

**Third Saturday Seminar 2004-2005**

**“We Dig Deeper Into The Future  
Challenges of Being Human”**

**Session 8**

**The Citizens Transportation Coalition  
and**

**How a Random Collection of Small  
Groups with a Common Interest forms  
a Coalition**

**Robin Holzer**

**ALL Program, Montgomery College  
Conroe, Texas**

**12 May 1, 2005**

## **Program for the Eighth Session**

- 9:30 Introduction
- Current Events (30 Minutes +/-)
- **Part 1 - The Citizens Transportation Coalition**
- 10:40 Break - 10 minutes
- 10:50 **Part 2 - How a Random Collection of Small Groups with a Common Interest forms a Coalition**
- 11:50 Summary - Conclusion
- Closure – Feedback – Next Time

# **Disclaimer**

**The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I have tried to always give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.**

**The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part but that it is of importance to the discussion.**

**If you have any questions please contact me.**

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## To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

**The donuts are free to law enforcement.**

# Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it might be to think so, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Please, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do.

Human purpose ...

**"That everyone should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all their labor, it is the gift of God"**

**(Ecclesiastes 3:13)**

# Current Events

# **Robin Holzer**

Business consultant turned civic leader.

Lives in the Neartown/Montrose area of Houston.

She earned an MBA from Rice University in 2002.

For the last three years, increasingly involved in her community: as an officer in her civic club, through her church, and as a co-founder of the Citizens' Transportation Coalition, or CTC.



## Ex-Fed Chief Volcker: Most Dangerous Economy Ever (Money News – NewsMax.com)

In a recent speech, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker voiced his concerns for the future the American economy and that of the rest of the world.

Among other things, Volcker warns of a possibly dramatic shift in the relationship between U.S. consumerism and foreign investment - and the dire consequences that would have on Americans.

Some focal points of his speech:

- In regard to the U.S. economy, Volcker sees "disturbing trends: huge imbalances, disequilibria, risks..."
- He says these are the most dangerous economic conditions he has ever seen - and, he notes, he has seen "quite a lot."
- Though businesses are rebuilding their financial reserves, in only a few years, the federal deficit has offset all that savings.
- Home ownership has become a vehicle for borrowing rather than a means of financial security.
- In the U.S., we consume and invest about 6% more than we produce.
- The U.S. economy is held together by a foreign capital influx of over \$2 billion each day.
- Foreign competition has kept interest rates relatively low despite vanishing savings and rapid growth.
- He says: "The difficulty is that this seemingly comfortable pattern can't go on indefinitely. I don't know of any country that has managed to consume and invest 6% more than it produces for long. The United States is absorbing about 80 percent of the net flow of international capital. And at some point, both central banks and private institutions will have their fill of dollars.
- Volcker's says that to solve the economic crisis: "China and other continental Asian economies should permit and encourage a substantial exchange rate appreciation against the dollar. Japan and Europe should work promptly and aggressively toward domestic stimulus and deal more effectively and speedily with structural obstacles to growth. And the United States, by some combination of measures, should forcibly increase its rate of internal saving, thereby reducing its import demand."

But Volcker says he doesn't see the necessary changes coming anytime soon. And he says the flow of funds that supports the U.S. could easily fade.

He says: "I don't know whether change will come with a bang or a whimper, whether sooner or later. But as things stand, it is more likely than not that it will be financial crises rather than policy foresight that will force the change.

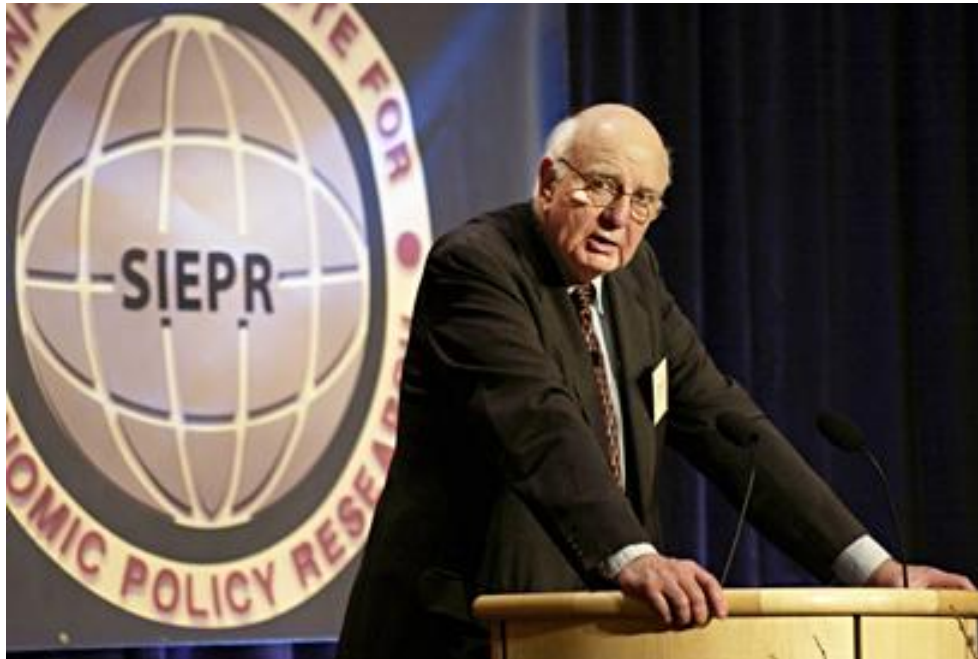
Paul **Volcker**'s February 11th 2005 speech to the Stanford <http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2005/february16/videos/23.html>

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Stanford Report, February 16, 2005 Former Fed chief warns that nation is facing 'huge imbalances and risks'

Volcker gives keynote address at annual economic summit; other speakers highlight new technologies, fight against terror

BY LISA TREI



Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that the nation is consuming more than it is producing and that Social Security and Medicare are threatened by the retirement of baby boomers.





Iranian President Mohammad Khatami (center row R), Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (rear 3rd L) and Israeli President Moshe Katsav (centre row L) stand among other dignitaries during the funeral of Pope John Paul II in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8, 2005. Photo by Yves Herman/Reuters