

THE NATIONAL CENTER



FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Summer/Fall 2012

Message from David and Amy Ridenour

It's never a good idea to place all your eggs into a single basket.

But that's precisely what many other free-market think-tanks did on ObamaCare.

They dropped their fight to overturn ObamaCare because they believed the Supreme Court would do the heavy lifting.

Now many are scrambling to figure out what to do next.

But we aren't.

We always knew that there was a strong chance ObamaCare would survive a court challenge – even though we know it is unconstitutional.

That's why we've been laying the groundwork for a successful legislative battle for the past two years.

Two major pharmaceutical firms have renounced their support for ObamaCare due to our shareholder activism against the companies.

And a government investigator general report prompted by our work found that a multi-billion dollar fund buried deep in ObamaCare might be illegally funding lobbying activities, further discrediting the legislation.

These National Center successes and others make it more likely we'll repeal ObamaCare.



Greenbacks flee money-hungry bureaucrat in one of our many creative "Occupy Occupy DC" street theatre rallies. Pictured from left to right are: David Almasi (as the bureaucrat), Justin Danhof, Chris Ridenour, Devon Carlin, Kate Ridenour and David Ridenour. The idea for the rally was conceived by Chris and Kate Ridenour.

Although the final battle may not be fought until next year or even later, its outcome is being determined right now.

We're winning other important battles, too.

Our black leadership program Project 21's defense of voter identification laws has proven so effective that the left has become unhinged, launching vicious personal attacks on our spokesmen.

Al Sharpton accused board member Horace Cooper of being corrupt while Rachel Maddow called us "sleaze balls," "rats" and "cretins" before conceding that "liberals can't match" us "in terms of sheer, hard-nosed... survival instincts, hard ball politics stuff."

The pages that follow detail more examples of how your investments are making a real difference for liberty now and angering the left.

With your continued support, we'll give the left a lot more reasons to be angry in coming months.

Sincerely,

David and Amy Ridenour



National Center Takes DC Back from Occupy Wall Street

“As I approached Freedom Plaza I saw police wagons, squad cars, and all the fearful signs,” wrote an irate Occupy Wall Street blogger. “The Park Police are not calling it an eviction, but that is what it is.”

Park Police cleared Freedom Plaza of its Occupy Wall Street encampment on February 5 to make way for five weeks of rallies by your National Center that would come to be known as “Occupy Occupy Wall Street.”



David Almasi joins left-wing “Occupy the Justice Department” rally to raise his own concern: Ballot integrity. Pictured in the foreground, ironically, is King Samir Shabazz, the New Black Panther Party leader best known for intimidating Philadelphia voters with a baseball bat in 2008.

Although the leftists eventually were permitted to continue protesting in the plaza, they were restricted to half their previous space and barred from camping overnight, delivering such a blow to the group that only a token few chose to persevere.

Taking half the park back from leftists and crushing the

Occupiers’ spirits might ordinarily be considered a good day’s work all by itself.

But we accomplished much more than that. We used our half of the park to sponsor very creative street theatre that not only advanced our free-market cause, but also stole Occupy Wall Street’s thunder.

One day, for example, we fielded a HazMat team to demonstrate the 12-step, EPA-approved process for properly cleaning up broken compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to protest the *de facto* ban on incandescent light bulbs passed by Congress at the behest of radical greens and crony capitalists such as GE.

Another day, we erected a giant, mock wind turbine with plush “angry birds” at its base to represent the estimated 100,000 birds killed each year by the heavily-subsidized alternative energy industry.

On yet another day, we held a “lunch-in” featuring turkey and cheese sandwiches, chips, bananas and apple juice to protest government-imposed nutritional requirements that forced a four-year-old girl in North Carolina to throw away the very same menu in favor of chicken nuggets offered by her school’s federally-regulated lunch program.



Project 21 spokesman Charles Butler discusses liberal media bias on Fox & Friends.

The events organized by the National Center earned an enormous amount of favorable media coverage. There were nearly 200 interviews and citations in all, including coverage by Fox’s Willis Report, the New York Post, the Associated Press, the Washington Post, CNN, WMAL Radio, and the influential Drudge Report, to name only a few.

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501 Capitol Court, NE Suite 200
Washington, DC 20002

Tel. (202)543-4110 • Fax (202)543-5975
www.nationalcenter.org • info@nationalcenter.org

Inquiries about how to support our work:
dridenour@nationalcenter.org

The National Center's creative response to the Left's "Occupy Wall Street" protests exemplifies our philosophy of "fighting fire with fire."

We never let the left win by simply monopolizing the media. This spring, we proved it.



Liberals Fear New Voter ID Task Force

Our Voter Identification Task Force was launched in April, and the ink was barely dry on our announcement when Rachel Maddow, the liberal MSNBC host, attacked the initiative on her show.



Risk Analysis Division Director Jeff Stier discusses New York Mayor Bloomberg's ban on private food donations on CNBC's The Kudlow Report.

She didn't challenge us on facts, but engaged in a lengthy *ad hominem* attack in which she called your National Center a "corporate front group" and questioned our ethics. A few months later, Maddow again criticized us for the initiative and sank even lower by calling us, on the air, "creeps," "rats" and even "sleazeballs."

When Project 21 Co-Chairman and Task Force Director Horace Cooper produced a policy paper showing why minorities would gain the most from voter ID laws, more on-air personal attacks came, this time from MSNBC host Al Sharpton.



David Almasi discusses New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to regulate the size of sugary drinks with Voice of America.

We aren't the first to come under the left's assault. Earlier this year, the left trained its sights on the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and successfully pressured several large corporations to withdraw support from the organization.

Faced with an unrelenting assault and a withdrawal of funding by timid corporations, ALEC decided to throw in the towel on voter integrity issues.

The left isn't making such angry, personal attacks because they're winning the debate. They're doing so because they're losing it to us.

We aren't the first to come under the left's assault. Earlier this year,



Development officer Steven Thomas discusses the ObamaCare ruling outside the Supreme Court with the Christian Broadcasting Network moments after the decision was handed down, while our Erick Ford reminds people of Obama's broken promise.

That's when your National Center stepped into the breach with a program of research and action to fill the void left by ALEC's departure.

Among the liberal groups most active in attacking voter ID laws is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It's representatives even journeyed to Geneva, Switzerland to petition the United Nations Human Rights Council to intervene against voter integrity laws.



Project 21 Co-Chairman Horace Cooper discusses U.S. race relations on Al-Jazeera's Inside Story.

In response, the National Center sent its own Project 21 delegation consisting of Horace Cooper, Episcopal Missionary Church Archbishop Council Nedd, II, and nationally-syndicated columnist Deroy Murdock. They met with UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic in New York and urged him to disregard the NAACP's request. Simonovic assured the delegation that the UN had no plans to take up the matter.

That's another victory for voter integrity.

There will be many more such victories, thanks to your generous support.

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RAD Exposés Put Left on Defensive

The nanny-state liberals will stop at nothing to advance their agenda, including letting people go hungry.



Al Sharpton criticizes Horace Cooper's paper detailing how voter identification laws help minorities on his MSNBC show.

New York City recently started blocking donations of food to city-run homeless shelters because – and we aren't making this up – it can't properly assess the nutritional content of such food.



Senior Fellow Bonner Cohen explains how technological advancement puts energy independence within our reach at the 30th annual meeting of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness.

The city is trying to reduce New Yorkers' intake of "unhealthy" foods, a designation that is subject to a great deal of political manipulation and bad science.



General Counsel Justin Danhof, Chairman Amy Ridenour and Executive Director David Almasi demonstrate the 12-step process for disposing of broken compact fluorescent bulbs at one of our "Occupy Occupy DC" rallies.

Our Risk Analysis Division (RAD) Director Jeff Stier blew the lid off this largely unknown regulation with an article in the New York Post. It ignited a firestorm of negative publicity for the policy, including from

CNN, the Chicago Tribune, Fox News, WCBS television, and syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, among many others.

These stories helped reinforce RAD's message that government meddling into our lives has gone too far and placed our freedom and even our wellbeing at risk.

This isn't the only blockbuster success RAD has had in recent months.

In June, Health and Human Services Inspector General Daniel Levinson ordered an investigation of the Center for Disease Control's program Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW), citing concerns that its grants may have been used for "inappropriate lobbying activities."

The investigation was prompted by a series of exposés of the program written by RAD's Jeff Stier.

Here's how it all came about: In April 2011, Jeff wrote an article for the Hill, a highly-regarded publication read widely by Members of Congress and their staffs, that exposed a provision buried deep within ObamaCare that provided \$500 million per year to the CPPW through 2014 and \$2 billion in perpetuity beginning in 2015.

Jeff explained that the program was being used as a slush fund for the Obama Administration to lobby for big government policies that it wants on the local level.

The program had, for example, been used to press local governments to restrict access to "unhealthy foods" and to "restrict advertising for unhealthy foods." This violated not only federal law prohibiting federal funds from being used for lobbying, but also violated constitutionally-protected free speech.

Jeff subsequently wrote and co-wrote articles about the program for the Los Angeles Times, Roll Call (another publication widely read on Capitol Hill), the Daily Caller, the Hoover Institution Journal, and National Review Online.



Steven Crowder defends the institution of marriage on Fox & Friends.

Then, in May of this year, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) wrote to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius demanding that she explain these lobbying activities.

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Bloomberg Wrong Again: Immigration Reform No Magic Bullet for Economic Growth

By AMY RIDENOUR, CHAIRMAN

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg claims the single biggest step America can take to promote innovation and economic growth is to fix our immigration system.



Amy Ridenour

This is a mayor who bans private donations to food banks and regulates the size of beverage cups, so he's not always aligned with mainstream thinking.

The thrust of the mayor's argument and of many who agree with him is that immigrants have a proud history of starting new businesses. Why, look at Andrew Carnegie's career, they say. He started out as a poor Scottish immigrant but he created U.S. Steel.

Sure, look at Andrew Carnegie's story, but while you're at it, notice what's missing: capital gains taxes, the EPA, the Endangered Species Act and a list of other safety and environmental rules and regulations longer than Paul Bunyan's arm.

America has changed. We now have far greater barriers to economic growth and much more of an information economy.

A hundred years ago, a high proportion of our workforce was employed in low-skilled manual labor, and a quarter of adults had less than five years of education. An immigrant with scant education was not at a severe disadvantage.

Today, native-born Americans are far more likely to be educated, and workers in our country are more likely to need their education to get a good job, yet a high percentage of our immigrants lack basic education.

Our immigration system is broken, but it should be fixed because it's broken, not because it offers a magic bullet to jumpstart economic growth and innovation.

There are better ways to accomplish that, among them:

- Reduce the cost of a key input nearly all businesses have – energy – by making responsible cheap energy a primary policy goal: Permit drilling on federal lands and offshore, build the Keystone pipeline, open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, stop intentionally bankrupting coal plants and approve more nuclear reactors. President Obama's philosophy of intentionally raising the cost of energy is an economic growth killer stronger than any immigration reform plan.

- Eliminate tax incentives and regulations that tie health insurance to employment, so projected increases in health care costs or the threat of new health care mandates on employers do not retard job growth.

- Adopt an incentive-based endangered species protection system that halts opportunity for environmental organizations to stop building projects through incessant lawsuits (and does a

better job protecting species, besides).

- Adopt a widespread school voucher program to help awaken the economic and entrepreneurship potential of kids in failing public schools. Immigration policies designed to lure the best and the brightest from overseas can enhance America's competitive advantage but they do nothing to unlock the potential of bright American kids who have no academic role models and are stuck in poor schools.

- Raise the Social Security retirement age, as Social Security is insolvent and dealing with the problem will send a strong positive signal to the markets, helping economic growth. Besides, good ideas come from workers who have been around the block a few times.

- Cut the size of government, leaving more capital to the private sector, the true engine of innovation.

- Cut the number of regulations, as they impede business start-ups, slow or reverse economic growth and intimidate would-be entrepreneurs.

- Stop crony capitalist practices that steer the greatest financial rewards to companies with the best lobbyists instead of allowing the marketplace to reward those firms providing the most innovative, highest-quality products and services.

If America is serious about economic growth, it needs to get government out of the way.

(A version of this article appeared in at least 35 newspapers, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Sacramento Bee, Kansas City Star, and the Portland Oregonian.)



Donor Profile: Ray Oden, Jr. *“Just Doing His Duty”*



Ray Oden, Jr. in high school

Ray P. Oden, Jr., a longtime supporter of the National Center, has always been guided by a strong sense of duty.

When America was attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941, Ray wasn't quite 18 years old, but he had no doubt what he had to do: Join the navy to fight for freedom.

Ray explained: “I was just doing my duty.”

Ray served as a naval officer on the USS YMS-170, a minesweeper, from 1944 to 1946, first in the Caribbean and, later, in the Pacific. In the Philippines, his ship cleared mines in the Lamon Bay off the southeast coast of Luzon.

After serving his country, Ray returned home to pick up where he had left off. He attended Louisiana State University and worked hard to build his own American dream.

Ray wanted to be a farmer, and that's what he did, at least for a while. He married his sweetheart, Dorothy, in 1950, and together they had three children, Dorothy Lynn, Karen, and Stewart Lee.

By the time the Korean War broke out, Ray had a family that depended on him and a crop in the field. He knew his duty this time was to stay at home.

In 1960, Ray's father opened the Louisiana Bank and Trust and asked Ray to help him with the business. Although he wanted to continue working on the farm, Ray thought he had a duty to his father, so he left his fields for a desk and that's where he spent most of his career. Ray eventually became the bank's chairman.

Even as he was building his career, Ray was growing concerned about the direction of America. That prompted him to get involved in local community, state, and national

affairs and to financially support causes and candidates he believed in.

Because of his success, he has been able to generously support the principles that made America great. He donates regularly not only to The National Center for Public Policy Research, but also to other groups promoting freedom, including the Conservative Caucus, the Media Research Center, the Fund for American Studies, and countless others.

He donates a great deal to candidates, too: In 2008, he was ranked the 10th most generous “hard money” political giver in the nation.

Ray also does what he can to help the Shreveport, Louisiana community. He serves as the chairman of the Willis-Knighton Medical Center and served as chairman of the Virginia Hall Nursing Home.



Ray Oden served on the YMS-170, later re-named the AMS-3.

Ray made his first donation to The National Center for Public Policy Research in 1999, just a few months after the U.S. Senate voted to acquit President Clinton in his impeachment trial.

Emboldened by his victory, Clinton went on the offensive, imposing his big-government agenda through executive order and agency regulation. In the final three months of his presidency alone, Clinton added over 26,000 pages of regulation to the federal register.

Asked what prompted his first gift to The National Center, Ray said that he saw the country heading in the wrong direction and America once again needed him to do his duty.

That same spirit guides everything we do at The National Center. We fight for American liberty every day through such programs as our Free Enterprise Project, our Risk Analysis Division, and our black leadership network, Project 21 – all of which Ray has supported over the years.

Doing our duty has only been possible because dedicated, patriotic Americans such as Ray Oden did theirs...

...and for this, we will always be grateful.

Advance Liberty for Future Generations... With a Planned Gift Today

You want the cause of liberty to prosper. That's why you support the National Center for Public Policy Research.

We're very proud that we've earned your support, and we work hard every day to ensure you'll always consider us worthy of your support by sponsoring programs that are effective and efficient.

Because our programs gain back in results many times what they cost, just a small increase in funding can make a huge difference for American liberty.



Planned gifts are a great way to ensure we have the funds we need to ensure that liberty flourishes for future generations of Americans.

There are many ways you can structure your planned gift to support

our effective programs while also receiving valuable tax benefits for you and your heirs.

A few of the most popular include...

Bequests. A bequest is a transfer of wealth by means of a will or trust. Cash, stocks, jewelry, artwork, and real estate are among the assets that can be included in a bequest. You may bequeath either a specific dollar amount or a set percentage of your estate. The language might be something like this: **"I give and bequeath to The National Center for Public Policy Research of Washington, D.C. <\$X or Y% of my estate> to be used for its educational purposes."** Another option, if you're uncertain of what amount you can give, is a residuary bequest. This is a gift of whatever is left over after paying final expenses and/or providing for family members. The language might be something like this: **"I give and bequeath to The National Center for Public Policy Research of Washington, D.C. the remainder of my estate for its educational purposes."**

In some situations, bequeathing real estate to The National Center rather than one's heirs could save the heirs considerable hardship. Beginning next year, the inheritance tax exclusion will drop to just \$1 million. Anything in your estate above that can be taxed at a rate of 55%. If the bulk of your estate is in real estate, this could create a significant tax liability for your heirs. Let's say you have a total estate of \$5 million, with \$1

million of it cash and stocks and the remainder in real estate. If your heirs can't sell the property – an entirely realistic scenario in the real estate market – they'd be forced to come up with a whopping \$1.2 million in additional funds to pay the taxes on your estate. Family farms have been lost this way. Bequeathing all or a portion of this real estate to The National Center could avoid such a problem.

Insurance Policies. If you have a life insurance policy you no longer need, donating it to your National Center supports our work and earns you a generous tax deduction. To qualify, you must name The National Center for Public Policy Research as your beneficiary AND you must transfer ownership of your policy. The amount of your deduction will depend on the type of insurance policy.

Trusts. Suppose you expect \$100,000 of your estate to be subject to the federal death tax. You might prefer to use these funds to create a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) and name The National Center for Public Policy Research as the beneficiary. If you do, you could 1) receive fixed annuity payments for the rest of your life; 2) give a portion of these payments to your heirs to allow them to take out a life insurance policy on you for an equal amount; and 3) leave the remaining value of the CRT to the National Center upon your death. Another option is a Charitable Lead Trust (CLT). These differ from CRTs in that the CLT will pay The National Center a fixed amount before the assets pass to your heirs. This trust reduces or eliminates taxes on assets you pass to your heirs.

Charitable Gift Annuities. If you need current income, a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) may be the ideal solution. By starting a CGA at the National Center with a minimum of \$10,000, you will receive a partial tax deduction and an income for life at a rate based on your age. Currently, a 72-year old donor might receive a rate of 5.4%. That's considerably more than the current rate for savings accounts or certificates of deposits and more reliable than returns from investments in the stock market.

One special advantage of planned giving is that you will qualify to become a member our **Legacy Society**, an elite group of National Center supporters who receive special recognition. You can learn more about the benefits of The Legacy Society, and also about the various options for planned giving, by calling David Ridenour at (202) 543-4110, ext. 16, or by e-mailing him at dridenour@nationalcenter.org. Or you can fill out the form below and mail it to The National Center for Public Policy Research, 501 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 200, Washington, DC, 20002.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

_____ I would like more information about planned giving options. Please call me.

_____ I've already included The National Center in my estate plans. Please begin my membership in The Legacy Society right away.

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That's what prompted the HHS Inspector General investigation.

Your investments in our Risk Analysis Division don't just permit us to publish cutting-edge policy analyses. They don't just permit us to educate millions of Americans about how the public health establishment is being used to rob us of our freedom.

They permit us to change government policy and preserve liberty.



Free Enterprise Project Turns Corporate Adversaries Into Allies

"I'm with you."

Those were the words Pfizer's new CEO, Ian Read, spoke to president David Ridenour in a private meeting after David admonished him for Pfizer's support of ObamaCare during the company's annual shareholder meeting.

David warned Read that ObamaCare would diminish the quality of care, trigger rationing of needed medical treatment, including of the most state-of-the-art pharmaceuticals, and threaten Pfizer's bottom line.

Pfizer's top brass now agree with us and have committed to fight to repeal key portions of ObamaCare. What's more, Read publicly committed his company to promote a series of specific free-market health care reforms, which he detailed in response to questioning by David.



Fox Business Network's Gerri Willis joins our "Occupy Occupy DC" lunch-in showing solidarity with a 4-year-old North Carolina girl who ran afoul of federal nutritional guidelines. Katie, the five-year-old daughter of a National Center staff member and lunch-in participant is pictured.

Johnson & Johnson also changed its position on ObamaCare this year as a result of our Free Enterprise Project (FEP) shareholder activism. It did so less than a year after its then-CEO William Weldon said publicly that he was proud of the company's support for the legislation – a stunning turn-around.

These dramatic reversals could prove critical in our fight to repeal ObamaCare as they mean the left will have fewer deep-pocketed allies in the legislative rematch.

But our job isn't done. NCPPR is still working to persuade other health care giants such as Merck and Eli Lilly, which continue supporting the radical and unpopular legislation.

Health care isn't the only area in which our Free Enterprise Project has made a big difference. We've also managed to keep green energy schemes and cap-and-trade at bay in part by convincing major corporations to abandon them.

Under our pressure, Caterpillar, ConocoPhillips, and John Deere dropped their membership in the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), the corporate green alliance leading the lobbying campaign for cap-and-trade legislation, just as Congress was considering it several years ago, and this contributed to its defeat.



Research Associate Maggie Strong assesses the ObamaCare decision with WTOP Radio outside the Supreme Court moments after it is announced.

To ensure that USCAP and cap-and-trade legislation can't be revived, we've continued to pressure corporations to renounce the group. The latest to accede to our demands is the Ford Motor Company, which dropped out early this year.

And Google, which has long advanced anti-fossil fuel hysteria, terminated its "Renewable Energy Cheaper Than Coal" campaign and eliminated its position of "green energy czar" after a shareholder resolution we sponsored questioning these activities received substantial media attention. The Associated Press, for example, wrote of our effort: "Investors have raised questions about investments that have little to do with Google's main Internet businesses and that may be potentially risky."



RAD Director Jeff Stier Director discusses New York Mayor Bloomberg's ban on charitable donations of food on CNN's Early Start.

requirements it is pressuring suppliers to adopt could put their suppliers out of business, harm the economically disadvantaged, and, ultimately, reduce the companies' profits.

FEP Director and General Counsel Justin Danhof's questioning of corporate CEOs about RILA has received nationwide coverage, including in such publications as the Honolulu Advertiser, the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, the New Jersey Record, and the Fayette Observer.

Already three corporations, Bed, Bath & Beyond, J.C. Penney, and Gap, Inc., have signaled that they're not entirely wedded to the new RILA standards, saying they'll work with suppliers to implement only those sustainability measures that make economic sense.

Last year, FEP earned 1,100 media interviews, citations, and published op-eds. That includes coverage by the New York Times, Miami Herald, Lou Dobbs, Glenn Beck, Fortune, Salon, WABC-TV, Sean Hannity, Fox Network, NPR, Mother Jones, and the Los Angeles Times, among many others.

This is the kind of effective media outreach that forces once-adversarial corporate CEOs to say, "I'm with you."

And it is only possible thanks to your generous support.



New Visions Commentaries Spread Free-Market Ideas to Blacks

The size of our free-market congregation won't grow if all we do is preach to the choir.

Media outlets like Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, National Review, and the Weekly Standard are terrific vehicles for keeping those already part of our freedom movement informed, active, and motivated. But they aren't as good at recruiting new people to our cause.

New Visions Commentaries is Project 21's free commentary service aimed at the largely liberal black community newspa-

We've also launched a major new campaign to persuade member companies of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) that new sustainability



Project 21's Deroy Murdock, Bishop Council Nedd II and Horace Cooper challenge the NAACP's petition to the U.N. Human Rights Commission requesting an investigation of voter identification laws.



Media Fellow Steven Crowder as Thomas Jefferson in the rap music video "Mr. America." In the video, already downloaded some 65,000 times, our Founding Fathers lament America's drift away from the founding principles.

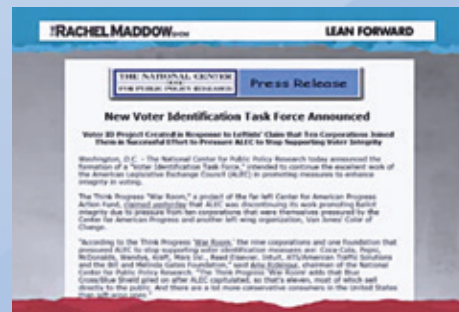
Topics of New Visions published this year include energy policy, ObamaCare, education, illegal immigration, and postal reform.

Black publications such as the Buffalo Criterion, Birmingham Times, Orlando Florida Sun and Philadelphia Tribune have repeatedly published these op-eds. Of course, mainstream media organizations such as the Washington Times and Fox News sometimes run them as well.

Readers of New Visions Commentaries have called them "extremely informative" and "relevant to any African-American man or woman who has not lost their pride for Heritage."

Every time you see the civil rights establishment left with a column or an interview promoting the big-government agenda... imagine having a Project 21 member there to provide the free-market perspective.

With New Visions Commentaries, that is happening – right now.



Liberal MSNBC host Rachel Maddow attacks our new Voter Identification Task Force.

pers. As the only commentary service that markets the opinion of conservative and libertarian authors to this important market, it brings new people into our movement.

In the first four months of 2012 alone, New Visions Commentaries – all written by Project 21's member-spokesmen – were published at least 70 times, a 25% increase over the previous year.



Book Review: “*Throw Them All Out*” by Board Member Peter Schweizer

Not every book causes CBS’s *60 Minutes* to grill Nancy Pelosi, gets mentioned in the State of the Union address and forces Congress to pass anti-corruption legislation, but that’s what happened when Peter Schweizer, a longtime member of the National Center Board of Directors, wrote, *Throw Them All Out: How Politicians and Their Friends Get Rich Off Insider Stock Tips, Land Deals, and Cronyism That Would Send the Rest of Us to Prison*.

Called “The wonk who slays Washington” by *Newsweek* magazine, Peter is more than an author: He makes reform happen.

Throw Them All Out exposed Members of Congress getting rich exploiting information – and at times, access – available only to Congressional insiders. And it was being done in a manner illegal in the private sector, but perfectly legal in Congress.

As Peter told *60 Minutes*, “There are all sorts of forms of honest grafts that Congressmen engage in that allow them to become very, very wealthy. So it’s not illegal, but I think it’s highly unethical, I think it’s highly offensive, and wrong.”

Throw Them All Out reports that Nancy Pelosi, while Speaker of the House, accepted a highly sought-after IPO offer from VISA even as the House was considering credit card reform legislation. Was VISA enriching the House Speaker to make her more amenable to its position on legislation?



Steve Kroft of CBS’s *60 Minutes* is stopped by a security guard when he tries to question Nancy Pelosi about allegations in *Throw Them All Out*.

60 Minutes cornered Speaker Pelosi to ask about this apparent conflict of interest. She pretended she didn’t understand the question, but her obvious discomfort drew national attention.

So did *Throw Them All Out*’s other stories of apparent abuse.

As Peter explained on CBS, “The buying and selling of stock by corporate insiders who have access to non-public information that could affect the stock price can be a criminal offense... But congressional lawmakers... have long been considered exempt from insider trading laws, even though they

“There are all sorts of forms of honest grafts that Congressmen engage in that allow them to become very, very wealthy. So it’s not illegal, but I think it’s highly unethical, I think it’s highly offensive, and wrong.”

have daily access to non-public information and plenty of opportunities to trade on it. We know that during the health care debate people were trading health care stocks. We know that during the financial crisis of 2008 they were getting out of the market before the rest of America really knew what was going on.”

By January 2012, Peter had raised the issue of legal Congressional insider trading to such a high level, President Barack Obama exploited the issue in his State of the Union Address, saying, “Send me a bill that bans insider trading by Members of Congress, and I will sign it tomorrow.”

Congress knew the writing was on the wall. On February 2, the U.S. Senate passed the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, or STOCK Act, and the House followed a week later.

It all took place less than three months after *Throw Them All Out*’s November debut.

Is Peter satisfied? Not quite.

“The STOCK Act in my opinion does not go nearly far enough,” Peter says. “It will not stop lucrative IPOs, which are simply a form of legal bribery, and the Act will do nothing about land deals. And do we honestly think that the Securities and Exchange Committee or any agency is going to take on a powerful Member of Congress?”

Fortunately, Peter is still on the job.



De-Regulation, Not Infrastructure Spending, Will Spur the Economy

By DAVID A. RIDENOUR, PRESIDENT

They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

That's what spending more on infrastructure and transportation to improve the economy would be: insanity.



David A. Ridenour

Such spending may have benefits, but turning the economy around has never been one of them.

For one thing, major highway projects are S-L-O-W and this means that the expenditures and jobs they create are spread out over long periods of time. The federal highway administration says major highway construction projects take 13 years to complete. Any project that won't be finished until today's first graders are in college is hardly going to jumpstart the economy.

For another, it's been tried and it failed. President Obama's stimulus had \$105.9 billion in infrastructure spending. The unemployment rate when it became law in February 2009 was 8.1 percent. In July 2012, it was 8.3 percent.

This is because government infrastructure programs do not create new spending, they simply divert it away from the private sector. As The Heritage Foundation's Ron Utt puts it, "The only way that... new highway

spending can create... new jobs is if the... [money] appears out of nowhere as if it were manna from heaven."

But there are things our government can do to help the economy turn around, including...

- It should recognize that regulations cost jobs and eliminate those we don't need. A case in point is the Obama Administration's Utility MACT rule, which will cost utility companies an estimated \$10 billion for new equipment for plants, officially to cut pollution, but unofficially to phase out coal to make wind and solar more competitive. The utilities can't afford this, so they're closing plants, cutting an estimated 1,850 jobs now and ultimately leading, directly and indirectly, to the loss of as many as 1.44 million jobs by 2020. The pain doesn't stop there. Because as many as 68 fewer plants will be available to supply the nation's electricity needs, and wind and solar can't make up the difference, electricity prices are rising – making it more difficult for our economy to expand.

- It should enact the REINS Act, already approved in the House, to require federal agencies to submit major new regulations to Congress for approval before they take effect. Since Obama assumed office, federal agencies have imposed over 106 regulations costing \$100 million or more. Together they cost the public \$46 billion annually, on top of the estimated \$1.75 trillion the federal government itself estimates that regulations were already costing the public every year.

- It should approve the Keystone Pipeline, the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, responsible drilling offshore and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It also should enforce laws currently being broken that require the Department of the Interior to issue drilling leases in a timely man-

ner. Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus shale formation in Pennsylvania and West Virginia alone created 57,000 jobs in 2009. Imagine what a responsible permitting policy for oil and natural gas nationally could do for employment, and what good a more stable and lower-cost energy supply could do for private sector confidence.

There is one thing related to infrastructure the federal government can do to help jumpstart the economy: Eliminate the racist Davis-Bacon Act.

Davis-Bacon was adopted in 1931 to keep "undesired" racial and ethnic groups from doing federal construction jobs and to enhance the political benefits of pork-barrel spending. Davis-Bacon remains racist, as it discrimi-

"The only way that... new highway spending can create... new jobs is if the... [money] appears out of nowhere as if it were manna from heaven."

nates against the non-union labor force, where most blacks in construction are employed. Repeal of Davis-Bacon would create approximately 31,000 jobs quickly and save the taxpayers a billion dollars a year.

The road to prosperity has been blocked by needless regulations. More government spending on infrastructure and highways isn't the best way forward... it's a dead end.

A version of this article appeared in 38 newspapers, including the Kansas City State, the Allentown Morning Call, Portland Oregonian, the Arizona Daily Star, and the New Orleans Times Picayune.

THE NATIONAL CENTER



FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

501 Capitol Court, NE Suite 200

Washington, DC 20002



“...there are a lot of things that restrict our freedoms that might do a little bit of good, but... we’ll still only have done a little bit of good and we’ll have no freedoms left.”

– *Jeff Stier*



“In his daily work, [David Ridenour] spews more poison into the political atmosphere than his primary corporate sponsors do into the actual atmosphere...”

– *Esquire’s Charles Pierce complaining about our effective shareholder activism*



salon.com

“It’s an insult to the intelligence and integrity of... black Americans to play the race card where race is not an issue.” – *Project 21 Spokesman Charles Butler*

The Times-Picayune

“The road to prosperity has been blocked by needless regulations.” – *David Ridenour*

The Examiner

“The National Center for Public Policy Research is claiming a scalp today after Ford Motor Co. formally withdrew from the liberal U.S. Climate Action Partnership.” – *David Freddoso*



“The Occupiers are fundamentally undemocratic. They want the public to agree to whatever it is they want... or else they’ll commit crimes, infest cities with rats, cost police overtime and refuse to go away.” – *Amy Ridenour*