



## Costliest Environmental Program Reviewed for First Time

In the November elections, Michigan voters approved a measure, designated Proposal 2, that authorizes the state to borrow \$1 billion for new sewer upgrades to reduce water contamination. If the Legislature decides to finance the measure in a different, more responsible way than it financed Michigan's costliest environmental bond program, the \$675 million 1998 Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) — credit may be due to a report by Diane Katz of the Mackinac Center.

Just prior to the elections, Katz, the center's director of science, environment and technology policy, published a study showing that today, far more CMI funds are being spent on questionable economic development, recreation and beautification projects than upon tangible environmental improvements.

"The Clean Michigan Initiative was undoubt-



edly well-intentioned," wrote Katz. "But relying on bonds to finance the initiative unnecessarily inflated the state's debt load. And program goals, while ambitious, have failed to adequately address Michigan's most pressing environmental problems."

So convincing were Katz's arguments and data that both the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press ran her findings

prominently. In a Free Press point-counterpoint commentary Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Katz cautioned that "money alone does not maximize environmental quality.

see "Environment," p. 4

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## Labor Policy Team Educates Public on Ballot Proposal 3

In 2002, union interests placed on the November ballot a plan for extending mandatory collective bargaining and binding arbitration to Michigan state employees. The plan, designated "Proposal 3," would have enshrined these principles in the state constitution, resulting in a far more expensive, far less efficient — and ultimately far less fair — system for resolving public employee labor disputes.

In the summer, the Mackinac Center's labor policy team determined to education the public on the likely effects of the proposal. And on Sept. 26, Labor Research Associate Paul Kersey produced the Mackinac Center's first "Policy Brief,"

explaining to voters and the media why Proposal 3 was bad public policy.

"Proposal 3 would create a system mired in endless litigation, plagued by unnecessary labor contract delays, and increasingly expensive for taxpayers," Kersey wrote. What's more, it would not improve relations between the state and its 44,000 unionized employees. On the contrary, he explained, it would create confusion and incite protracted battles that can be resolved only in court. "There is even the possibility that state-employee strikes could be legalized as a result of the proposal's loose, indefinite language," he

see "Proposal 3" p. 4

# Your Support: Needed, and Appreciated, Now More than Ever



Lawrence W. Reed  
President

It's unusual that I would use this space in our quarterly newsletter to make an appeal for financial support, but this is a truly unusual moment.

On the one hand, rarely has the need for the Mackinac Center's work been more urgent or the potential opportunities for effecting change been greater. The recent election outcome means that a powerful voice for free enterprise and sound public policy will be more necessary than ever in 2003. Newly-elected legislators are already turning to us for ideas and advice. Those who want to defend private property, advance education reforms, challenge the anti-enterprise agenda of organized labor, and keep taxes and government spending in line will be looking to us for help.

Those of you who support us from beyond Michigan should know that we're filling a void like never before — in the training and mentoring of sister groups in other states and countries, helping others adapt and replicate our publications and programs, and doing whatever we can to strengthen the entire free market movement.

But on the other hand, finances are extremely tight. The economy and the stock market, and the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, have all combined to cut into 2002 contributions. Because we husband our resources well and squir-

reled away some reserves in the good times to help get us through the bad, we've maintained our research and educational programs, we've increased our influence, and we're still completely debt-free. We own our headquarters building outright so none of your donations go for rent. Indeed, we may be the best-managed organization in the idea business, getting more bang for our contributors' bucks than just about anybody. But if we are to meet the challenges of these tough times and take advantage of the opportunities in the new year, we need your urgent attention and support.

Generally speaking, those who oppose our agenda for choice, competition, free enterprise and limited government are in fine shape. They can

work to hike your taxes because they're often on the receiving end of government spending, in good times and bad. Or they rely on compulsory dues to fund their activities. The Mackinac Center neither seeks nor accepts any public funding, and needless to say, we don't extract any compulsory dues from anybody. My hope is that you won't allow those opposing forces to gain further advantage by leaving us out of your giving plans.

Your help can get us through these temporarily difficult times and position the Mackinac Center well for the debates and battles ahead. We've always thought of our supporters as indispensable family members, and we're hoping you'll do what you can now while the need is great. Thank you!!

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# Democratic and Republican Candidates Agree: MichiganVotes.org Is an Indispensable Tool

When Michigan legislative candidates wanted to check the voting records of their opponents or find out the latest on bills before the Michigan Legislature during the November election campaign, many of them discovered the most convenient source: the Mackinac Center's **MichiganVotes.org**. The site's free web database gives concise, plain-language descriptions of every bill, amendment and vote that takes place in the Michigan Legislature, searchable by legislator, bill number, category or keyword.

"The **MichiganVotes.org** description of my opponent's voting record really helps me to explain why voters should choose me," said John O'Brien, a Democrat running for the state Senate. "It helped me analyze my opponent's voting record."

O'Brien's opponent for the 30<sup>th</sup> state Senate district, current House member Rep. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, also praised the site, noting that the large number of votes cast in the House and Senate make it hard for citizens to sort them

all out. "**MichiganVotes.org** does a good job of presenting our record to citizens in an easy-to-use format," he said.

According to **MichiganVotes.org** manager Jack McHugh, the goal of the site is to give citizens concise, searchable, plain-English, and objective descriptions of every bill and legislative vote. "The fact that opposing Democratic and Republican candidates both find it valuable confirms that the site is performing as intended," he said.

Although politicians use **MichiganVotes.org**, the purpose of the web site is to inform citizens, business people, and journalists, as well as public officials, about legislation that affects families, schools, jobs and communities. The site empowers citizens to be more active in the democratic process, and hold elected representatives accountable for the votes they cast.

**MichiganVotes.org** was named by the Detroit Free Press as one of Michigan's 40 "favorite" web sites. **I**

## Moore: Getting Better All the Time

Scholars weary of hearing their university colleagues lament the sorry condition of society were treated to a resounding repudiation of that mindset at the Mackinac Center's 2002 Board of

Scholars Summit, held at Midland's Ashman Court Hotel Nov. 8-9.

In a speech highlighting the theme of his new book, "It's Getting Better All the Time: 100 Greatest Trends of the Past 100 Years," co-authored with his mentor, the late Julian Simon, Club for Growth President and Cato Institute scholar Stephen Moore told attendees that more human progress has occurred in the last 100 years than in all previous centuries combined.

Moore's optimistic theme set the tone for a full day of fast-paced exchanges of ideas in 12 sessions, including:

- Dr. Michael E. Heberling, president of the Baker Center for Graduate Studies in Flint, Mich., speaking

on the problems with wind power as an alternative energy source;

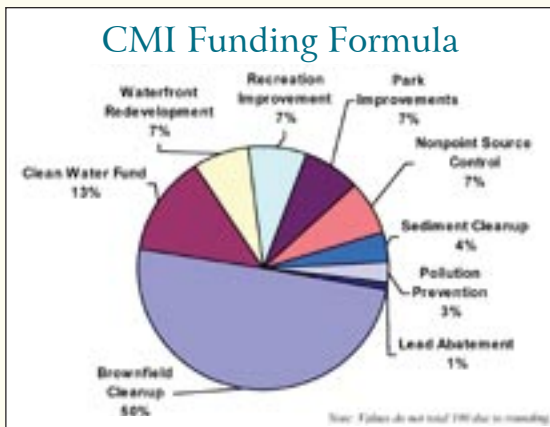
- Oakland County Executive Robert Daddow, speaking on the trials and travails of "Kwame Kilpatrick's Detroit";
- Dr. Gary Wolfram, professor of political economy at Hillsdale College, speaking on "The Steel Tariff as an Application of Public Choice Theory";
- Dr. Kirk Johnson, Mackinac Center director of education policy, speaking on the policy implications of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" Act";
- Dr. Mark Perry, associate professor and chairman of the department of economics at the University of Michigan-Flint, speaking on the remarkable local economic recovery underway in Michigan's Genesee County;
- Dr. John Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Marketing at Wayne State University, speaking on the economics and problems of Michigan's transportation system.

The Board of Scholars is a 39-member body of academics and policy experts who advise, and conduct and review research for, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. **I**



At three other Mackinac Center events before Scholars Summit, Moore presented an analysis of the economy and the 2002 elections. Shown here, Moore speaks at the November Issues and Ideas luncheon for legislators and their staffs.





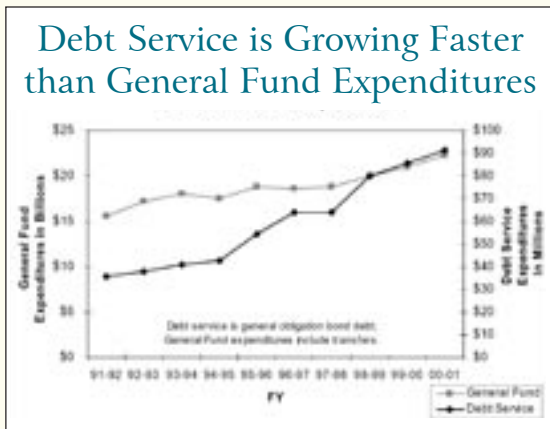
The Mackinac Center report is the first review of how \$675 million is being spent on the most expensive environmental bond program in Michigan's history. The state's auditor general has declined to conduct a performance review, even though legislation creating the program requires one every two years.

To the extent that the state simply lavishes money all around, more will be spent on pet projects, and less will be targeted for the problems that need fixing most."

Even more importantly, the Detroit News ran an editorial following the election based on Katz' findings, and recommended to the Legislature that it "be prepared to halt the sale of the full bond, should its evaluations determine that the measure is failing to bring about the promised sewer upgrades."

To date, neither the state auditor general, or any state agency that administers the CMI spending, have evaluated the success or failure of its various components.

The 32-page report, "The Clean Michigan Initiative: An Assessment," is available at [www.mackinac.org/4765.I](http://www.mackinac.org/4765.I)



Michigan's 2003 state budget faces a billion dollars in red ink. Borrowing for environmental programs may not be a wise way to obtain the funds.

Proposal 3 from page 1

warned.

Following release of the Kersey brief, media accounts throughout the state used its arguments in recommending against passage. Even more telling, in his counterpoint to a Kersey Detroit News commentary Oct. 30, John Denniston, president of the Michigan State Employee Association, made it clear he had read the Kersey document. He not only addressed its arguments one by one — he listed the Mackinac Center first among "opponents" of the measure. Although the Center's role in such debates is educational and not political, it was clear that Kersey's brief



was having impact that could not be ignored.

On Election Day, Nov. 5, Proposal 3 lost by an eight-point margin.

# Jacoby: Mackinac Center May Be “Best Regional Think Tank”

## *Nationally Syndicated Columnist Says MEA Trying to Stifle Mackinac Center*

• Nationally syndicated Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby asked “Can a think tank be punished for accurately quoting something someone said at a press conference?” Devoting his entire Oct. 10 column to the Michigan Education Association’s frivolous lawsuit against the Mackinac Center, Jacoby wrote “the Mackinac Center may just be the best regional think tank in America,” and surmised that the union’s motive for suing is “to stifle its [the Mackinac Center’s] voice” and “force the Mackinac Center to spend” money on legal defense.

The union sued after the Mackinac Center accurately quoted MEA President Luigi Battaglieri, who told reporters at his own news conference that he frankly “admired” what the Mackinac Center has done. Thankfully, the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Justice is providing free legal defense against the union’s attack, and Mackinac Center supporters have made it possible for us to increase our research devoted to education reform ideas such as school choice, teacher rights, and privatization.

The Detroit Free Press published Jacoby’s column under the headline “Testing the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment: MEA doesn’t have a case.” The Mackinac Center’s defense of its free speech rights has been widely covered in nearly every Michigan

daily paper, and across the nation by the Associated Press, and the Washington Post.

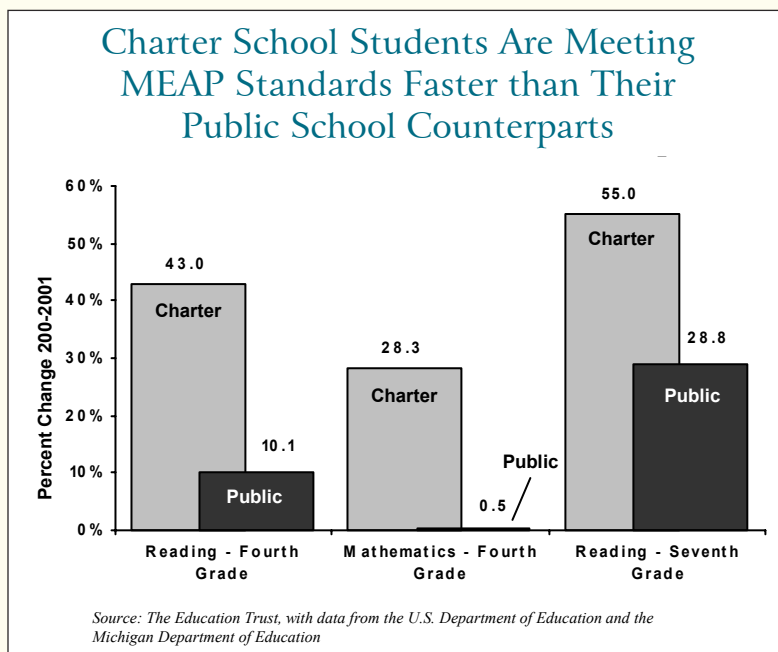
• The Wall Street Journal’s OpinionJournal.com published an essay by columnist Thomas J. Bray that cited Mackinac Center data on the extent of government landholdings. Bray warned against socializing too much of America’s natural resources.

• Mackinac Center scholarship was a dominant force in the public debate over four November statewide ballot questions. Analyses of the issues involved in the ballot questions, authored by Labor Research Associate Paul Kersey and Director of Science, Environment, and Technology Diane Katz (see stories on p. 1) were cited in numerous news reports and commentaries in The Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, the Associated Press, and many other newspapers. Kersey, Katz, and Policy Analyst Jack McHugh explained to radio audiences around the state the likely effects of proposals on (1) straight-ticket voting, (2) environmental bond issues, (3) mandatory collective bargaining and binding arbitration for state employees, and (4) the use of state tobacco settlement funds. A new web feature called Hot Topics, on the Mackinac Center’s main web site and [MichiganVotes.org](http://MichiganVotes.org), provided balanced information to thousands of citizens on these election issues.

• A feature on charter school performance in the Mackinac Center’s quarterly *Michigan Education Report* sparked a Detroit News editorial and news stories in the Detroit Free Press and Associated Press papers. Director of Education Policy Dr. Kirk Johnson found that while students in charter schools test lower, on average, than their peers in traditional public schools, their test scores are improving more rapidly.

• The Detroit News also published a commentary in which Dr. Johnson summarized his report (coauthored with Education Research Associate Elizabeth Moser) that identified six ways school districts can save money to avoid laying off teachers.

• A Labor Day editorial in the Detroit News cited a Mackinac Center/EPIC/MRA poll of unionized workers and concluded that policy-makers should consider giving union members more information about their dues, and more say in how those dues are spent. Both recommendations have long been supported by *see “Media Impact” p. 10*



At three other Mackinac Center events before Scholars Summit, Moore presented an analysis of the economy and the 2002 elections. Shown here, Moore speaks at the November Issues and Ideas luncheon for legislators and their staffs.

# Workshops Equip Students and Teachers to Debate Government's Role in Health Services

For the fifteenth consecutive year, hundreds of Michigan students and teachers learned about market-oriented ideas and how to use them to win debate competitions at the Mackinac Center's Annual High School Debate Workshops.

Nationally recognized experts provided over 400 students and coaches from public, charter, and private schools around the state with information on the 2002 high school debate topic, "Resolved: That the United States federal government should substantially increase public health services for mental health care in the United States."

Health care, economics, and public policy experts taught the students principled approaches to evaluating the role of government in answering questions like these: Should the United States substantially increase public health services for mental health care? Is a mental illness the same as a physical illness? Should drug treatment be required in place of prison sentences for criminal drug offenders?

Students grappled with issues including drug and alcohol addiction, Ritalin use, insanity, domestic violence, mental health patient privacy rights, and whether government should play a role in health-care policy.

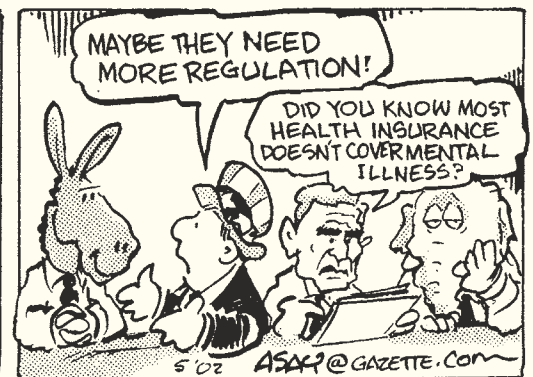
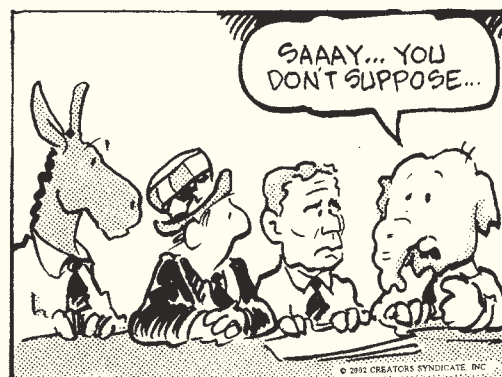
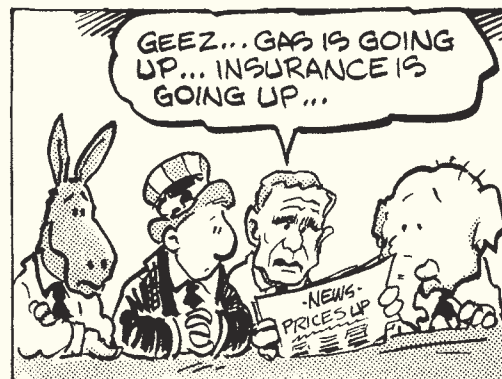
The full-day workshops were conducted in September and October in Grand Rapids, Jackson, Livonia, and Midland.

Debate Workshop faculty included Dr. Richard Edwards, member of the national topic selection committee; Gregory Rehmkne, director of the New York-based Foundation for Economic Education's High School Speech and Debate Program; Gary Leff, a former California state championship debate coach, and Jeffery Schaler, a psychologist and adjunct professor of justice, law, and society at American University's School of Public Affairs. This year's workshop coordinator was Elizabeth Moser, education research associate.

The annual debate topic, which is debated by over 100,000 students across the country, is selected each January by debate

officials representing the National Federation Interscholastic Speech & Debate Association.

Mackinac Center High School Debate Workshops have equipped nearly 7,500 debaters with a competitive advantage and, at times, the students' first balanced exposure to free-market ideas. The Mackinac Center also offers free debate assistance to students and coaches through Ask the Debate Coach, an online interactive service.





Dear contributors,  
Thank you for funding this great program. I am a first year teacher and I learned so much. It was easy enough so I wasn't lost but challenging enough to make the students with more experience think. This conference was also very good for debate ideas and sources to find nice information about our topics. The speakers gave us lots of useful handouts and online websites to continue our interest. Your funding is helping the next generation of debaters and policy leaders motivated and inspired to achieve and keep achieving all their lives. Thank you again for your financial help.  
Sincerely,  
Kimberly Kay Goodson  
Hudson High School

Dear Contributor,  
This short letter does not begin to express my personal appreciation of your financial support. Thank you for enlightening my perspective and knowledge towards debating. This conference not only prepared me for our upcoming debate season, but interests me in the ways and methods to defend my personal beliefs.  
Sincerely,  
Nicole Madison

This opportunity was exceptional. For us we were given a local and inexpensive method of learning about some core issues for this year's topic. I am very excited that it could bring some of my students here, but I am even more excited to take the information I've learned and gathered to the other debaters. This experience will make us a more knowledgeable and more successful team. Thank you very much!  
Nicole Lallo  
Debate Coach  
Forest Hills North  
Hudson High School

Dear Contributor,  
Thank you for this opportunity to listen to three knowledgeable speakers. I believe this was an invaluable experience and will assist my students with their debate cases.  
Thanks again!  
Cecy Johnson  
Hudson High School

Cecy Johnson  
Hudson High School

Dear Contributor,  
You may think, how does my contribute help. I am a teacher, and a 12 team debate coach. High School is, well, you can imagine to place someone who students don't learn, wasn't challenged. Today. Thanks to you, I witnessed 50 7-12 graders from different MI-counties learning debate, challenging their thoughts, making them think beyond their own opinion. Watching students, and again thanks to you, future leaders, grow. Thank you.  
Jesse Tucker  
Goodrich HS

Dear Contributor,  
I have really enjoyed today. It was a fun and informative way to learn about debating and the research topic we are researching in class. Today I have learned so many useful things I can use this at school, for 3 more 3 years of OHS, and in my future with politics, debating, and law school. Once again I really appreciate having me here today to learn about all the debate rules, policies, and ways to win a debate for both sides.  
Sincerely,  
Evan Perlebas  
Dearborn High School

WORKSHEET

Mackinac Center for Public Policy

DEBATE

## New Secretary of State and Her Family Are Faithful Mackinac Center Supporters

The Mackinac Center has enjoyed good working relationships with government officials throughout our history, but it's a special pleasure this year to congratulate one of our long-time friends on her election to statewide office.

Terri Lynn Land will become Michigan's new Secretary of State on January 1, 2003. She and her husband of 19 years, Daniel Hibma, are faithful financial supporters of the Mackinac Center. In November she prevailed over Democrat Butch Hollowell by a 12-point margin, having promised to increase efficiency and customer service at Secretary of State offices, and to modernize the state's voting system.

As advocates of greater government efficiency and reform, Terri Land and Dan Hibma were persuaded to join the Mackinac Center years ago. Land, a two-term Kent County Clerk, campaigned for State Board of Education in 2000 on a platform that included increasing the number of charter schools, vouchers, accountability through testing teachers and students, and maintaining Proposal A's property tax limitations – all of which are policies supported by Mackinac Center research.

Hibma is an influential Grand Rapids-area homebuilder who has taken a lead role in advo-



Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land

ating private-sector alternatives to a Kent County land use plan that would inflate local housing costs and give special tax subsidies to select landowners.

Land said, "Election reform, and increased government efficiency are paramount for Michigan's

future. Dan and I personally support the Mackinac Center because it is a critical contributor of ideas for reform and efficiency in Michigan. As Michigan's new Secretary of State, I know I will continue to find Mackinac Center research, and services like MichiganVotes.org, to be invaluable."

Mackinac Center for Public Policy President Lawrence Reed said, "We wish Terri success in implementing sound policy as Michigan's new Secretary of State, and we are grateful for her family's personal support."I

## "200 Pounds of Rock-Solid Muscle, Sir!"

As former Marine officer, I witnessed something on the "drill field" — the place where recruits are trained — that I have never forgotten. Early in one training cycle I saw a recruit whom I now call the "small Private." At about 5'3" and 120 pounds, he looked too small to have gotten past the recruiters — much less succeed in boot camp. As I mentally "cursed" the recruiters for sending a kid who would surely fail, a drill instructor summoned the recruit and bellowed, "Private, you look too small to be here, how tall are you and how much do you weigh?"

Unfazed, and as if born to it, the recruit stood firmly at attention and boldly stated, "Sir, this Private is 6'2" and 200 pounds of rock-solid muscle!" It was truly an inspiring, humorous and memorable moment. This kid wasn't worried about doubters or obstacles because he believed in what he was doing and knew that, irrespective of the challenge, he would succeed. Needless to say, he excelled and graduated from recruit training with a meritorious promotion and was named platoon honor man.

In the struggle for liberty and free enterprise the Mackinac Center for Public Policy confronts

some powerful foes. Our staff of policy professionals may be small in number compared to the hordes who would expand the state at your expense, but our impact on policy has been significant and enduring beyond proportion to our size.

Much like the "small Private," those who don't look closely may not see the proverbial "stuff" of which this place is made. In the end, the power of ideas matters far more than the influence of the adversaries — and people respond powerfully to the ideas the Center advances. They are drawn to the ideal of a civil society where people are truly free to create wealth and solve problems, rather than a political society where the government gives and takes according to power or popularity.

As we begin our 15<sup>th</sup> year and consider our blessings, we are thankful for the many people who support our work. If you have not supported the Mackinac Center recently please send a year-end gift. As Lawrence Reed tells you in his column, some tremendous opportunities lie before us, but we need your help to capture them.

Happy new year.I



John Coonradt,  
Director of Advancement



# Unemployment and Unionism

by Alberto Benegas Lynch, Jr.

*This essay, originally published in October 1960 by the Foundation for Economic Education, is excerpted from a speech given by Benegas Lynch, Jr. before the National Academy of Economics in Montevideo, Uruguay. Although state communism has receded, the timeless economic and political principles to which Benegas appealed are applicable today.*

The main criticism leveled against economic freedom is the statement that, if things in the economic field are left to the spontaneous regulation of the free market, then so-called cyclical crises will ensue, with their sequel of mass unemployment.

This is an unjust and baseless accusation. Sound theory demonstrates, and practice confirms, that in every case unemployment is a consequence of the direct or indirect action of the State.

Economic liberty presupposes a free market for wages, just as for all other products and services. The price or wage paid for work is generally subject to controls altering its natural level, either by the direct action of a State which sets wages arbitrarily without regard to the market, or by indirect governmental action through unrepressed trade union violence.

To ask a higher price for one's product than the prospective buyer is willing to pay precludes a sale and contributes to a cumulation of unsold products. The same thing happens when, instead of a product, a service is offered. If the wage demanded by a worker is higher than the person requiring this service is willing to pay, then the wage contract is not made and the worker is unemployed.

Every time wages are raised above the natural level freely established by supply and demand, unemployment will be the unavoidable result. One alternative is to lower real wages and at the same time raise nominal wages by means of monetary inflation, a trick very widely used in the last few years. Nominal wages are raised, and at the same time money in circulation and bank credit are expanded, whereby real wages are kept at the same level, thus avoiding the unemployment which would otherwise have taken place. That is to say, the raising of wages above their natural level inevitably brings about either unemployment or inflation.

Man is not an object of trade, but his services are — like any product — when he offers them in the market and expects payment for them. The difference in the case of services is that it is becoming increasingly common in many places for workers, acting in organized groups, to use force to get the price they want for their services. In its tendency toward mass action and indifference to the interest and choice of the individual, trade unionism gives its leaders tyrannical authority over members and

nonmembers alike.

Modern trade unionism, by the use of force, not only distorts the wage market, causing unemployment or inflation, but also interferes with the liberty to work, to trade, and to associate. Such action frequently makes it impossible to enter a wage contract voluntarily; the right to abstain from working becomes the obligation to take part in strikes against one's will; and the right to associate becomes the obligation to join this or that union. Coercive force, instead of being reserved exclusively to the government for the protection of the life, liberty, and property of the citizens, is employed by these organized groups to attack many of those same fundamental individual rights.

## Undemocratic Behavior

It is paradoxical, however, that many of those who call themselves supporters of democracy and liberty should claim that the sort of compulsory unionism we have described is a legitimate manifestation of democratic life. This kind of unionism neither follows democratic practices nor contributes to liberty. On the contrary, trade unionism that attacks fundamental individual rights is an efficient weapon with which to kill liberty. Such unionism generally serves governments of a totalitarian tendency, and in conjunction with employers' associations appointed by the State, works toward a corporative structure of society.

Free elections and democratic governments are no defense against such developments. In many cases these governments, on the one hand, interfere where they have no business, exceeding their powers; and on the other, they neglect their basic duty of enforcing respect for the life, liberty, and property of the citizens.

Against the rising authoritarianism of our times, which is at flood tide where the communist empire holds sway and every trace of liberty has completely disappeared, it must be realized that democracy, of itself, is no guarantee of liberty for the countries of the West which practice it. In the areas of the world where there is yet a remnant of liberty, it is in danger of destruction through the popular vote-as in other ages-if effective brakes are not placed on political power.

Excessive government is the usurpation of power by those in control and the abdication of liberty by those who consent. The tendency toward excessive growth of government is accelerated in the West by the common but false belief that liberty cannot be lost under democracy.

The task before us is to displace this false hope with the idea of the inviolability of natural rights — to life, liberty, and property — the only guarantee for human liberty against the constant threat of enslavement by authoritarian governments. **I**



### **Banning the Straight-Party Vote Option**

October 2002 V2002-36

The reason 33 states have abolished the practice of straight-party voting is because it encourages citizens to vote less responsibly. The Michigan Legislature deserves credit for trying to abolish the practice.

### **If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It**

October 2002 V2002-37

Proposal 3, a plan to extend binding arbitration to state employees, would displace an established, working civil service system with a confusing, litigious and expensive one.

(Proposal 3 was rejected by the voters Nov. 5.)

### **Making Health Care Healthy Again**

October 2002 V2002-38

The IRS and the state of Vermont are using incentive-based innovations in health-care financing Michigan could use to make consumer choices more of a driving force in health care.

### **Michigan Not a Big Supporter of National Certification Program**

November 2002 V2002-39

Michigan is wise not to be a big supporter of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

### **Where There's Smoke, Is There Asthma?**

November 2002 V2002-40

Recent Michigan news stories misinterpret environmental data, or leave out important facts, resulting in misinformation that could result in bad public policy.

### **An Inspiration for All Time**

November 2002 V2002-41

In the late 1700s, British statesman William Wilberforce launched a one-man crusade to abolish the slave trade and slavery in the British Empire. His persistence and ultimate success against seemingly insurmountable odds, offers an inspiration for all time.

### **Friend of the Court Not Very Friendly**

December 2002 V2002-42

Michigan's Friend of the Court makes it nearly impossible for custodial parents to turn to a private attorney or collection agency to collect delinquent child support. The Legislature should make it easier for parents to seek private alternatives.

### **The Forgotten Robber Barons**

December 2002 V2002-43

At the start of the 20th century, New York was run by scoundrels and charlatans like George Washington Plunkitt. His vehicle was the notorious Tammany Hall, a vast political machine that held power through a patronage-fed bureaucracy.

### **Time to Stop Beating Up on Charter Schools**

December 2002 V2002-44

Michigan's 186 charter schools are doing better than their press would indicate. Their achievement test scores are actually rising faster than those of their traditional public school counterparts.

## *Media Impact from page 5*

Mackinac Center research.

- In a front-page feature for The Saginaw News, Executive Vice President Joseph Lehman explained that Michigan's term limits law has vastly increased voters' choices of candidates in the state's legislative primaries. Most incumbent legislators prefer a law that would permit their reelection to the same office an unlimited number of times.
- The Traverse City Record Eagle editorial page agreed with the Mackinac Center that a \$300 million "rent-to-own" deal for a new state police building is excessive, and cited facts published in a Mackinac Center news release.
- The Detroit Free Press published a *Viewpoint*

commentary in which Director of Fiscal Policy Michael LaFaive recommended that the state of Michigan not stand in the way of single parents who want to use private collection agencies to collect overdue child support.

- A series of articles on Gov. Engler's legacy published by the Mt. Pleasant Morning Sun each quoted Mackinac Center President Lawrence Reed. Many stories credited the Mackinac Center with helping to shape Engler's policies on issues ranging from welfare reform to school choice. [I](#)

JOURNALS

**Michigan Education Report**



MER2002-03 \$3.00

Features include financial scandals in Michigan school districts, an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruling forcing the NEA to allow religious objectors to opt out of paying union dues, an overview of Gov. John Engler's educational legacy, and more. 12 pages.

**Michigan Privatization Report**



MPR2002-04 \$3.00

Features include how economic incentives can make trash disposal less environmentally harmful, the state of Michigan's misguided foray into the ski resort business, why state-owned fish hatcheries should be privatized, news from Africa about a popular song praising the benefits of privatization, and more. 16 pages.

STUDIES & REPORTS

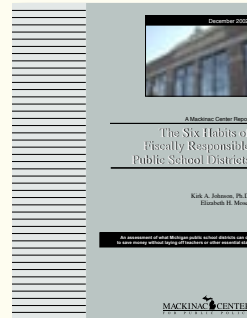
**Proposal 3: Establishing a Constitutional Amendment Requirement Extending Mandatory Collective Bargaining and Binding Arbitration to State Government Employees**



S2002-04 \$5.00

Labor Policy Research Associate Paul S. Kersey, J.D., in this first-ever Mackinac Center Policy Brief, concludes that establishing mandatory collective bargaining and binding arbitration for state employees would be harmful public policy. 8 pages.

**The Six Habits of Fiscally Responsible Public School Districts**



S2002-06 \$10.00

Director of Education Policy Kirk A. Johnson, Ph.D., and Education Research Associate Elizabeth Moser took a hard look at the fiscal problems of Michigan school districts, and came up with six tools school districts can use to avoid teacher layoffs and put more money into the classroom.

**The Clean Michigan Initiative: An Assessment**



S2002-05 \$10.00

Director of Science, Environment and Technology Policy Diane Katz presents an in-depth analysis of how \$675 million, borrowed by the state of Michigan for the 1998 Clean Michigan Initiative has been spent.

**Department of Agriculture Is Ripe for Budget Savings**

S2002-07 \$5.00

In the coming months, the Mackinac Center will recommend to Gov. Granholm steep budget cuts to deal with a possible \$1.8 billion deficit in fiscal year 2003-2004. Our first recommendations involve downsizing and eliminating programs in the Department of Agriculture, which are outlined in this policy brief.

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# Reed Has Message For Largest-Ever State Think Tank Conference: Optimism

When it comes to optimism, few could outdo Mackinac Center President Lawrence Reed, who once thought to himself, as his car careened out of control on an icy Michigan road, “I’m going to get a new car out of this!” He did.

Who better to deliver the capstone address on the topic of optimism before the largest-ever annual gathering for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Policy Network (SPN) Oct. 17-19 in Indianapolis, Ind.? At a time when an economic slump has made fundraising more difficult for free-market think tanks (as it has for every other fundraising venture), Reed reminded the record crowd of 175 think tank executives of the stunning (and continuing) achievements of our movement, and offered William Wilberforce — the British Parliamentarian who almost single-handedly abolished slavery throughout the Empire — and Ronald Reagan as examples of the right attitude in times of adversity.

“Today, around the world,” Reed said, “statists can no longer tout their big-government prescriptions, prosperity-crushing taxes, and class-warfare dogma as the ticket to utopia. ... Today, ideas that were hardly discussed just 20 years ago—like school choice, charter schools, and privatization—are widely-accepted public policies.” Reed

reminded attendees that the free-market movement is the origin of virtually all the new ideas percolating through America’s policy machinery today, and that one reason the forces of statism are “nastier and more shrill than ever before” is because they know what our future holds: “big changes and big victories across a broad front of issues.”

Reed’s address was preliminary to the 2002 Roe Awards, named after SPN founder, the late Thomas Roe, which were bestowed upon Dr. Jo Kwong of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and Gary Palmer of the Alabama Policy Foundation. **I**



Reed recalled the success of the last two decades. “A scant 20 years ago, none of us at the state [think tank] level even existed, and the policy debates in our respective states were largely uninformed by sound, market-oriented ideas,” he said.

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