



## This ain't your daddy's calendar...

While February 29th seems innocent enough—it only comes along once every four years—it affects far more than one might think. In addition to adding another day to the year, it also forces the calendar to be variable, meaning that dates don't always fall on the same days as they did the year before.

While this may not seem like a big deal, it actually causes quite a few problems. For instance, academic institutions and other organizations waste a significant amount of time planning out their schedules for the year, since holidays and the like must be taken into account. Furthermore, financial systems would be streamlined tremendously if a fixed calendar could be implemented around the globe.

Well, that's just what Professors Steve H. Hanke and Richard Conn Henry have proposed. Abandoning the quadrennial approach, Hanke and Henry instead gave every third month on the calendar 31 days, with all others having 30. That accounts for 364 days. Then, every five or six years, there would be a full week added to the end of December.

This system would allow for each date to fall on the same day as it did the prior year, which would provide a uniformity that would be beneficial from the sectors of finance to pharmaceuticals. Also, unlike other alternative calendars, their model keeps the week at seven days throughout the year, thus maintaining a Sabbath Day for the religiously observant.

The next ideal time to implement the Hanke-Henry calendar would be January 1, 2017, so there is time to introduce the calendar to countries around the globe so that everyone could be on the same page.

### *WEIGH IN:*

What do you think of this proposal? Would you appreciate the level of uniformity? Do you like not knowing when exact days and holidays will show up on the calendar? How would it make a difference in your life?

### *Guest:*

**Professor Steve H. Hanke**, Professor of Applied Economics and Co-Director of the Institute for Applied Economics and the Study of Business Enterprise at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.; and a columnist at Forbes magazine