



AMERICAN ACADEMY of ACTUARIES

SPEAKERS

Estelle James is a consultant at the World Bank and other organizations, and she was recently appointed to the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. She is principal author of *Averting the Old Age Crisis: Policies to Protect the Old and Promote Growth*, a World Bank study that provides the first global analysis of economic problems associated with population aging. This study has become the basis for much of the World Bank's advice in this area and for reforms that are now taking place in many countries. Ms. James' earlier work concentrated on human resource economics, the economics of education, nonprofit organizations and public-private sector roles more generally. Before joining the World Bank in 1991, she was professor of economics at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, where she also served as chair of the Economics Department and provost, social and behavioral sciences. She received her B.S. from Cornell University and her Ph.D. from MIT. She has received numerous fellowships and research grants, has refereed for many journals and foundations, and has served on several editorial boards.

Bruce D. Schobel is corporate vice president and actuary of New York Life Insurance Co., which he joined in 1990. Before that, he was a principal of William M. Mercer, Inc., an actuarial consulting firm. During 1979-88, he was with the Social Security Administration in various actuarial and policy development positions, including senior policy advisor to the commissioner and staff actuary to the National Commission on Social Security Reform (the "Greenspan Commission"). A frequent speaker and writer on Social Security matters, Mr. Schobel's papers and articles have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Policy Review*, *The Journal of International Taxation*, and numerous actuarial publications. A graduate of MIT, Mr. Schobel is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, a chartered life underwriter, a certified employee benefit specialist, and a founding member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

Steve Robinson is the chief Social Security analyst for the Senate Finance Committee. Before joining the committee, he spent fifteen years working for House of Representatives. His previous positions include Social Security analyst for the House Budget Committee, research director for the House majority whip, assistant director for the House Republican Study Committee, and legislative director for former Rep. Newt Gingrich.

Peter Orszag is the president of Sebago Associates, Inc., a public policy consulting firm. Prior to founding Sebago Associates, he served as special assistant to the president for economic policy at the White House, where his portfolio included Social Security, climate change, electricity restructuring, personal bankruptcy reform, and a variety of other economic policy issues. He will join the Brookings Institute as a senior fellow in economic studies in August 2001. He is also a research associate at the Center for Retirement Research, Boston College. He graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University, and obtained an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics, which he attended as a Marshall scholar. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Academy of Social Insurance, the Pacific Council on International Policy, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Ron Gebhardtshauer is the senior pension fellow of the American Academy of Actuaries. As chief spokesperson for U.S. pension actuaries, he spearheads the actuarial profession's public education program on Social Security and pension issues. Before assuming his Academy post in 1997, Gebhardtshauer managed the retirement practice of William M. Mercer's New York City Office. His public sector experience includes 8 years as chief actuary of the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), where he served the more than 1,800 pension plans administered by the PBGC. As the enrolled actuary at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, he participated in creation of the Federal Employee Retirement System. Gebhardtshauer received an M.S. in actuarial science from Northeastern University and a B.S. in mathematics from Pennsylvania State University.