



Jack Kemp *and the* Tax Reforms *of 1981 and 1986*

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Jack Kemp and the Tax Reforms of 1981 and 1986

Ronald Reagan listed the 1981 and 1986 tax laws as the two biggest economic policy achievements of his presidency; yet both were achieved by bipartisan majorities at a time of deep partisan division. This symposium, conducted under the auspices of the **Jack Kemp Oral History Project**, will seek to elicit the thoughts, recollections, and reflections of the people who were key to these legislative initiatives. The goal is to record for history the inside story behind the enactment of these laws 30 and 25 years ago, and in so doing explore the lessons for today.

Agenda

10:30 AM Welcome

Gerald L. Baliles, *director, Miller Center of Public Affairs*

Russell L. Riley, *chair of the Miller Center's Presidential Oral History Program*

10:45 AM Panel Discussion

Jack Kemp and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981

Bruce Bartlett, *Kemp's staff economist (1976–77) during development of Kemp-Roth I, who showed existence of the Laffer Curve in IRS statistics*

Hon. Bill Brock, *former Tennessee senator and chairman of the Republican National Committee (1977–81), who made Kemp-Roth GOP policy beginning in the 1978 congressional elections*

Randy Teague, *Kemp's chief of staff when Kemp-Roth I was developed*

John Mueller, *Kemp's speechwriter and staff economist (1979–88), who added inflation indexing to Kemp-Roth II and adapted supply-side economics to incorporate theory of "human capital"*

Moderators

Morton Kondracke, *director of the Jack Kemp Oral History Project*

Brian Domitrovic, *author of Econoclasts*

12:15 PM Lunch

Keynote Interview

Hon. Bill Bradley, former U.S. Senator (D-NJ), managing director of Allen & Company, and host of “American Voices”

1:45 PM Panel Discussion

Jack Kemp and the Tax Reform Act of 1986

Hon. Robert Kasten, former senator from Wisconsin, who co-sponsored Kemp-Kasten plan introduced in 1984, the Republican Party’s prototype for the 1986 tax reform

John Mueller, drafted Kemp-Kasten plan

Jeff Bell, Reagan aide (1974–76), who defeated Sen. Clifford Case by “field-testing” Kemp-Roth (the day Proposition 13 passed in 1978), but lost to Bradley for senator of New Jersey; served key roles in 1986 reform (as deputy chairman of Citizens for America, 1985–86) and 1988 Kemp presidential campaign

Dave Hoppe, Kemp’s chief of staff (1985–88) when Kemp had to overcome resistance within GOP on tax reform

Alan Reynolds, member of Laffer-Kemp circle and bank economist who later worked for Jude Wanniski at Polyconomics, Inc.; key to securing National Review’s support for supply-side policy

Moderators

Morton Kondracke, director of the Jack Kemp Oral History Project

Alan Murray, deputy managing editor of the Wall Street Journal

3:15 PM Concluding remarks

James Kemp, president, Jack Kemp Foundation

3:30 PM Adjourn



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