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SPRAWL!

Leave Land-Use Issues to Local Citizens, Scholar Says

The issue of so-called “smart growth”—government restrictions to manage how and where people live in a community—came to the fore during last year’s presidential campaign. And while the campaign may be long over, the issue continues to attract the attention of lawmakers who worry that the growth of cities could lead to environmental degradation.

This spring, a land-use planning bill was introduced in the Michigan Legislature to combat “urban sprawl” in a way that would intrude on private property rights, according to one legislator. That’s why the legislator, Rep. Robert Gosselin, invited urban policy expert and Mackinac Center for Public Policy Adjunct Scholar Samuel Staley to testify before a hearing on the bill.

“Dr. Staley offers reasonable, effective, creative, exciting ways to address the [sprawl] problem, which do not violate property rights,” Rep. Gosselin said in a news release.

Staley’s testimony at the May 8 hearing, a joint session of the House Committees on Land Use and Environment and Local Government and

Urban Policy, identified market-based approaches as the best way to deal with sprawl concerns, including environmental protection.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Patricia Birkholz, emphasized that her legislation contains no new mandates, but Staley criticized a provision that ties state funding to whether or not a community has developed a 20-year “growth plan.”

“We don’t know where we’re going to be in 20 years,” Staley told legislators. “We don’t even know who is going to be living in our community.”

Staley also explained free-market policy alternatives to government land-use planning at a May 7 Mackinac Center Issues and Ideas luncheon in Lansing (see story on page 5) and a May 8 breakfast with members of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Interviews with Lansing, Grand Rapids, and

Detroit-area journalists produced robust media coverage, including a May 8 Oakland Press article.

Staley, who directs the Urban Futures Program at the Los



Expert testimony from Adjunct Scholar Samuel Staley helped “ensure that urban sprawl legislation relies on free-market solutions,” state Rep. Robert Gosselin wrote in a letter to the Mackinac Center.

Angeles-based Reason Public Policy Institute, is the author of numerous scholarly books and reports on urban issues, including the 1998 Mackinac Center study, “Urban Sprawl and the Michigan Landscape: A Market-Oriented Approach,” now in its second printing.!

“By assembling and supporting a team of first-class policy experts ... the Mackinac Center is having a powerful, beneficial impact.” —Washington, D.C.-based Americans for Tax Reform

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Listening to Truth



Joseph Overton
Senior Vice
President

Recently I heard a profound aphorism which has stuck in my head ever since: "God whispers to us in nature, speaks to us in his word, and screams at us in our pain." Although all but the Mackinac Center's most ardent supporters would agree that our publications fall far short of Scripture, there are some interesting parallels in the public policy arena.

My grandfather had the proverbial eighth-grade education. Born and raised—and lived, worked, and died—on a southwest Michigan farm, he never read von Mises or Hayek or even Adam Smith; he couldn't draw a downward-sloping demand curve or articulate the problem of cost calculation in a socialist economy. But he was sensitive and humble enough to embrace the salient lessons quietly whispered in a simple life close to the earth. He fought to defend his cherished liberty in the Great War, he fought to defend it in his state and community when he returned home, and he was faithfully responsible to his wife and children, leaving a legacy of freedom, honor, and achievement.

Those insensitive to the natural order need something more. As proponents of central planning weave new and seductive visions of political society, we continually need calm and reasoned scholarship to speak the truth in defense of individual liberty. Every bright social planner who believes that property rights are an antiquated notion as suburbs expand, or that increasing complexity of society calls for increasing complexity of government, must be met with an equally bright defender of freedom. To those who will listen, the evidence is clear when properly presented.

Unfortunately, some are hard of hearing.

Right now the public policy gods are screaming at the California Legislature—along with a large percentage of the state's electrical utility customers. Utility regulation passed there defies common sense and every known tenet of political economy. And—we should not be surprised—public officials' ignorance has caused one of the worst energy crises in recent memory. Then the clever minds at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation used our tax dollars to send flashlights to California businesses to lure them to our state, leading some of us to debate who really has the lowest-wattage public officials.

Experience is the best teacher, but it also charges the highest tuition. Hopefully, as the Mackinac Center is increasingly successful in education reform, we will one day restore some sanity to the school system and produce young people more sensitive to fundamental principles of sound public policy. Hopefully, we will elect more public officials who will listen to truth. Hopefully, our motto will never become: "In the Legislature, no one can hear you scream."!

As proponents of central planning weave new and seductive visions of political society, we need calm and reasoned scholarship to speak the truth in defense of liberty.

Joseph P. Overton

Mackinac Center Research Curbs Wasteful State Spending

Timely. Accurate. Effective. These adjectives are often applied to Mackinac Center for Public Policy research in policy areas ranging from the environment and taxation to labor and privatization. The most recent example of all three adjectives is a *Viewpoint* commentary by Mackinac Center Policy Analyst Michael LaFaive that exposed—and helped correct—the wasteful redundancy of two state-run Internet job boards.

The job boards—one operated by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the other by the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD)—carry out the exact same function: bringing together job seekers and job providers. An MEDC brochure



Roughly \$500,000 was slated to operate the duplicative, state-run "Michigan Careersite," even though an ad for the site admitted, "The world does not need another job board."

about its "Michigan Careersite" even makes a virtue of the redundancy: It brags about the fact that Michigan Careersite is able to "grab" and post jobs off of the MDCD's "Talent Bank."

The MEDC and MDCD sites not only compete directly with each other, but also with hundreds of privately owned and operated Michigan-based job recruitment companies. "It really is irksome to see the state using our tax dollars to compete against us," remarked an owner of one private job site. "Moreover, it's bizarre watching the agencies competing against each other."

But LaFaive's research is changing that. In March, his *Viewpoint* was reprinted statewide by numerous newspapers including the Detroit News. Soon after, Lansing sources informed

the Mackinac Center that the MEDC Michigan Careersite soon will be merged with the MDCD Talent Bank, leaving only one state-run Internet job board. The sources credited LaFaive's solid research for calling attention to the redundant state sites, resulting in a victory for fiscal prudence and sound economics.

"I hope public officials will recognize there is no reason to spend tax dollars running *any* job board, when so many private firms provide job recruitment services at no cost to taxpayers," says LaFaive. ■

Mackinac Center Labor Reforms Go Beyond Michigan's Borders

In 1996, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy established its Labor Policy Initiative with the ambitious goal of transforming Michigan's labor climate into one more friendly to the rights of unionized workers.

Today, great progress has been made to that end. In 1998, the state Civil Service Commission followed Mackinac Center recommendations to enact "paycheck protection" for over 41,000 state employees,

requiring departments to get written approval from individual employees before deducting union dues. And efforts to extend the same protections to private-sector workers are making headway in the Legislature.

But these successes are not enough for the Mackinac Center's Director of Labor Policy Robert Hunter, who served on the National Labor Relations Board under President Ronald Reagan. He regularly lends his labor law expertise to

efforts in other states to protect workers' rights from union abuses.

The latest example is from Florida, where Speaker of the House Tom Feeney wanted to shield Sunshine State teachers from involuntarily funding union political agendas with which they may disagree. Familiar with the Mackinac Center's groundbreaking work on such "paycheck protection," Feeney contacted Hunter for legal analysis and information.

With Hunter's help, Florida legislators brought forth a bill that would inform teachers of their right not to pay for union political activities and allow them to designate payroll-deducted dues as being for collective bargaining purposes only.

On April 30, the bill passed the House, but not before one Florida newspaper attacked the Mackinac Center as part of an "anti-union" effort "to strip unions of their ability to deduct dues from teachers' paychecks."

See "*Paycheck*" on page 10

Letting Freedom Ring—Through State and National Media

As Independence Day approaches, it's a good time to look back at the hundreds of last quarter's media mentions of the Mackinac Center freedom message. Here are a few highlights:

- Investor's Business Daily's over 250,000 subscribers were treated to an April 27



Director of Education Policy Matthew Brouillette tells mid-Michigan television viewers how Michigan schools save education dollars and improve quality when they privatize non-instructional services.

op-ed that criticized investor George Soros, actor Paul Newman, and other "super rich" for opposing repeal of the onerous estate tax. The article, by William Peterson of the Heritage Foundation, prominently listed the Mackinac Center as part of a "flock of free-market, limited-government think tanks" that "seek to re-educate the American mind according to principles some of the rich too easily forget."

- Investor's Business Daily also called upon Director of Education Policy Matthew Brouillette in April for his views on extending the school year to help struggling students perform better. Brouillette told

reporter Benjamin Kepple that until parents have a choice of where to send their children to school—thereby forcing schools to compete and improve their quality—extending the school year will just be giving children more of what is failing them now.

- On May 15, viewers of WNEM5 television in Saginaw saw an evening news report on privatization and Michigan

schools. In an on-air interview, Brouillette explained how privatization enables schools to improve the quality of food, transportation, janitorial, and other services while simultaneously saving more money for

use in the classroom. (The video can be viewed at www.mackinac.org.)

- Twice in April, nationally syndicated columnist Geoffrey Underwood cited the Mackinac Center, once in an article about the impact of think tanks on state and federal legislation, and again in another article about how think tanks operate under "friendly" administrations. The latter article held up the Mackinac Center as the premier example of how think tanks can assert their independence and avoid being perceived as being in any politician's "hip pocket."

- President Lawrence Reed and Managing Editor of Publications David Bardallis put together a special op-ed link-

ing Vermont Sen. James Jeffords's decision to quit his party to the fate of another Republican—Michigan's Sen. James Couzens—who fought against President Calvin Coolidge's tax cuts. The op-ed appeared May 25 on National Review Online, a web site read by millions of visitors each month.

- The June 1 Detroit Free Press ran Bardallis's *Viewpoint* arguing for tax cuts and responsible city spending in Detroit to help bring jobs, people, and businesses back to the city. Bardallis cited the example of William Maybury, Detroit's mayor from 1897-1904, who cut taxes and helped spur an economic boom at the dawn of the automobile age.

- When the White House intervened in a labor dispute between Northwest Airlines and its mechanics' union, the Detroit News sought out Mackinac Center Director of Labor Policy Robert Hunter for comment. In a March 29 op-ed, Hunter urged both sides to

come to some kind of settlement before the strike spread into a nationwide air-travel crisis. A tentative agreement was reached by April 10.

- An April 1 Detroit News editorial advised the Redford school district to accept the Mackinac Center's offer to help it save enough money to keep eight popular teachers on the payroll. Budgetary pressures—which could be relieved by privatizing ancillary school services, the Center argued—were forcing the teachers to be reassigned. The Center guaranteed a savings of at least \$350,000, but the district has yet to accept.
- Newspapers throughout the state ran an Associated Press story quoting Policy Analyst Michael LaFaive. LaFaive criticized "SmartZones," selected regions where the state would grant high-tech companies special tax breaks and other incentives. "The entire state should be a SmartZone, not just 11 lucky regions," said LaFaive. !

DEBATE WORKSHOPS 2001

Resolved:

That the United States federal government should establish a foreign policy significantly limiting the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Cities and Dates:

**Livonia – Tuesday, September 18th
Jackson – Wednesday, September 19th
Grand Rapids – Wednesday, September 26th
Midland – Thursday, September 27th
Fifth location to be announced**

For more information on these educational, fact-filled events, contact Workshop Director Catherine Martin at 989.631.0900, or by e-mail at debate@mackinac.org. Also, log on to our website at www.mackinac.org for our interactive Ask the Debate Coach service.



Luncheon Speakers Address Timely Topics

Urban sprawl" and the redrawing of legislative district boundaries are hot topics in Lansing, and this spring journalists and policy-makers knew where to go for authoritative information and opinions on both issues. Two recent Mackinac Center for Public Policy Issues and Ideas luncheons provided guests with a solid background on the stories making today's—and tomorrow's—headlines.

On April 17, Robert LaBrant, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce's senior vice president for political affairs, reviewed Michigan population trends and discussed the 2000 census's impact on the Great Lakes State. According to census data, Michigan will



The Michigan Chamber of Commerce's Robert LaBrant (center) explains the political ramifications the 2000 U.S. Census data will have for Michigan.

lose one of its 16 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives while Detroit stands to lose seats in the Michigan Legislature as greater num-

bers of citizens migrate to the suburbs. LaBrant explained the process by which state lawmakers will draft congressional and state redistricting

plans, and the state Supreme Court's role in reviewing those plans.

On May 7, Dr. Samuel Staley, director of the Urban Futures Program at the Los Angeles-based Reason Public Policy Institute, exposed the false "either-or" choice between government regulation of the housing market on one hand or the degradation of farmland, open spaces, and other environmentally sensitive areas on the other. Policy-makers should not limit affordable housing opportunities and restrict citizens' freedom of movement, Staley argued, but should instead adopt market-oriented solutions to "urban sprawl" issues.

See *"Issues"* on page 10

National Momentum Shifts Toward Education Tax Credits

When the Mackinac Center for Public Policy unveiled the Universal Tuition Tax Credit (UTTC) in 1997, we knew the concept would revolutionize the school-choice debate. And after voters last year resoundingly rejected two high-profile school voucher proposals, tax credits are indeed supplanting vouchers as the preferred vehicle to expand educational opportunities for more children across the country.

In recent years, 12 states have considered, and five have passed into law, some form of education tax credit. Arizona's program leads the way, having provided more than

18,000 scholarships worth over \$31 million to low-income students since 1998. Earlier this year, Pennsylvania and Florida enacted credits for businesses that want to help pay tuition for students to attend better or safer schools.

Dr. Patrick J. Heffernan, president of Floridians for School Choice, gave the Mackinac Center plan to policy-makers crafting the Florida legislation. He called the UTTC a "bedrock of thoughtful analysis" that "definitely played a part in [Florida's] parental choice bill."

National attention to the tax-credit idea is growing. Last year, a study from the

States to Recently Consider or Enact K-12 Education Tax Credits*

State	Status
Arizona.....	Passed 1997
Florida	Passed 2001
Idaho	Defeated
Illinois	Passed 1999
Kansas	Defeated
Minnesota	Passed 1997
Missouri	Defeated
Nebraska	Defeated
Ohio	Defeated
Pennsylvania.....	Passed 2001
South Carolina.....	In the Legislature
Utah	Defeated
Virginia	Defeated

*Iowa passed tax credit legislation in 1989.

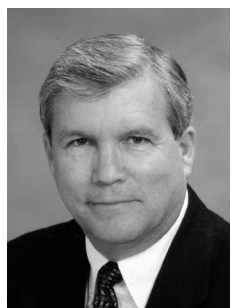
Washington, D.C.-based Cato Institute, co-authored by Mackinac Center Director of Education Policy Matthew Brouillette, explained the benefits of expanding school choice through education

credits. Last month, U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra introduced federal legislation modeled after the Arizona and Mackinac Center plans (see story on page 7).

See *"UTTC"* on page 10

Mackinac Center Expands Talent Roster

Three new names have been added to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's impressive roster of talent—talent that works strategically, effectively, and tirelessly to advance individual liberty and civil society in Michigan.



David Aussicker, vice president for advancement

David Aussicker joined the Mackinac Center's full-time professional staff in May as our new vice president for advancement.

Aussicker leads the Center's efforts to continue building a broad base of financial support for our ambitious agenda, working to secure individual, foun-

dation, and corporation grants. He also spearheads Mackinac Center annual and project campaigns and oversees all aspects of membership development and stewardship.

Aussicker's extensive experience includes fundraising at several major nonprofit organizations and universities, including Old Dominion University in Virginia, where he was an assistant professor and director of the major gifts program. He received his doctorate in public policy and higher education administration from the University of Michigan.

In April, nationally recognized school-choice expert Mary Gifford came on board the Mackinac Center to head our leadership development pro-

gram. She works to cultivate and train a statewide network of citizens, equipping them with the moral, practical, and economic arguments to help advance school-choice opportunities for more Michigan children.

Previously, Gifford was director of the Center for Market-based Education at the Phoenix-based Goldwater Institute, with whom the Mackinac Center is pioneering a unique collaborative relationship on education reform issues, aimed at helping Michigan benefit from the far-reaching education reforms Arizona has enacted in recent years.

Noted researcher Andrew Coulson is the Mackinac Center's new Senior Fellow in



Andrew Coulson, senior fellow in education policy

Education Policy. Coulson's 1999 book "Market Education: The Unknown History," called by Nobel Laureate Milton

Friedman "unusually well written and thoroughly researched," is a definitive account of how free-market educational systems historically outperform their government-run counterparts. Coulson's work also has appeared in numerous academic journals and newspapers, including the Wall Street Journal and Seattle Times. ■

Lehman Explains Benefits of Term Limits to Business, Political Leaders

In 1992, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy helped inform the citizens of Michigan about the merits of adopting term limits as part of the state Constitution. A term-limits proposal soon passed with the support of 59 percent of Michigan voters.

As term limits just now are beginning to turn Michigan officeholders into private citizens, some lawmakers, pundits, and interest groups are questioning the wisdom of that move. Might voters have gone too far?

On June 2, at an annual meeting of 1,500 of Michigan's most distinguished business and political leaders, Mackinac Center Executive Vice President Joseph Lehman answered that question by showing that, although they are no panacea, term limits still promise to give voters more choices on election day and produce a legislature with more diverse experience.

Lehman was invited to attend the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Leadership Policy Conference on Mackinac Island as part of



Freshman legislator Mary Waters, D-Detroit, said "I would not be here if it weren't for term limits." Former House Speaker Chuck Perricone (center) and Executive Vice President Joseph Lehman voiced qualified support for term limits.

former Michigan House Speaker Chuck Perricone; state Rep. Mary Waters, D-Detroit; state Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek; and Dr. Richard Cole, senior vice president of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Former Michigan House Speaker Paul Hillegonds moderated the session.

a distinguished panel of term-limits experts. Joining Lehman on the panel were

"Michigan voters sensed something unfair about a system that allows incumbents to stay in office too long. See **"Term Limits"** on page 10

Keep Taxes Low, Says Michigan House Speaker

The Morey Conference Room of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's downtown Midland headquarters was filled with guests May 18 as Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives Rick Johnson made "The Case for Keeping Taxes Low."

Nearly 50 Mackinac Center friends and supporters turned out to hear Johnson, the latest speaker in the Center's Visiting Dignitary program, explain how lower rates of taxation have been key to Michigan's economic growth over the past decade.

"Tax relief has driven the engine of Michigan's economy," said Johnson, who crit-

icized attempts by some to cancel scheduled tax cuts or repeal ones already enacted in the face of lower state revenue estimates. "Trying to tax your way into a better economy is like kicking someone while he's down and expecting him to get up quicker."

Any economic bad news on the horizon can easily be mitigated through reductions in wasteful state spending and use of the state's "rainy day fund," which holds a surplus of approximately \$1.3 billion, Johnson told the crowd.

Prior to giving his address, Johnson met with Mackinac Center staff for an hour-long policy briefing on economic



Michigan House Speaker Rick Johnson answers questions from Mackinac Center supporters about cutting taxes on agriculture and ending corporate welfare.

development, education, labor, and privatization issues. President Lawrence Reed then took the speaker on a tour of the Center's 17,000-square-foot office, research, and conference facility.

The Visiting Dignitary program brings respected public officials, influential scholars, and prominent business leaders to Midland to better acquaint them with the Mackinac Center and its staff, mission, and supporters. Past visitors in the program have included Gov. John Engler, publisher and former presidential candidate Steve Forbes, and Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn.

Text of Speaker Johnson's remarks is available on the Mackinac Center for Public Policy web site, www.mackinac.org!

Congressman Consults Center Experts

If parents around the country soon are deducting from their tax bill part of the cost of sending their children to school, it will be thanks largely to a Michigan congressman—and an idea first proposed by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in 1997.

On April 16, U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra of Michigan's 2nd District paid a visit to the Mackinac Center's Midland headquarters to consult with leading education reform experts including the Center's new director of leadership development, Mary Gifford (see story on page 6).

The impetus for Rep. Hoekstra's visit was his desire to introduce tuition tax credit legislation following

Congress's vote to remove voucher provisions from President Bush's education reform bill. He believed the Center's Universal Tuition Tax Credit plan, put forward in 1997, offered the best legislative model for expanding parental school choice.

Rep. Hoekstra, an influential member of both the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the powerful House Budget Committee, met with Gifford as well as Mackinac Center President Lawrence Reed, Director of Education Policy Matthew Brouillette, and Senior Vice



U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (left) adopted elements of the Mackinac Center's Universal Tuition Tax Credit for recently introduced federal school-choice legislation. Executive Vice President Joseph Lehman listens at an April 16 briefing with the Michigan Congressman.

President Joseph Overton. Gifford briefed Rep. Hoekstra on Arizona's experience with its tuition tax credit program, a reform she supported while at the Phoenix-based Goldwater Institute (see story on page 5).

Rep. Hoekstra introduced his tax credit legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives in May, adopting elements from both the Arizona and Mackinac Center plans. The bill would provide individuals with a 75-percent tax deduction on money given to private or public schools. Individuals could donate as much as \$500 and corporations up to \$100,000.

If the tax credit passes, it likely will be as federal tax legislation separate from the president's education bill.!

Levy Makes the World a Better Place

Those who know Ed Levy, Jr. know how much he values hard work and community. They see this dedication in his professional life as president and CEO of the Edw. C. Levy Co. of Detroit. And they see it in his personal life as a philanthropist and Mackinac Center for Public Policy board member and contributor.

The Levy Co. was founded by Levy's father, Ed, Sr., in 1918 as a one-man trucking operation. Today, it and its affiliates provide over 3,000 jobs in steel mill services and construction material processing. Since Levy took the reins in 1969, it has expanded operations throughout the United



Mackinac Center board member Ed Levy, Jr.'s generosity also extends to other organizations including Children's Hospital of Michigan and the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

States and into three foreign countries.

But employing thousands and recycling industrial waste

material into usable products isn't enough of a contribution for Levy. "My grandfather and father used to say, 'We are blessed to be citizens of the greatest country in the world. It's our duty to keep it great and, wherever possible, make it better,'" he recalls.

One way Levy improves the world around him is by giving to the Mackinac Center. As a member of the board of directors, Levy lends his time and expertise to further the Center's mission of improving economic opportunities for all citizens. As a member of the 1851 Society, he generously contributes every year to Mackinac Center operations and programs that help

expand educational choices for Michigan children and remove barriers to personal entrepreneurship.

"The Mackinac Center effectively promotes an environment where every citizen is free to live up to his or her potential, and that fits perfectly with my personal mission," says Levy.

"No one in Michigan has more passion for doing what's right for kids and schools than Ed Levy," says Mackinac Center President Lawrence Reed. "His support for choice and other needed reforms is heartfelt and much appreciated by all of us who know him."!

Moving to Where the Action Is

My former colleagues wonder whether I will miss the "dynamic qualities" of the academic community. They seem to believe that the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, because it isn't satisfied with the mere interplay of ideas but takes a principled stand, is somehow "not dynamic."

Of course, the opposite is true.

I am excited about joining the Mackinac Center precisely because it takes that extra dynamic step: It takes a stand. It accepts the responsibility involved in examining ideas, the whole point being that ideas lead

somewhere. Ideas have consequences.

The Center believes that an application of classical liberal political ideals and sound economic theory to Michigan's situation leads the impartial examiner to a free-market orientation in public policy.

The staff of this "think tank" develops policy prescriptions for making life better for the citizens of Michigan, and passes these on to citizens, community leaders, organizations, lawmakers, and journalists. In an April 27 article for *Investor's Business Daily*, William Peterson of the Heritage Foundation criticizes universities for failing



David Aussicker, Vice President for Advancement

to teach about sound economic principles. He credits the Mackinac Center and similar institutions for

teaching the public about free-market principles. Peterson recommends that individuals direct their donations to these think tanks and away from the universities. Obviously, colleges and universities have an important role to play in educating citizens in sound ideas. But

perhaps, as Peterson suggests, educators have fallen down on the job a bit. The role of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy—and similar organizations springing up all over the country—is to step into "the intellectual responsibility gap" and explain where sound ideas lead.

Rest assured that your contributions to the Mackinac Center do more than just provide a forum for ideas. We translate these ideas into actions on your behalf.!

The Siren Song of Socialism

by Lawrence Reed

The verdict is clearly in from experience and economics: Socialism has failed everywhere, no exemptions, not even one. And yet, time after time, American politicians, legislators, and public officials embrace ideas and “solutions” to particular problems that clearly betray a sympathy, if not a downright espousal, of socialist principles.

Why? Because socialism offers people what appears to be immediate gratification—the promise of free this or free that, or of security from some perceived risk or harm or deprivation. Those who make these enticing offers rarely label themselves “socialist” and, of course, never talk about the iron fist that is inevitably buried within the velvet glove. Instead, they often

come across as sincere, well-meaning people (as many of them indeed are, however misguided).

That means that people who listen to these siren songs for socialism must be smart enough to see through the rhetoric; they must have enough knowledge of economics and political science to know what's wrong with it all. And that strongly suggests that the antidote to the socialist appeal is education—the right kind of education: namely, sound economics and moral philosophy, which instills respect for political freedom, limited government, and private property. These, unfortunately, are not routinely taught in the government school system attended by 88 percent of American students. Many times these ideas are

not taught in private schools, either.

It takes a thinking, rational person to understand and practice the principles and virtues of a free society. It takes a person who has respect for the lives and property of others, who has the self-discipline to gather wealth the hard but honest way—working for it, trading for it, or otherwise attracting voluntary support and cooperation.

The more we understand and appreciate the rules of logic, the evidence of history, the morality of self-restraint, the more we respect others and understand the economics of daily life, the less likely we are to be socialists. The more we grow up and realize that wealth creation doesn't “just

happen” but rather, must be nurtured and protected, the less likely we are to be socialists.

But all these things must be learned. The government schools don't teach them (we shouldn't expect them to; they're run by government, after all, which is more interested in self-perpetuation); they aren't taught by the major media, which largely reflect what they learned (and didn't learn) in government schools. And on top of it all, as a culture we are losing our sense of basic right and wrong—replacing it with an attitude of “somebody else owes me a living and I want it now.”

We cannot push a button or wave a magic wand to turn
See “*Siren Song*” on page 10

THE FRUIT OF FREEDOM



THE FRUIT OF BIG GOVERNMENT



Current Comment

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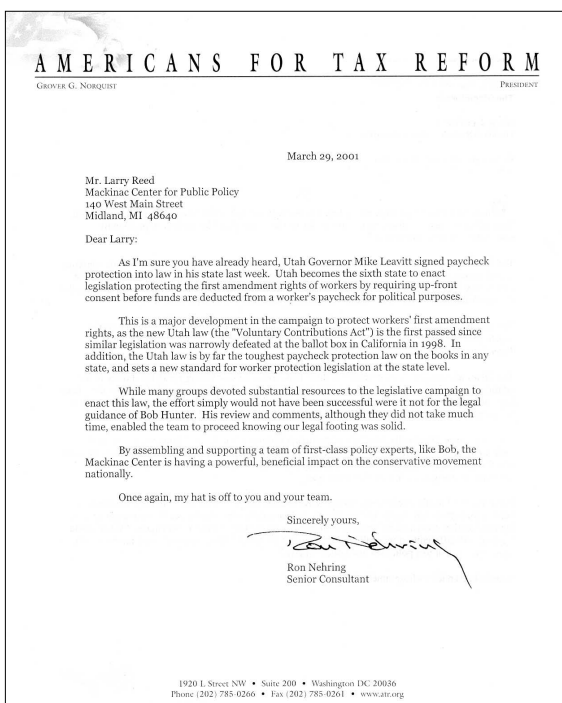
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"Paycheck" from page 3

National Review Associate Editor Kathryn Lopez, in an April 20 editorial, noted the Mackinac Center's efforts instead are aimed at protecting the constitutional rights of workers as upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Florida Legislature closed its session before the Senate could take up the paycheck-protection bill. But "prospects for passage in Florida's next legislative

session in January are excellent," says Hunter. !



With the help of Mackinac Center Director of Labor Policy Robert Hunter, Utah became the sixth state to pass a law protecting workers from being exploited by their unions for controversial political agendas.

"Siren Song" from page 9

this distressing trend around. We can only do it through the hard work of educating people, one person at a time, starting with our own families, friends, and local communities. If you do not have much time yourself to devote to this, that's understandable, but you certainly have a myriad of options out there to support others who are doing it.

This is essentially the case we make at the Mackinac Center all the time: appealing to people to do what they can themselves to spread the

good word about freedom, free enterprise, and personal responsibility. But it also is important to support groups like ours that are working creatively and effectively toward that end.

This article was the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's "Current Comment" for May 8. A new Current Comment feature can be viewed every weekday at the Center's web site, www.mackinac.org. !

"UTTC" from page 5

"Tax credits are the most viable next step in education reform, and they are the superior policy option," President Lawrence Reed told 250 community leaders at a May 22 speech in Boise, Idaho, sponsored by Michigan's Hillside College. The Idaho House recently passed a bill closely modeled on the Mackinac Center plan.

State-based policy groups in Virginia, South Dakota, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma also are reprinting and distributing to their policy-makers "The Case for Choice in Schooling," an exhaustive Mackinac Center report on how expanding school choice benefits all students.

The UTTC plan, originated by Mackinac Center Senior Vice President Joseph Overton, and "The Case for Choice in Schooling" are available at www.mackinac.org. !

"Issues" from page 5

Staley also made his recommendations in testimony before a state House hearing on sprawl before meeting with journalists from Lansing, Grand Rapids, and the Detroit area (see story on page 1).

Issues and Ideas luncheons are monthly forums designed to offer government officials a broader philosophical perspective on current topics, emphasizing free-market solutions to important policy questions. !

"Term Limits" from page 6

bents to amass so much power that challengers rarely win elections," Lehman told the assembled dignitaries. "And they were right. Now that we have term limits, elected officials, instead of using their institutional clout to gain reelection, must think about resuming their status as private citizens, subject to the laws they passed while in office."

Lehman pointed to studies showing that the longer legislators remain in office, the more likely they are to support greater spending and growth of government. The Mackinac Center has co-published one book and produced several articles on term limits. His speech is available at www.mackinac.org. !

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Viewpoint Commentaries

State-Run Internet Job Boards: Wasteful, Redundant and Unfair

April 2001 V2001-12

Two state-subsidized Internet job banks not only compete unfairly with taxpaying, private-sector job recruitment firms, but also with each other. The state agencies that run these web sites should take them down and leave the business of hiring to businesses.

Have Michigan Legislators Learned from California's Mistakes?

April 2001 V2001-13

Now that price controls have been lifted, Michigan consumers are paying the higher, market-level rates other states have already been paying. State legislators have wisely resisted calls to impose California-style price controls.

Campaign Finance Reform Must Recognize Worker Rights

April 2001 V2001-14

Any "campaign finance reform" legislation that passes Congress should include protection of workers' right not to be forced to pay for their unions' political agendas.

A Reminder to Politicians: It's Not Your Money!

April 2001 V2001-15

Lawmakers who want to scale back the size of President Bush's proposed tax cuts and "moderate" cuts already enacted by Gov. Engler and the Michigan Legislature should remember that this money rightfully belongs to taxpayers.

Canadian Health-Care System Is No Model for Prescription Drug Reform

May 2001 V2001-16

The high cost of prescription drugs has many lawmakers clamoring for a government-run health care system like Canada's. But such a system comes with costs of its own, including rationed care, long waiting lists, and poor quality.

Mental Health Parity Could Decrease Access to Affordable Insurance

May 2001 V2001-17

Proposals denying insurance providers the ability to choose the appropriate level of mental health and substance abuse benefits could ultimately make health insurance too expensive for many people.

Homework Requires Teamwork—Between Teachers and Parents

May 2001 V2001-18

Research suggests that combining a reasonable amount of challenging homework with parental responsibility and guidance is a winning combination for improving student academic performance.

Market Holds Little Risk for Privatized Social Security Accounts

May 2001 V2001-19

Critics of Social Security privatization say allowing workers to privately invest a portion of their payroll taxes is risky. But only an unprecedented stock market disaster could make workers worse off than they are under the current system.

Future Detroit Mayor Could Learn from Motor City's Past

June 2001 V2001-20

Detroit's next mayor should learn from his predecessor of 100 years ago and cut taxes to bring jobs and people back to the city.

An Anniversary All Michigan Citizens Can Celebrate

June 2001 V2001-21

Detroit's tricentennial is not the only major anniversary that Michiganders can celebrate this year. Exactly 150 years ago, in 1851, Michigan voters adopted a constitution that strictly limited government and led to a boom in private enterprise.

It's Time to Give Over-taxed Americans a Break

June 2001 V2001-22

Americans are suffering under

the largest federal tax burden since World War II. In an era of budget surpluses, the time is most certainly right for Congress to provide tax relief.

Save a Life, Buy an SUV

June 2001 V2001-23

New research that shows motor vehicle fatalities decrease as more SUVs appear on American roads is not only good news for motorists, but also for the automakers that drive Michigan's economy.

Journals

MICHIGAN EDUCATION REPORT

MER2001-02 \$3.00

Features include an offer by the Mackinac Center to help Redford Union schools retain eight teach-



ers who have been reassigned due to budget cuts; the controversy over Edison Schools, a for-profit company trying to improve schools across the nation; the Arvon Township school board's struggle with its school employees' union to put more funding into classroom learning; and much more. Also, a union official debates a teacher over whether teachers should be forced to join a labor union. 12 pages.



MPR2001-02 \$3.00

Can school districts in Michigan save substantial amounts of

money by contracting out their lunch services to private compa-



nies? The Mt. Pleasant school district's experience with Chartwells, a private food service provider, offers a resounding "yes" answer to that question: It has saved \$113,000 in just one year. Other articles: Internet job boards run by the state government, Detroit violates the law on municipal budgets, and Inkster's school district has trouble living up to its end of the contract with Edison Schools. 20 pages.

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Congressional Freedom Fighter Speaks at Hillsdale College

When students at Michigan's Hillsdale College wanted to invite Texas Congressman Ron Paul to campus to discuss his experiences defending liberty in the halls of Congress, they looked to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy for help.

Mackinac Center President Lawrence Reed placed a phone call to the congressional office of his longtime friend, and soon Rep. Paul was in Hillsdale. On April 23, Mackinac Center board of scholars member and Ludwig von Mises Professor of Economics Richard Ebeling introduced Rep. Paul to a crowd of over 100 Hillsdale students, staff, faculty members, and other interested citizens.

Rep. Paul spoke of the necessity for "constitutional government, low taxes, free markets,



Texas Congressman Ron Paul elaborates on his belief that "government exists to protect liberty, not to redistribute wealth or to grant special privileges" at an event co-sponsored by the Mackinac Center.

and a return to sound monetary policies," explaining how his voting record reflected his uncompromising belief in liberty. "In Congress, voting against something on the grounds that it's immoral or unconstitutional gets you laughed at," he said.

A lively question-and-answer period followed, where Rep. Paul answered students' questions about monetary policy, banking, and the prospects for liberty in the new century. He emphasized the importance to the freedom movement of groups like

the Mackinac Center, and advised students to remain tuned in to what their legislators are doing.

Elected to Congress from Texas's 14th District in 1996, Rep. Paul has built a reputation for integrity and consistency among both his Republican and Democratic colleagues.

"Ron has been an often lone voice in the wilderness, consistently speaking up in Congress for principles of free enterprise, limited government, and sound economics," said Reed.

The event was co-sponsored by Praxis, a free-market student group, and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Rep. Paul's visit was made possible by generous support from Mackinac Center board of directors member James Rodney of Birmingham, Michigan.!


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