produced by the think tank.

Jeanette Goodman (NCPA, Dallas) gave three major elements of a successful institute: 1) devotion to a

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discussion groups.” But now information is freely flowing. Semin and his wife recently founded a home schooling network, along with ten other families, to combat the reality that “school in the modern era has become a political instrument.”

Moving from heroes to strategies,

## INSTITUTE NEWS

Recognizing the leverage yielded by seminarians at the pulpit, **The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty** (Grand Rapids, MI) instituted a new program to encourage seminarians to think about free society ideals. The Acton Homiletics Award solicits sermons from theology students and offers cash prizes for winning entries.

The **Adam Smith Institute** (London) nominated Austrian economist F.A. Hayek as its "Man of the Century." As a leading exponent of the Austrian School of Economics and a tireless campaigner against the evils of socialism, Hayek, writes the ASI, "more than any other single person, is responsible for the final defeat of totalitarian collectivism, and the triumph of the liberal economic order." Hayek served as chairman of the ASI's Board of Scholars for many years. The institute published a tribute volume, *Hayek: A Commemorative Album*, to celebrate the life and contributions of this great economist.

**The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** (Dayton, OH) launched its Winter '99 *Issues & Ideas Luncheon* series with featured speaker Virginia Postrel, editor of *Reason* magazine and author of *The Future and its Enemies: The Growing Conflict over Creativity, Enterprise, and Progress*. Postrel discussed the power of ideas in shaping society's future to the audience of legislators, government officials and other policy leaders.

1998 Oregon Better Government Competition winning proposals from the **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR) offer a range of solutions to local problems. Winning ideas examined ways to improve and streamline the building permit process, enhance school choice through tuition tax credits, bolster school transportation services through private contracting, and extend Portland's water supplies through managed competition.

**Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR) cosponsored Portland's Teleconference '99: "What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security." Portland was one of ten US cities selected to participate in this

event in which live satellite connected participants nationwide to Hillary Clinton. In preparation for the program, Cascade hosted a teleconference briefing in January, offering opportunities for women to meet with Cascade economic policy experts to learn more about why women (and men) should have the option to invest for their own retirement.

**Evergreen Freedom Foundation** (Olympia, WA) hosted a legislative breakfast with special guest Clint Bolick (**Institute for Justice**, Washington, DC). Bolick's talk, "What has Happened to the American Dream?" examined ways to empower people who have previously depended on government for solutions and sustenance.

The **Institute for Health Freedom** (Washington, DC) joined with 14 other groups, including the **Cato Institute** (Washington, DC), in challenging the new Medicare rule that prohibits senior citizens from privately contracting with Medicare-participating doctors. IHF believes Americans should be free to pay for medical treatment with their own funds, form private contracts with health-care providers, and protect the privacy of their medical records.

Sue Blevins, IHF's president, was recently asked to comment about the Hepatitis B vaccination on ABC TV's 20/20 special, "Who's Calling the Shots?" Disagreement regarding the safety of the vaccination, now required for school children in 36 states, led Blevins to comment to ABC's Sylvia Chase, "The decision ultimately needs to be in the parents' hands; the parents are going to be the ones living with the consequences."

In December the University of Florida in Gainesville conferred an honorary doctorate on Stan Marshall, chairman of **The James Madison Institute** (Tallahassee, FL). Citing Marshall's role in public service, the degree was awarded "in recognition of your leadership in academics, your efforts to improve citizen public policy awareness, and for your contributions to civic and service agencies." Congratulations, Stan!

In February, the JMI merged with **The Foundation for Florida's Future**, an institute founded in 1994 by Jeb Bush, under the new name, **The James Madison Institute - A Foundation for Florida's Future**. The principal offices remain in Tallahassee. JMI's Stan Marshall, continues to serve as CEO and President, while Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney serves as the board chairman.

Former Virginia Governor George Allen joined the **National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX) as a Distinguished Fellow. In this position, Allen is helping to develop and communicate NCPA's innovative policy ideas through radio, television, and newspapers. As Governor, Allen was a strong proponent of free-market policies which helped create more than 300,000 private sector jobs and attracted \$14 billion in new investment to the state.

**The Center for Restructuring Government** at the **Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research** (Boston, MA) sponsored a conference in December on "Bringing Competition Back to Massachusetts." David Osborne, author of *Reinventing Government* and *Banishing Bureaucracy* delivered the keynote address.

**The Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT), and the **American Legislative Exchange Council** (Washington, DC) co-sponsored a luncheon for members of the Utah legislature and other government and business leaders at the State Capitol in late January. Speakers focused on the topic, "Dealing with Growth: Strategies for the States."

In February Sutherland hosted a Business Leaders Luncheon with the **Institute for Justice** (Washington, DC). IJ's Clint Bolick was the keynote speaker, addressing the topic, "Preserving Economic Liberty in America."

The **Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy** (Springfield, VA) reports that its first "Off the Record Breakfast Briefing" was a success. The meeting featured William Allen, the new executive director of the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia. ❖

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Allegheny Institute for Public Policy** (Pittsburgh, PA) joins the growing ranks of institutes examining urban sprawl issues with the publication of *The Dark Side of Growth Controls: Some Lessons from Oregon*. Author John Charles, environmental policy director of **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR), examines myths about high density development, the policy option advocated by many national environmental organizations.

Taking the global warming issue to the state level, Allegheny also published *Economic Impact Analysis of Global Climate Change Policy on Pennsylvania*. Based on estimates of job losses and decreased economic output, it concludes that Pennsylvania would experience the largest adverse economic impacts from implementation of proposed policies to reduce carbon emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2010. And in *Michigan Renaissance Zones Performance: With Implications for Pennsylvania*, Allegheny examines tax abatement programs that are designed to revitalize distressed and dilapidated communities.

**The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions** (Dayton, OH) unveiled two new reports that underscore the need for more parental choice in education. "Giving Choice a Chance: Cleveland and the Future of School Reform" and "Public Choices, Private Costs: An Analysis of Spending and Achievement in Ohio Public Schools" build on the institute's commitment to school choice and the analysis of education reforms.

In Buckeye's *Perspective on Current Issues*, "A Power(ful) Myth," director of research James A. Damask provides an economic history lesson about competing electric companies in the early 1900's.

In "Maryland Charter Legislation Out of Sync with Other States" Doug Munro, president of the **Calvert Institute for Policy Research** (Baltimore, MD), notes that Maryland is one of only 17 states having no legislation authorizing [charter] schools." He proposes turning all public schools into charter schools, but

concedes, "In Maryland, the chances of that happening probably rank somewhere below the likelihood of a humidity-free summer in Baltimore."

*The Oregon Charter Policy Handbook*, produced by the Oregon Charter School Task Force and published by **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR), describes how the charter school strategy fits into the larger picture of education reform, why the strategy is needed, and how it should be implemented.

**The Centre for Independent Studies** (St. Leonards, Australia) interviewed households across New South Wales in its study of social capital -- the network of informal social connections that helps to hold communities together -- in today's Australia. *Social Capital Stories: How 12 Australian Households Live Their Lives* reveals these findings and offers suggestions for maintaining social capital. In another publication, *Children's Rights*, author Barry Maley cautions that granting special protection to children may actually be counterproductive. Freeing children from parental control may just deliver them into the hands of the government bureaucracy.

CIS also published two new papers in its *Occasional Papers* series. In *The Modern Mask of Socialism* Antonio Martino cautions against excessive optimism in the "fall" of socialism. Martino argues that socialism in the old sense is indeed dead, but it has taken on many new forms, such as environmental regulations. Hence, there are no permanent victories, but rather, new challenges for opponents of socialism. In *The Road Not Taken: Hayek's Slippery Slope to Serfdom*, author Neill McInnes examines the role Hayek's classic book *The Road to Serfdom* has played in the half century since its publication.

**Evergreen Freedom Foundation** (Olympia, WA) applies market principles to state park management in "Toward a Self-Sufficient State Park System: Ensuring Stable and Equitable Parks Financing." The study suggests

reforms including implementing market-based fees for services and day-use entrance fees. Evergreen also published, *Y2K: Time Versus Technology*, which offers a "common sense approach" to the millennium computer situation.

**The Fraser Institute** (Vancouver, BC) published a 1998/1999 Interim Report to its *Economic Freedom of the World* by James Gwartney and Robert Lawson. The report, copublished by fifty other participating institutes around the world, represents a continuation of efforts to develop an objective measure of economic freedom. For the 1997 year in focus, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, United States, and United Kingdom were ranked as the five freest economies in the world. The least free economies in 1997 were Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda, and Albania.

In another Fraser publication, *Home on the Urban Range*, the institute suggests that cities are in a crisis created by a lack of respect for property. Real estate taxes, subsidies, "free" water and garbage collection, and other government price distortions hide the true cost of city services and turn the city into a common pasture where citizens graze without restraint. The book suggests user fees and privatization of services are key to democratic reforms that decentralize power to neighborhoods.

**Fundacion Para Environmental Analisis y Los Estudios Sociales** (Madrid) published *La reducción de Jornada a 35 horas* (The reduction of the work week to 35 hours), which explores the economic impact of enforced shortening of work week hours.

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Most of the organizations mentioned in these pages are listed in the virtual phonebooks on the Atlas web page:

[www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook](http://www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook)

**(New Publications, Continued from page 5)**

"Lessons of the Asian Financial Crisis," recently published in the *HKCER Letters*, by the **Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research** (Hong Kong), "puts to rest the idea that new laws of economic growth have been uncovered by Asia's miracle." Center director, Y.C. Richard Wong, outlines factors which contributed to the financial crisis, but notes that the Asian nations' encouragement of entrepreneurial activities and appreciation for the market economy have not been fundamentally altered as a consequence of the crisis.

*Before Beveridge: Welfare Before the Welfare State*, the new *Choice in Welfare* publication of **The Institute of Economic Affairs** (London), examines how welfare services were delivered in the years before the post-war welfare state. Leading social historians examine the "mixed economy of welfare" that typified the era and present a picture of a complex web of interlocking institutions which embraced both charitable and mutual aid societies, as well as market and government services. The IEA also addresses issues in medical privacy in *Should Health Screening be Private?* Author Dr. Jim Thornton advances the argument against "free" (taxpayer funded) screening services. He argues that the value of most screening programs, depends on the personal values of the participants. "The market," he says, "will decide which programs are beneficial."

**The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** (Concord, NH) published *Ideas for New Hampshire: 1998 Better Government Competition Winners*. This year's award-winning ideas focused on rewriting public utility regulations, performance pay for teachers, and community-based welfare models.

**Kansas Public Policy Institute** (Topeka, KS) tackles pension system alternatives for state and local government workers. "The Prospect of Liberty in Kansas Pension Reform" argues for individual employee choice in determining whether to continue with the existing retirement plan or to

participate in a new contribution option.

**The Korea Center for Free Enterprise** (Seoul) published the first five issues of its "Papers on Korean Economy" series addressing the following subjects: *Korean Financial Crisis Diagnosis and Prescription; The Conflict between Economic Progress and Democracy: The Case of Korea; The Political Economy of Government Policy on Real Estate; The Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act and Pro-Competition Policy; and The Myths of Korean Land Policy*. The series is part of CFE's mission to increase public awareness on issues related to free-market theories and practices.

**Liberty Institute** (New Delhi) republished Frederic Bastiat's classic essay, *The Law*. The institute's president, Barun Mitra, writes "As India, like many other countries, is trying to break away from decades of socialist ideological baggage and searching for a new vision, *The Law* might be that beacon helping us chart a new course." The monograph features an essay on "Life and Times of Frederic Bastiat" by Atlas colleague, Detmar Doering, of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Germany.

Liberty Institute also published *Democracy, Market and Human Rights: Ideas of Amartya Sen* with essays by Tibor Machan and Barun Mitra.

If only it were a joke... the *Free Market* newsletter of the **Lithuanian Free Market Institute** (Vilnius, Lithuania) features articles that detail the bureaucratic nightmares faced by entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs as they attempt to start new businesses. In the spirit of Hernando de Soto's classic, *The Other Path*, the articles illustrate the state's heavy hand in registering a company name, forming authorized capital, registering a business office, and other horrors. Fortunately, the Lithuanian Free Market Institute "is working on proposals for business deregulation and debureaucratization of private affairs."

**Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) examines how the state legislature can advance reforms that are fair to Michigan's working and

retired generations in a new report, *Saving Retirement in Michigan: Responsible Alternatives to Social Security*. The report recommends that Michigan join the states of Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Washington in passing a resolution urging Congress to grant waivers for states to opt-out of the federal Social Security system.

Director of the **Minaret of Freedom Institute** (Bethesda, MD) Imad-Ad-Dean and Ahmed Yousef edited *Islam and the West: A Dialog*. Contributions include essays by US government Middle East experts Graham Fuller, Robert Neumann, and Stephen Pelletiere; and scholars such as Charles Butterworth (University of Maryland), Antony T. Sullivan (University of Michigan), Louis Cantori (General Matthew Horner Chair of Military Theory, Marine Corps University, VA), and William Zartman (Johns Hopkins University). The essays are grouped in three sections: Islamic Movements and Western Interests; Origins of Political Islamic Movements; and Christianity, Islam, and the Future.

**The National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX) offers a solution to the Medicare Crisis in *Saving Medicare* by Andrew Rettenmaier and Thomas Saving. The authors propose personal savings accounts as an alternative to the current pay-as-you-go system under which each generation of retirees looks to the next generation to pay its medical bills.

**The National Foundation for Family Research and Education** (Calgary, Canada) produced its first *Family Health Index*, which focuses on the health of the family as a social and economic unit. The index tracks changes in the evolution of the family unit, how changes in family structure have influenced the health of individuals and society as a whole. It also asks whether social support systems have kept pace with changes in the economy and in family structures over the years. Recommendations to boost family health include specific

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(New Publications, Continued from page 6)

suggestions to increase support for marriage, strengthen civil society, and promote economic growth.

In a new application of his “bootleggers and Baptists” theory of regulation, Bruce Yandle authored *Bootleggers, Baptists, and Global Warming: New Insights into Climate-Change Policies*, published by the **Political Economy Research Center** (Bozeman, MT). The paper offers an explanation for the uncanny alliance between environmental special interest groups and the companies, trade associations, and nations that are seeking favors through the global warming negotiations. PERC also published a special issue of *PERC Reports* which features excerpts from its book, *Enviro-Capitalists*. The excerpts tell the stories of people who are working to “soften the impact of human beings on the environment.” In addition to revealing private conservation contributions, it also tells the stories of efforts that were thwarted by government regulations.

**The Social Affairs Unit** (London) revisits the nagging social responsibility

debate with the publication of *Corporate Irresponsibility: Is Business Appeasing Anti-Business?* In this report, author Robert Halfon examines the origins of the demands that businesses adopt policies on the environment, human rights, and third world development, even when they are antithetical to good business.

The SAU also published *Not Fit to Fight: The Cultural Subversion of the Armed Forces in Britain & America*, which explores the impact of secular developments upon military preparedness. Aspects including homosexuality, women soldiers, and political correctness in military appointments, are examined by six contributing authors.

**The Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT) published an address by former Utah senator, Jake Garn, on “Utah: At the Door of a New Millennium.” Garn offered several rules that promote freedom, families, responsibility, and compassion. His suggestions included devolution of government power, the adoption of policies that support families, allowing private sector to deal

with challenges rather than bloated government bureaucracies, and the selection of “low tax/high prosperity” policies over “high tax/low prosperity” policies. ❖

## New Translations

**The Association for Liberal Thinking** (Ankara, Turkey) recently published several works in Turkish, including *A Letter Concerning Toleration* by John Locke; *John Locke*, by Hardy Bouillon; *Choice, Contract, Consent: A New Statement of Liberalism* by Anthony de Jasay; and *Individual, Community, and Market* by Norman Barry. ❖

(Madrid, Continued from page 8)

defenders “had the bright idea of contributing to the development of civil society by setting up a business association that has served -- and continues to serve -- as a point of reference in the defense of free enterprise, the free market, and the role of entrepreneurs in society, from a position clearly independent of any group in power.”

Círculo promotes and disseminates studies, organizes conferences, analyses the impact of economic and social measures on the business community, and proposes standards of conduct based on ethical principles, both individual and corporate, in all spheres of business activity. All this is undertaken with

great gusto under the supervision of Vicente Boceta, a very energetic and insightful free-marketeer. Operating very much like a traditional think tank, the association maintains an impressive office in Madrid, staffed with researchers, analysts, publication and public affairs directors, and other policy and outreach people. It differs from think tanks, however, by the direct involvement of its members. For example, for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Círculo published a commemorative book, authored by its members, which analyzed the Spanish economy and its future prospects. The publication, *20 Years, 20 Issues*, marks the first time that a group of entrepreneurs – thirty-four to be precise

– reflected in public and collectively on the most varied aspects of the Spanish economy.

During its many years of operation, Círculo de Empresarios has hosted several Atlas friends and colleagues, including James Buchanan and José Piñera. Its many programs, lectures and publications indeed offer a forum for debate and a laboratory of ideas for the Spanish civil society. ❖

## Former Atlas Fellow Infuses Free-Market Ideas in Argentina

Maria Eleonora Urrutia brought great free-market passion and focus to the Atlas offices during her fellowship in 1995, yet it offered just a glimpse of the free-market zeal she has been injecting to her native country, Argentina, in recent years.

While at Atlas, Eleonora, a top honors graduate from the Faculty of Law at the National University of Cuyo, in Mendoza, was recruited by the Argentine chief of cabinet (the minister responsible for overseeing the Argentine cabinet). Surprised to find herself facing a job offer in the public sector, she sought advice from Atlas president, Alejandro Chafuen. He told her, "We need people with high principles and good understanding of economics in all levels of policy making. As long as you are not asked to participate in any corrupt practice and are free to provide advice, I would take the position, even if the party in government has not been traditionally allied with the free-market."

Starting as an adviser, Eleonora was most recently appointed chief of advisers. She has collaborated in efforts to deregulate the Argentine economy,

Maria Eleonora Urrutia in front of the Casa Rosada, Argentina's "White House"



privatize airports and banks, draft anticorruption laws, adopt voucher-type welfare reform, and keep moving the economy to freer territory. Through her work, Maria Eleonora has introduced high level Argentinean policy makers to free-market leaders such as Stephen Goldsmith, Mayor of Indianapolis, and Ruth Richardson, one of the architects of New Zealand's market-oriented policies.

Never shy about her free-market apostolic zeal, Eleonora gave a copy of Hayek's classic, *The Road to Serfdom*,

to President Carlos Menem. President Menem is reportedly enjoying the book.

Although it is too early to know how history will judge Menem's presidency and his impact on economic reform and yet-to-be implemented judiciary reform, it is not too early to know that Maria Eleonora's experience is bringing valuable insights to public policy reform in Latin America and beyond. Atlas extends its thanks to the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and the Lilly Endowment for their contributions to her Atlas fellowship. ❖

## Atlas Links to Madrid's Free-Market Business Community

In February, Atlas's environmental research associate, Jo Kwong, traveled to Madrid, Spain, at the invitation of Vicente Boceta Alvarez, General Secretary of the Círculo De Empresarios. While in Madrid, Kwong delivered a presentation on free-market environmentalism at a business luncheon hosted by the association. Spain's Minister of the Environment, and other influential leaders shared their responses to the application of market ideas to the environment.

The luncheon was timed to coincide with the release of Círculo's Spanish translation of the Institute of Economic Affairs (London) publication, *Environmental Education*, by Benjamin Aldrich-Moodie and Jo Kwong. An avid follower of IEA books, Boceta choose this publication as a way to generate discussions about the environment among Spain's prominent business leaders.

Círculo de Empresarios is a non-profit association of senior business

executives who share an interest in the ideas that shape the social and economic environment. Its primary objective is to "defend private enterprise within the framework of a market economy." Círculo was created by a group of distinguished entrepreneurs in 1977, the year of Spain's first democratic elections — a pivotal year for its transition to democracy. As described in Círculo's annual report, the association's

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