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Director of Labor Policy
Robert Hunter

Governor Appoints Mackinac Center Labor Director to State Civil Service Commission

In a bid to improve the effectiveness of the state government workforce, Governor Engler appointed labor law specialist and Mackinac Center Director of Labor Policy Robert Hunter to the Michigan Civil Service Commission on December 23, 1996.

The four member commission's authority and responsibilities are fixed by the state constitution and include establishing wages, classifying jobs, and reviewing and ratifying collective bargaining agreements for state employees.

Hunter was appointed along with outgoing Wayne State University President David Adamany and former State Representative Susan Grimes Munsell of Howell. The newly constituted panel will oversee significant changes in the state workforce, including a recently enacted program which makes about 7,000 of the state's 63,000 employees

eligible for early retirement and added benefits.

Hunter said he hopes to influence policies and agreements that are good for state employees and taxpayers. "I want to help civil servants exercise their rights with respect to both their unions and their employer, and I want taxpayers and state employees to treat each other fairly."

Hunter said that state employees who pay union dues or fees have a constitutional right to refuse to pay for their unions' political activities to which they may object. This right is rarely enforced, Hunter added, because its existence is not widely known among workers.

Hunter said, "The Civil Service Commission could

See "**Labor...**" on page 10



The Commission fixes state employee compensation which includes pension benefits from a \$27 billion fund administered by the Department of Treasury, pictured above.

"The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly."

—U. S. President Abraham Lincoln. See page 3 for related article.

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Joseph Lehman
Editor

Todd Crelly
Graphic Designer

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Mackinac Center for Public Policy
119 Ashman Street • P.O. Box 568
Midland, Michigan 48640
(517) 631-0900 • Fax (517) 631-0964

Internet: <http://www.mackinac.org> • mcpp@mackinac.org



Lawrence Reed
President

Expect to Win

One frustration of my otherwise fantastic job as president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy is getting our best friends to see its full potential. People who seem to understand our mission well, and who want to see Michigan citizens prosper in a climate of freedom and free enterprise, nonetheless often have surprisingly low expectations.

When I tell friends that the Mackinac Center has grown to be, by nearly any measure, the largest of its kind in the nation, I sometimes hear this response: "My, you're building quite a bureaucracy there!" It is usually said with a grin, but there is also an underlying sentiment that's a bit disturbing: a feeling that with a staff of sixteen, the Mackinac Center is about as big as a free-market think tank needs to be.

Imagine that. State government has a "staff" of 63,000 people, at least some of whom would be perfectly happy if government grew bigger at the expense of families and private businesses. The United Auto Workers, the Michigan Education Association, and a couple dozen other groups that almost always promote expensive and counterproductive *government* solutions to problems have thousands of "staff." If just sixteen people at the Mackinac Center are all we ever need to move public opinion in Michigan in the right direction, then we ought to win a Nobel Prize.

Why is it that proponents of statism always think big in order to win, while so many free-market advocates are content merely to go through the motions?

I am not for growth for growth's sake. We do not add staff at the Mackinac Center just to have more bodies around. We do it as funds permit and according to a finely honed strategic plan. We do not measure our progress by how many employees we have or how much paper they push out the door. We measure it by how much real-world effect we have on public opinion and public policy.

We have accomplished a great deal for our size, some say more than any other group of our kind. But we are in this to win the war for the long haul—for sound economic policy and individual freedom, and we are still a long way from victory.

If you believe that a handful of dedicated individuals at the Mackinac Center has achieved a lot, just imagine what 50 of us could do! Imagine what a team of 100 professional, articulate policy experts and communicators fanning out across Michigan could do!

To all good citizens who want Michigan to be the freest and most prosperous state in the union, join with us. Grow with us. Expect the best. And do not for a minute let those who want to expand the role of government have the monopoly on thinking big. Expect to win. **!**

"Do not for a minute let those who want to expand the role of government have the monopoly on thinking big."

Outrageous Laws Repealed

Abraham Lincoln said the best way to get a bad law repealed was to enforce it. Another good way is to enter the law in the Mackinac Center Outrageous Law Competition. At least five unneeded laws and ordinances identified by the Center's competition have been taken off the books.

The 1995 competition ferreted out over one hundred entries of Michigan laws, ordinances, and administrative regulations that were deemed a waste of taxpayer dollars, humorous, or violations of civil or economic liberties.

Michigan barbers may now legally cut the hair of living patrons on Sunday. Prior to repeal of the law in 1996 which prohibited them,

Sunday haircuts were permitted only for the deceased.

An outdated state law was repealed in 1996 which prohibited defrauding of livery stables, but only if the livery owner posted a copy of the law in large, plain En-

glish, and in a "prominent place." Fraud is still illegal, but livery owners no longer have to post a copy of the applicable law in order to be protected by it.

Two outrageous laws affecting swamps and trees have been

repealed. Since 1995, the state treasurer will not receive money from the sale of swamp lands donated to the state. Nor will land owners who maintain trees along their land bordering public highways be entitled to a tax credit. This is not expected to have a large effect on either the number of trees along roads or on government finance, since the credit was only five cents per tree before the "tree rebate" law was repealed last year.

Village of Lyons residents no longer fear fines or imprisonment for allowing "indecent exposure" of their stallions, bulls, or other animals. Village Clerk Betty Barnes was inspired by the Center's Outrageous Law Competition



Is it illegal in Michigan to display on a vehicle the emblem of an organization to which the owner does not belong. Is the owner of this vehicle a member of the rock group *The Grateful Dead*?

See "**Laws...**" on page 11

Innovative Idea Impacts Policy and Popular Culture

Everyone from politicians to editorial cartoonists seems to be promoting Mackinac Center ideas.

In less than a year, the Mackinac Center's innovative Right To Know Payroll Form impacted public policy in at least two states, inspired articles in hundreds of newspapers nationwide, helped tens of thousands of workers better understand the hidden costs of government, and finally, seems to have influenced a syndicated editorial cartoon.

The Right To Know Payroll Form gives workers a more

complete picture of how much money their employer sets aside to keep them on the payroll, and how much of that money goes not to the worker, but to pay for government programs and mandates instead.

The State of Michigan adopted the concept for its 63,000 employees; legislation has been introduced twice to do the same thing in Ohio; the Mackinac Center has printed three 5,000-copy runs of the Form brochure to meet nationwide demand. The appearance of this cartoon in the *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch* and dozens of other newspapers has helped millions of

people see through the myth that employment laws and mandates can be placed on job providers without affecting workers.

More information on the Right To Know Payroll Form is available in the Free Market Bookstore, page 10. **!**



Million Dollar Bequest Made to Mackinac Center

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has been named the recipient of a million-dollar-plus bequest. The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been a Mackinac Center member since 1994 and now joins our Legacy Society.

The gift is part of a charitable remainder unit trust, which allows a person to transfer financial assets to nonprofit groups or others at the time of the giver's passing.

The benefactor said, "The Mackinac Center is the best, and I want it to have the resources to remain the best.

No other public policy institute has more long-term impact in making Michigan a better place to live, work, and raise a family."

Marking the milestone, Vice President for Development James E. Kostrava said, "Visionaries like this generous friend leave a legacy that

promotes free markets, limited government, and respect for private property."

Mackinac Center friends who are interested in joining the Legacy Society should call the Office of Development at (517) 631-0900. ❗

New Scholars Strengthen Center Research

Four educators and economists are the newest members of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy Board of Scholars.

Dr. Thomas Bertonneau is an English instructor in Central Michigan University's Extended Degree Program. He holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of the latest major Mackinac Center study, *Declining Standards at Michigan Public Universities*.

Dr. Mark Perry is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Michigan-Flint. Studying under Nobel laureate James Buchanan, he earned a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University. Perry served as director of the Center for World Capitalism, then in Jacksonville, Florida. He is instrumental in arranging Mackinac Center speaking events at groups including the Flint Economic Club, and is writing a minimum wage commentary for the Center.

Dr. Christopher Fleury is a visiting lecturer in political science at Eastern Michigan University. His Ph.D. in political science is from the University of Iowa. Fleury will assist the Center with a variety of economic research projects.

Dr. Ormand Hook is the director of the Michigan Resource Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University. He holds a doctor of education degree from

Temple University, and has served in a number of private and public schools holding positions including special education supervisor and principal. Hook helps the Mackinac Center research charter school effectiveness. His recent *Viewpoint* commentary describing the ethnic diversity of Michigan charter public schools was published in the *Detroit Free Press* and many other newspapers in Michigan. ❗



Dr. Thomas Bertonneau explains at a news conference his research on Michigan public university academic standards.



Dr. Mark Perry



Dr. Christopher Fleury



Dr. Ormand Hook

Mackinac Center Ideas Reach Millions through Print, Broadcast

Newspaper, radio, and television coverage of Mackinac Center research is a key tool for shifting public opinion toward greater appreciation of free markets and a free society. Hundreds of Center news reports and commentaries reached millions of Michigan citizens over the past quarter. Here are a few of the most significant media exposures.

- Every major Michigan newspaper reported the Governor's appointment of Mackinac Center Director of

Labor Policy Robert Hunter to the state Civil Service Commission.

- Former Director of the Michigan Family Independence Agency and Center Adjunct Scholar Gerald Miller explained the benefits of private-sector involvement in welfare reform in a *Detroit News* op-ed.

- Monica Pratt, adjunct scholar, recommended in a *Detroit Free Press* op-ed that Michigan's draconian and counterproductive 650-Lifer drug law be reexamined.

- Adjunct Scholar George Leef, in a *Detroit News* op-ed, called for legislation to

protect workers' rights to solve problems with management without involving a labor union.

- President Lawrence Reed assessed Governor Engler's policies in a Sunday *Detroit News and Free Press* commentary.

- A *Detroit News* editorial quoted Robert Hunter suggesting that Governor Engler consider an executive order notifying union members of their right to refrain from supporting union political activities.

- Commentaries on the study *Declining Standards at Michigan Public Universities*

were printed in numerous newspapers.

- Adjunct Scholar Dr. Ormand Hook explained in a *Detroit Free Press* op-ed that Michigan charter public schools serve a much higher proportion of minority and at-risk students than do the regular public schools.

- Staff and scholars Burton Folsom, George Leef, Thomas Bertonneau, Jennie Barkey, Lawrence Reed, Ormand Hook, and Joseph Lehman went on the air on several radio stations to propose free-market solutions to various economic problems. **!**

Detroit Drives Out Motor City Entrepreneurs

Detroit has among the highest unemployment, poverty, and public assistance rates in the country. The creation of new businesses could solve many of these woes. Although many residents are spirited, energetic, and willing to take the risks necessary to provide jobs for others, the city bureaucracy discourages

business start-up at every turn, according to Institute for Justice Staff Attorney Dana Berliner.

Berliner explained to about 25 legislative aides, policy makers, and government agency officials the findings of her study on barriers to Detroit entrepreneurship on December 9, 1996. The "Issues and Ideas" meeting

was hosted in Lansing by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

According to the study, the city squelches initiative in part through burdensome licensing and permit requirements. The

Motor City sharply limits the number of taxicabs and other transportation services and restricts nearly all street vending. While Detroit prohibits home-based businesses, compliance with its labyrinthine zoning and building laws is so time-consuming and expensive that many businesses either give up or simply ignore the rules and operate illegally.

The study's recommendations include allowing free entry into the taxicab market and rescinding the ban on home-based businesses. These reforms would focus benefits sharply on those with low skill levels and on parents who cannot work outside the home, according to Berliner.

Berliner's research took her to many urban centers in the

country, but she said Detroit's citizens stood above the rest in entrepreneurial zeal. She said, "Detroit is an astonishingly vibrant city, full of entrepreneurs with ideas, energy, and dreams."

At the Institute for Justice, a Washington, D. C.-based public interest law center, Berliner litigates civil rights, economic liberty, property rights, and other constitutional cases in both federal and state courts.

"Issues and Ideas" is a regular Mackinac Center forum for policy professionals. It brings the best application of legal, economic, psychological, moral, and scientific principles to public issues, giving government officials better tools with which to enact sound policies. **!**



Detroit ordinances make it difficult for business owners to improve their property.

Award-Winning Mackinac Center Web Site Delivers Policy Research and Information

The World Wide Web's best source of Michigan public policy research and information has won two awards for excellence and innovation.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy Web site was honored in September with its first award, the "Freedom Home Page of the Week." The award is sponsored by Free-Market.Com (<http://www.free-market.com>), which bills itself as the "starting point for liberty on the Internet." Each week, Free-Market.Com selects the single best Web page out of thousands to recognize for excellence in advancing freedom and free markets. Free-Market.Com said this about the Center's Web page:

This is Michigan's free-market think tank—the latest pro-freedom organization to jump into the World-Wide Web head first. This isn't an experiment; they're serious about their Internet presence. Mackinac offers stacks of public policy information that are searchable and sensibly indexed, plus two special Q&A features for students: "Ask the Debate Coach" and "Ask the Economist."

In winning the award, the Mackinac Center joins other prestigious organizations including the Cato Institute, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, and the Foundation for Economic Education.

The second honor is the "Editor's Choice" award from *The Liberator Online* (<http://www.self-gov.org/liberator/>), an

electronic Internet magazine with over 3,300 subscribers in 44 countries. *Liberator Online's* January 25 review of the Mackinac Center's Website reads

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is committed to delivering the highest quality and most reliable research on Michigan issues. Their well-done site contains well-researched articles on a variety of topics such as education, taxes, privatization, and more.

One of the most interesting aspects of their site is "Ask the Economist." Each week they feature an on-line economist to answer your questions about economic principles and their real-world implementation. Their "faculty" is comprised of university professors, professional economists, and policy specialists who recognize the importance of sound economics, and want to help you learn. So check out the page for information on how to get expert help within 24 hours.

The Mackinac Center's unique "Ask the Debate Coach" and "Ask the Economist" services have provided fast, accurate, and scholarly information to scores of students (and even some teachers) in Michigan and around the country.

[free-market.com](http://www.free-market.com)

Freedom Home Page of the Week



The Mackinac Center earned this award less than one month after launching its Web site.

Liberator Online told 3,000 subscribers they could access economics expertise through the Mackinac Center Web site.

Nearly 500 authoritative Mackinac Center studies, reports, articles and commentaries that have shifted the window of public opinion—and policy—over the last nine years are also available on the Web site at no charge.

Fresh research is added to the Web site weekly and more than 600 text and graphics files per day are accessed by researchers and others. Manager of Information Systems Jeffrey Tucker

said, “The Web lets us deliver information to citizens and policy makers instantaneously. To remain Michigan’s best site for public policy research, we take advantage of the technology by making continual updates.”

To use the Mackinac Center Web site, point your browser to <http://www.mackinac.org> !



The Mackinac Center is the only policy research institute to offer the Guarantee of Quality Scholarship.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Is your professor hostile to the FREE MARKET?

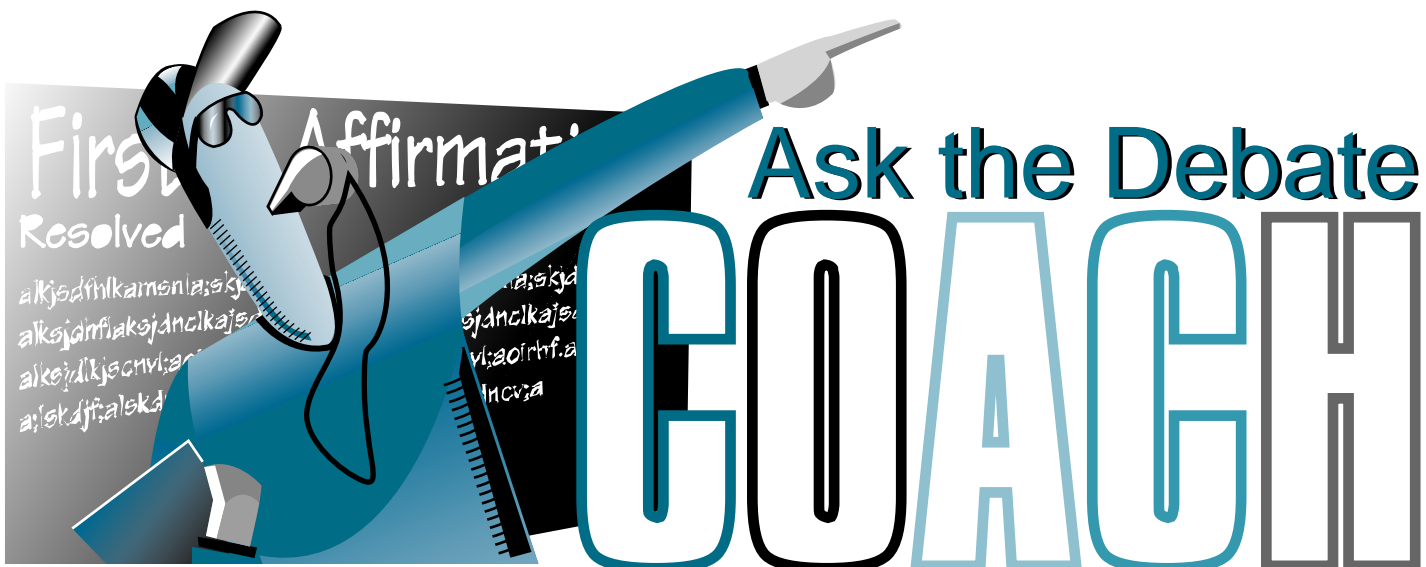
TRAPPED in a KEYNESIAN TIME WARP?

Do you need **STRAIGHT ANSWERS** based on modern economic scholarship?

ASK THE ECONOMIST



The Mackinac Center's on-line "faculty" teaches college students principles of sound economics.



High school debaters get facts and arguments that help them win from the Mackinac Center's on-line "Debate Coach."

Stoddard: More Fun to Give While You Can See the Results

Chuck Stoddard has more on his mind than the bottom line of Grand Bank, the \$112 million Grand Rapids institution of which he is CEO and president. He wants to improve the bottom line of his whole community.

That is why he leads Grand Bank to practice a concept he calls "corporate tithing." Tithing is a centuries-old practice of giving away ten percent of one's increase in wealth. Corporate tithing extends the concept to firms which make charitable gifts. By supporting the most effective charities, a firm's gift helps its entire community prosper.

Nearly \$144 billion was given to U.S. charities in 1995, but

only five percent of that amount was given directly by corporations. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy receives roughly 25 percent of its contributions from businesses.

Stoddard is a Mackinac Center ambassador, President's Council member, and a Grand Rapids Area Board of Advisors member. Largely due to his efforts, over half of Grand Bank's directors have joined the Mackinac Center. He said, "I support the Mackinac Center because there is no better way to influence policies that improve Michigan's schools, neighborhoods, competitiveness, and quality of life."

He encourages individuals and corporations to consider



Chuck Stoddard believes businesses should support effective charities.

the benefits of supporting the Mackinac Center. Stoddard cites an article entitled "Ten From the Top," in which Mazda Great Lakes President Robert Hooker writes that

many people delay large charitable contributions until they pass on and leave bequests. Stoddard said, "To me, it's more fun to give while you're alive so you can see the good that it does."

Chuck Stoddard founded Grand Bank in 1987. He is the director of the Grand Rapids Economic Club, and was appointed by Governor Engler to serve on the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority from 1993 until 1996. He holds degrees from Michigan State University and Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He and his wife, Jan, have four children. **!**

Explosive Growth Leads to Headquarters Building Campaign

The Mackinac Center's explosive growth in effectiveness and support has allowed us to double our staff of policy specialists in just over two years. To build on these gains, we are now taking the next step in our strategic plan. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is launching a \$2.2-to-\$2.4 million headquarters building campaign.

After successfully completing the campaign, the 17,000-square-foot building will accommodate about 50 professionals, plus seminar facilities, a media and mailing center, and a library. It will be located directly across from the Marriott Ashman Court Hotel and Conference Center on Main Street in downtown Midland. The



James Kostrava
Vice President for Development

Center has secured an option to purchase the site, a former Woolworth department store.

The headquarters building campaign is spearheaded by two outstanding leaders

dedicated to advancing the aims of the Mackinac Center. They are Margaret "Ranny" Riecker of Midland, a philanthropist and founding director of the Center, and Alan Ott, chairman of the board of Chemical Bank and Trust of Midland. They have committed to raise support in Midland and around the state.

Why does the Mackinac Center need a new building? The Center's relentless growth leaves no choice but to seek new quarters—both for space reasons and in keeping with our reputation as the nation's most prestigious and influential state-focused policy research institute.

The new building will be an excellent location for ex-

panded educational programs, policy briefings, and training sessions. It will also help the Mackinac Center recruit the high level talent we need to succeed.

A signature building is a symbol of permanence. Lawmakers, citizens, and opinion leaders who see the impressive, modern headquarters will sense that the Mackinac Center is the best source of policy research and information in the state, and a potent agent for shifting public opinion toward greater appreciation of the principles of a free society.

This campaign will have strong support from not only

See "**Growth...**" on page 11

Which Schools Succeed, and Why?

by James L. Payne

The 1980s and 1990s have not been kind to supporters of public education in the United States. Early in the 1980s there emerged evidence of the shortcomings of the public schools from the massive 60,000-student “High School and Beyond” survey. As sociologists James Coleman, Thomas Hoffer, and Sally Kilgore summarized this study of U. S. secondary education, “students in both Catholic and other private schools were shown to achieve at a higher level than students in public schools.” Their overall finding was that, controlling for social and demographic factors, students in private schools were a full year ahead of public school students.

An exhaustive study by political scientists John Chubb and Terry Moe, published in the December 1988 *American Political Science Review*, documented the theory behind this difference. Its findings are just as relevant now as eight years ago. Private schools are better, said Chubb and Moe, because they are better organized to deliver quality education.

Private schools face a market test: If parents and students aren’t satisfied, they leave the school and stop paying tuition. This propels private schools to structure themselves so they can deliver a better product. When a public school starts deteriorating, on the other hand, the tax moneys keep coming in. Hence inefficient arrangements persist.

What are the patterns of successful management that the private schools have adopted? From their survey of 500 schools, Chubb and Moe documented how the private schools differ from the public ones. First, in private schools, the higher, distant authorities like boards and supervisors have less power. In the public schools, the school boards and supervisors try to micro-manage the schools—leaving principals and teachers frustrated. This contrast, by the way, holds up even for the Catholic schools: The higher ecclesiastical authorities meddle less in their schools than public school boards and supervisors do in theirs.

Another difference is that private schools have more flexibility in personnel policies. The procedures to fire someone are less complex and take less time. Thus private school managers can more easily discharge unsatisfactory personnel. Furthermore, private schools are more focused and coherent in their orientations. Different private schools may offer different approaches, but within each school, Chubb and Moe found more clarity on goals and less disagreement among the staff than prevail in the typical public school.

Another key difference is with the principals. As documented by Chubb and Moe, the private school principals have more teaching background than public school principals. They are less interested in administrative duties than their public

school counterparts, and more interested in educational philosophy. Also, private school principals are much less likely to be seeking career advancement. The result of these differences is that private school principals are educational leaders. This is less the pattern in the public schools where principals, hemmed in by higher authorities, regulations, and unions, tend to be seen as bureaucratic managers.

With the principal given so much authority in private schools, what happens to morale and staff relations? To hear the unions tell it, without the government and union “protection” found in the public schools, private school teachers must lead a miserable life. Well, it isn’t so. Chubb and Moe found that the work context is more rewarding for a teacher in a private school: principal-teacher relations are better; teacher-teacher relations are more cordial and more supportive; teachers have more influence in every phase of the school, from choosing texts and deciding what to teach to establishing standards for discipline and homework. Private school teachers “feel more efficacious than public school teachers. Unlike their public counterparts, they do not believe their success is beyond their control, and they do not feel it is a waste of time to do their best.”

In monetary compensation, private teachers lag behind. This, say Chubb and Moe, is perfectly understandable: “Private school teachers are

trading economic compensation and formal job security for superior working conditions, professional autonomy, and personal fulfillment. Public school teachers are doing precisely the opposite.”

What the unions and the politicians have overlooked is that job satisfaction for teachers depends on having the flexibility to accomplish the mission of education. The regulations and restraints that enmesh the public school are undermining everyone’s morale. So even though we are pouring more and more money into public schools, the quality goes down.

Of course, there are some good public schools with effective programs. What the Chubb and Moe study gives is the overall, nationwide pattern. And that picture clearly shows that the lesson of the market applies to education, too: Where consumers are free to choose, suppliers organize themselves to deliver a superior product. !

Editor’s note: The Mackinac Center for Public Policy’s education policy initiative is aimed at improving the quality of education for all Michigan students. Much of the Center’s growth this year will be the addition of a full-time, professional education policy staff.

Adapted from *The Freeman*, June 1989, with permission of the Foundation for Economic Education.

FREE MARKET BOOKSTORE

“Labor...” from page 1

promulgate a rule that tells workers how to exert their right to refuse to pay for union political activities. An executive order from Governor Engler would have the same effect.” Such an action would help protect the rights of the 73 percent of state employees who belong to unions, Hunter said.

Hunter has extensive experience in labor law, labor relations, and government affairs. As an attorney in private practice he represented several Fortune 500 companies on issues including collective bargaining and federal discrimination cases.

In 1981, Hunter was appointed by President Reagan to the National Labor Relations Board where he adjudicated more than 1,000 cases. He also served as chief counsel and staff director for the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. He has been a labor policy advisor for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As Mackinac Center Director of Labor Policy, Hunter analyzes the impact of Michigan and federal labor law on worker productivity, living standards, and the economy. He will retain his full-time duties at the Center during his Commission tenure.

Governor Engler said that Hunter has “. . .the foresight, vision, experience, intellect, and common sense to help state government recruit and retain a skilled and diverse workforce that fulfills the highest ideals of public service.”

Viewpoint Commentaries

Should Good Relations with Employees Be an Unfair Labor Practice?

December 1996 VP 96-35
Employee Involvement programs to improve the workplace are under attack from organized labor. Should it be illegal for workers and their companies to discuss topics of mutual interest?

An Economic Lesson from Michigan's Early History

December 1996 VP 96-36
Michigan's early state-run railroads and canals were such colossal failures that the citizens demanded a constitutional prohibition of state-run firms. This set the stage for Michigan's world-class lumber, carriage, and automobile industries.

A Case Where Local Is Better Than State

January 1997 VP 97-01
“Friend of the Court” is a county government function involved in administering child support payments. A congressional mandate may require this local government function to be centralized at the state level. Is this good policy?

What Is Real Compassion?

January 1997 VP 97-02
Is it a mark of compassion to favor government aid programs for the poor? A look at the effectiveness of these

programs, and the traditional meaning of compassion, help us tell the difference between those who just talk about compassion and those who actually practice it.

Let's Get the Facts Straight on Charter Schools

January 1997 VP 97-03
When charter school legislation was first introduced, critics charged that these relatively independent schools would be elitist, or even racist. Demographic statistics of actual charter school enrollment tell the real story.

Welfare Reform Means More Private Sector Involvement

February 1997 VP 97-04
Can government reform welfare alone? Private business has the unique ability to match people with jobs, and private charity can provide the personal, compassionate attention government programs lack.

Lakefront Property Owners Told, “Look, But Don't Touch.”

February 1997 VP 97-05
Property rights on the Upper Peninsula's Crooked Lake are being regulated away by the lake's biggest land owner—the federal government. This takes the “bad neighbor” concept to a new low.

Bridging the Racial Gap

February 1997 VP 97-06
A great Michigan builder benefited from a company that cared more about his skills than his skin color. Fred Pelham's experience illustrates the wisdom of rising above racial discrimination.

Journals

Michigan Privatization Report

Fall 1996 MPR 96-04 \$3.00
Private efforts to treat municipal wastewater, monitor and maintain clean watersheds, make rational recycling choices, and purchase and sell air emission credits can protect the environment. Other articles include an interview with State Representative Howard Wetters on encouraging voluntary environmental compliance audits, and the story of a private wetlands developer and his amazing journey from environmental visionary to fugitive from justice. 20 pages.



Studies

Declining Standards at Michigan Public Universities

Second Edition
February 1997
\$96-04

\$10.00

Reflecting a national problem, Michigan public universities are producing graduates who are unprepared for K-12 teaching careers and the business



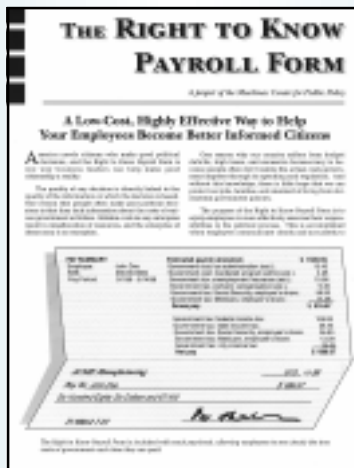
world. The demise of the traditional core curriculum, indoctrination in the classroom, and questionable teaching methods that emphasize emotion and subjectivity over rigor and critical thinking are to blame. The study documents extensive evidence cited by employers that college graduates lack crucial communications and thinking skills, and it finds a link between poor training of aspiring teachers and declining K-12 student performance. Analysis of over 300 undergraduate course syllabi reveal the dominance of trendy, politicized course content. 88 pp.

Special Items

The Right To Know Payroll Form Kit

#RTKPF Complimentary

Hundreds of companies are finding The Right To Know Payroll Form an easy, effective way for employers to show their workers the true cost of government with every paycheck. An informative four-page brochure explains how to modify pay stubs to show line-by-line



the hidden government-mandated costs paid by the company on behalf of the worker. These costs include employer-paid Social Security and Medicare taxes, unemployment and worker's compensation insurance, and other costly mandates. The Right To Know Payroll Form helps employees be better informed in the democratic process by shattering the myth that taxes, regulations, and mandates on businesses do not affect them personally.

Freedom from Bad Labor Advice

#LABOR Complimentary

This informative resource gives workers straight answers to common questions about labor unions and employee rights and responsibilities. The question-and-answer format helps workers understand how federal labor law affects them directly on topics including mandatory union membership and payment of dues. Public employees, including teachers, will also benefit from this handy brochure.



How to order:

VIEWPOINTS: *Viewpoints on Public Issues* are two-page commentaries on current Michigan policy issues. Two or three are published each month. Individual *Viewpoints* are 50¢ each. Please call for bulk discounts.

For telephone orders, please call the Mackinac Center at (517) 631-0900. The Center accepts Visa or Mastercard for your convenience. Please have your card and item title(s) handy when calling. If you do not have the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's current Publications catalog with a complete listing of all Mackinac Center publications, please request your **free** copy when ordering.

"Laws..." from page 3

to initiate the 1995 repeal of this ordinance, which won "honorable mention" in the humorous law category.

Most laws submitted to the competition still await repeal. For example, it is still illegal to paint birds in Harper Woods; an antiquated, race-based statute still makes it a felony to incite an Indian to violate a law; Detroit parking lot attendants are still subjected to burdensome licensing requirements; and taxpayers are still footing the bill for an \$87,000 annual program to count the number of horses in Michigan.

The purpose of the competition was to highlight burdensome, intrusive, and silly laws that should be repealed, and to remind state and local law makers to think twice before enacting unneeded and arbitrary intrusions into citizens lives. The contest sparked similar projects by policy groups in Washington state and Wisconsin. !

"Growth..." from page 8

the Midland community, but from supporters statewide. The Center's many friends know how to think big. They know the Mackinac Center's track record and its potential.

Will you be part of this exciting milestone in the Mackinac Center's growth? We—and Michigan—need your financial support, brick-and-mortar challenge grant, or in-kind contribution. Please call the Office of Development at (517) 631-0900 and join us in thinking big! !

Lighthouses Face Brighter Future Thanks to Center Recommendation

Lighthouses are a fascinating part of Michigan history, but many of them are sadly falling into disrepair. The U.S. Coast Guard is now acting to preserve seventeen Great Lakes lighthouses in accordance with a Mackinac Center for Public Policy recommendation to allow their sale to private parties.

Many of the beacons are in danger of being lost forever



The privately owned Sand Hills lighthouse on Michigan's Keeweenaw peninsula is preserved and maintained as a bed-and-breakfast.

because Coast Guard funds prohibit expensive preservation efforts. *Lighthouse Digest* Editor Tim Harrison said many of them have been "abandoned by the authorities and are falling victim to vandalism and the elements."

Last July's Mackinac Center recommendation pointed out that private property owners have built-in incentives to preserve and care for what they own. Government is often unable for political reasons to protect historic structures it owns. The law that prohibited sale of lighthouses to private individuals actually impeded their preservation.

Eight Michigan lighthouses have begun the transition from government to possible private ownership. This is a victory for lighthouse enthusiasts, historic preservationists, and citizens concerned about good government stewardship and sound policy. ❗

Henton's Commitment to Education Helps Schools and Students

Joi Henton believes the most effective way to improve schools and help Michigan citizens is to volunteer her professional skills thirty hours per week to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Since January, Henton has done preliminary research for several upcoming studies and projects on education. Her data collection and contact with education officials statewide gives the Mackinac Center's Education Policy Initiative a running start. The Center is conducting a national search for both a full-time director and research assistant in education policy.

Henton, a mother of three, is committed to helping schools improve and allowing parents more freedom to choose the best school for their child. "Good education is the key to effective democracy. I can help make that happen by



Joi Henton helps schools improve by working at the Mackinac Center.

volunteering at the Mackinac Center," she said.

Volunteering is an important part of Henton's life. She founded a Midland-area group of parents dedicated to improving education, and directed publicity efforts for a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate which provided affordable housing for needy families. ❗