

"Aging and the Challenge to Global Prosperity"

A Global Aging Initiative Public Forum

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Overview

On April 14, CSIS launched a new project, the Global Aging Initiative (GAI), with a forum featuring Peter G. Peterson, chairman of the New York Federal Reserve, former Commerce Secretary under President Nixon, and chairman of The Blackstone Group. The forum, "Aging and the Challenge to Global Prosperity," highlighted Peterson's new book, *Gray Dawn: How the Coming Age Wave will Transform America and the World*, and addressed the challenges posed by the simultaneous aging of the industrial nations.

The Global Aging Initiative is a major CSIS project designed to explore the implications of global aging across a range of policy spectrums.

"The aging of the U.S., Europe, and Japan has profound implications for the stability of international financial markets, global economic growth prospects and even international security policy," said Bradley D. Belt, CSIS vice president for international finance and economic policy. Rising longevity, the retirement of post-World War II Baby Boomers, and a sharp fall in birthrates that began in the 1960s will cause the number of taxpayers to level off in the United States and to shrink dramatically throughout Europe and Japan. Stagnant or declining tax revenues may result in rising public sector deficits, declining personal saving rates, chronic industrial over-capacity, global capital shortages, and perhaps heightened tensions between the aging industrialized nations and a youthful developing world.

The GAI builds on last year's CSIS National Commission on Retirement Policy (NCRP), a bipartisan panel that focused on the fiscal challenges posed by the retirement of the baby boom generation. This April, the NCRP released the *21st Century Retirement Security Plan*. The report outlines reforms for Social Security, pension and savings policy.

Aging and the Challenge to Global Prosperity



Peter Peterson

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome

Bradley D. Belt, CSIS, Vice President, International Finance and Economic Policy

9:05 a.m. Opening remarks

Robert B. Zoellick, CSIS, President and CEO

9:15 a.m. - Keynote Address

The Honorable Peter G. Peterson, Chairman, The Blackstone Group, Author, *Gray Dawn*

9:35 a.m. - Question and Answer period

10:00 a.m. - Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Bradley D. Belt**

Panelists: **Rep. Charles Stenholm** (D-TX), Co-chair, National Commission on Retirement Policy [[speech](#)]
Paul S. Hewitt, CSIS, Research Fellow [[speech](#)]
Robert Holzmann, Director, Social Protection, World Bank
Roland Spänt, Labor Counselor, Embassy of Sweden
Mimi Sasaki-Smith, Visiting Research Fellow, Program on U.S. - Japan Relations, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

11:30 a.m. - Meeting adjourned

Speaker Bios

Bradley D. Belt

Vice President for International Finance and Economic Policy, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Paul S. Hewitt

Research Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Go to [Mr. Hewitt's remarks](#)

Robert Holzmann

Director of Social Protection, Human Development Department, the World Bank

Dr. Robert Holzmann is the Director of Social Protection at the Human Development Department of the World Bank. Dr. Holzmann's team primarily addresses issues related to aging and the elderly. He is also a Professor of Economics at the Institute for International and European Economy, University of Saarland. Dr. Holzmann serves as a consultant for numerous organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, OECD, and the Commission of the European Union. In addition, he is the Research Director of the Ludwig-Boltzmann Institute for Economic Analyses in Vienna.

Dr. Holzmann graduated from the University of Graz with a M.B.A. in economics. After spending two years at the Université de Grenoble, he received his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Vienna. Dr. Holzmann is the recipient of the Theodor-Körner Award, as well as the Leopold-Kunschak Award for social studies. In addition, he has written many books, his most recent work being *The Mixed Blessing of Financial Inflows — Transition Countries in Comparative Perspective*.

Peter G. Peterson

Chairman of The Blackstone Group; Author of Gray Dawn

Peter G. Peterson is Chairman of The Blackstone Group, a private investment banking firm, which he co-founded in 1985. He is currently a Director of Transtar, Inc. and Sony Corporation. In addition to these duties, Mr. Peterson serves as the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He was formerly a Director of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Federated Department Stores, Black & Decker Manufacturing Company, General Foods Corporation, RCA, The Continental Group, Cities Service, and UCAR International Inc. Mr. Peterson was Chairman and CEO of Lehman Brothers and, later, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn, Loeb Inc.

Mr. Peterson is Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations and founding Chairman of the Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C. He is also the founding President of The Concord Coalition, which he organized in 1992 with Senator Warren Rudman and the late Senator Paul Tsongas (who was succeeded by former Senator Sam Nunn). In 1982, he was a founding member of the Bipartisan Budget Appeal.

President William J. Clinton named Mr. Peterson as a member of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform in February of 1994. In 1978 and 1979, he was Chairman of the U.S. Council of the International Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mr. Peterson served as Ambassador and Personal Representative, and later as Secretary of Commerce, to President Richard Nixon. At that time, Nixon also asked Mr. Peterson to assume the Chairmanship of his National Commission on Productivity.

Mr. Peterson has a B.S. from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. In addition, Mr. Peterson has been awarded honorary Ph.D. degrees by a number of universities. He has received numerous awards including a U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce award naming him one of the "Ten Outstanding Men" in the nation. Mr. Peterson has been extensively published and is the author of *Will America Grow Up Before It Grows Old?*, *Facing Up, On Borrowed Time*, and *Gray Dawn: How the Coming Age Wave Will Transform America — and the World*.

Mineko (Mimi) Sasaki-Smith

Visiting Research Fellow, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Dr. Mineko Sasaki-Smith is an Associated Visiting Research Fellow in the Program on U.S. - Japan Relations at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Previously, she was the Chief Economist for Credit Suisse First Boston Securities in Japan. In addition, Dr. Sasaki-Smith has held the position of Senior Economist with Morgan Stanley Japan Limited and Credit Suisse Bank of Tokyo, where she also was the head of the Department of Research and Representative Managing Director for the Credit Suisse Investment Advisory. Dr. Sasaki-Smith has been a consultant on Japanese macroeconomic trade and industry issues for a number of organizations, including Euro-Consult of Washington, D.C. and the Council of Canada.

Dr. Sasaki-Smith received her B.A. and M.A. in International Law and International Relations from the International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. She did her Ph.D. coursework in International Law at the University of Tokyo and received her Ph.D. in International Political Economy from Carleton University.

Roland Spånt

*Chief Economist, Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO)
Labor Counselor, Embassy of Sweden*

The Swedish Government appointed Dr. Roland Spånt to the position of Labor Counselor on August 15, 1997. He started his tour of duty at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. later that year. At the time of his appointment, Dr. Spånt was Chief Economist at the Confederation of Professional Employees in Stockholm, Sweden. Before joining TCO in 1980, Dr. Spånt worked at the Ministry of Finance and at the Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University.

Dr. Spånt received his B.A. and Ph.D., both in economics, from Uppsala University. He has published numerous books concerning income inequality, wealth distribution, working hours, wage policy, and macroeconomic policy.

The Honorable Charles W. (Charlie) Stenholm (D-TX)

U.S. House of Representatives

Go to [Representative Stenholm's remarks](#)

The Honorable Charles Stenholm is the House Representative from the 17th District of Texas. Since his Washington arrival in 1979, he has served on the Agriculture Committee, where he is now ranking Democrat. Of note, he is the second ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee. Congressman Stenholm is the founder and co-chair of the Public Pension Reform Caucus (PPRC), a forum that grants Members of Congress the opportunity to examine the problems confronting Social Security and discuss the various options for reform. Additionally, Congressman Stenholm is co-chair of the National Commission on Retirement Policy at CSIS.

Since 1989, Congressman Stenholm has served as the Democratic Deputy Whip; and in 1995, he was appointed to the House Democratic Leadership Advisory Group. Furthermore, he is a founding member of the House Rural Health Care coalition.

Congressman Stenholm has consistently underscored the importance of fiscal responsibility in the federal budget. The 104th and 105th Congresses' balanced budget plans, which he crafted with a group of moderate and conservative Democrats known as the "Blue Dog Coalition", have received wide national recognition. In addition to the key role he has played in agricultural and budgetary issues, Congressman Stenholm has shown leadership on a wide portfolio of legislative activities, including health care, small business protections, welfare reform, juvenile justice, and social security.

Congressman Stenholm graduated from Tarleton State Junior College and Texas Tech University, and has received honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Abilene Christian, Hardin-Simmons, and McMurry Universities.

Robert B. Zoellick

President and CEO, Center for Strategic and International Studies