

Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



JANUARY
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2009



By SI FRUMKIN

THE SECRET MONEY IN YOUR WALLET

I am not an economist nor do I pretend to understand the intricacies of the financial market. I realize that economics is one of the few professions - weather forecasting is another one - where no one ever has to apologize for wrong predictions or costly errors. Still, there is one economic principle that is perfectly clear to me - when I spend less money on something, I have more money left over to spend on something else.

I hated it when gasoline had gone up to over \$4 a gallon and I was very much aware that I had to pay more than \$50 every time I filled up. Now that it has dropped to below \$2.00 I almost enjoy the memory of the expensive fill-up - \$20 buys a full tank. And just because it is cheaper I don't drive more than I did when it was expensive - I just keep the additional \$20-\$30 in my wallet. I am sure that you do as well.



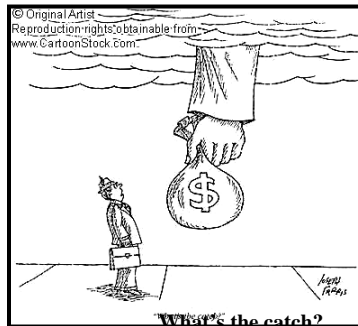
So here is what puzzles me. Our financial troubles began when the price of a barrel of gas rose from the about \$60 to about \$150, and kept rising daily. Everything that used petroleum became more expensive. Gasoline cost more, so driving, flying, boating, transportation, delivery of everything to and from factories and stores, airline tickets, plastic products (most of plastic is derived from petroleum) also cost a lot more.

Soon after, there was the collapse of the real estate market; the bad mortgages that people had taken out and were now unable to pay, the greedy corporations that took advantage of stupid consumers who bought what they didn't need for money they didn't have and couldn't pay their credit card balances, and a lack of available money by consumers who had no money left over after filling up their tanks and lost the jobs they had with small businesses that couldn't pay or be paid for what they sold.

But it all started with the rising price of oil.

Now, the economists and our new president are trying to jump start our economy again by printing a lot of new money and

injecting close to a trillion bucks into the financial system. The idea, as I understand it, is that this money will somehow find its way to the average American who will then go spend it at a store that will use the money to buy stuff to sell, or a corporation to build wonderful new cars that the automobile people will create and sell at a profit to eager customers. The government will also print enough money to pay people to build roads, bridges, power lines and all kinds of other projects that will put to work those who are unemployed. As I said, I am not an economist and I can't explain how an insurance salesman, an electronic maven, a journalist or a bank teller could be used to build a bridge or a subway, but that's another story.



this. Unlike classical economics it is clear and easy to understand: U. S. consumes 20 million barrels of oil daily. The price per barrel of oil, since early October 2008, has dropped from close to \$150 to about \$40 or less. So, using elementary math and no complex formulas, this means that the people of the United States - that is you and me; the government doesn't pay for the oil - saves more than \$2 billion every day. Given a year of 365 days, **we have about \$700 billion that stays in our pockets instead of being sent off to Saudi Arabia or other such friends.**

\$700 billion, hmmm? Where did we see this number recently? Oh yes, this is the partial stimulus that the government is trying



to give away so that the economy should get well. Actually it may be more than \$700 billion - that was just what our Congress approved in October 2008. Congress is now back from its Christmas vacation and it and our President-Elect are busily trying to figure

out how much and where to waste a few more billions - another \$200b, \$300b, \$500b?

So, there we are. There is an enormous incentive/stimulus/bailout that is already in our pockets and it grows every day as long as the oil is cheap. The funny part is that no one in Washington, Wall Street or any of the think tanks that tell the media what is what in economics appears to have noticed the money that we - you and I - are saving and are able to use it the way we decide to - buying stuff, starting businesses, building homes or even putting it into savings accounts where it can be borrowed by businesses.

So maybe we don't really need the stimulus and the incentive? And since this money is not being given by the government



with instructions on how to spend it - it goes right into the individual's wallet - isn't this a cheaper and more efficient way that might get us out of the trouble we are in? Or is the very idea of losing control over peoples' lives too radical for our Washington honchos and Obaman economists?

Whatever the answer, I believe that the \$700 billion you and I save by getting cheaper oil is too important to ignore the way it is ignored now. \$

MY DEATH SENTENCE

By Si Frumkin, ex-prisoner 82191, KZ Dachau / Arbeitslager Kaufering 1

I was sentenced to death when I was 10-years old. Four years later the sentence was lifted by American tanks that burst into Dachau, just 20 days after my father had died there. Neither I nor my parents deserved the death sentence. We hadn't done anything criminal. Being born was our crime; nothing we did or didn't do after coming into the world made the slightest difference – we were Jews and all Jews had to die.

This was the law of the lands where the swastika banner flew proudly. The 1000-year Reich lasted just 12 years; then the lights went on again all over Europe for a brighter, happier, productive future for those who had lived through it.

I was just 14-years old. I had memories but, more importantly, I had hope. I had hope that what I had lived through would not be repeated, that I would live a normal life like everybody else – Jew and non-Jew, that I would acquire knowledge I could pass on to others – including, I hoped, my children and their children, that I could do something that might make my world – and everyone else's - a better place to live in.

My hopes became reality after I came to America at the age of 18. I graduated college, got a job, bought a house, fathered children, made friends, became involved in humanitarian causes, and loved and appreciated the wonderful country that gave me the opportunity – and the inalienable right - to pursue happiness.

It had never occurred to me that there might come a time when I and my family might be sentenced to death once again for the crime of being born Jewish. It never crossed my mind that the world would once again be hearing the shouts of “Kill the Jews” and “Jews to the ovens!” I realized that there were some who hated Jews but I was sure that this was a tiny, mindless, insignificant minority – surely smaller in numbers than those who believed the Earth was flat or that Elvis was alive.

I was wrong.

Hatred is with us again. The legions of haters are proudly waving their flags and

flaunting their slogans around the globe. And just like the nazis of seventy years ago they are not bashful or apologetic in disseminating the ideology of mass murder. They are dedicated, enthusiastic, committed, and ready to die for their deadly doctrine. One of their religious leaders put it best: “We love death as much as the Jews and Christians love life!”

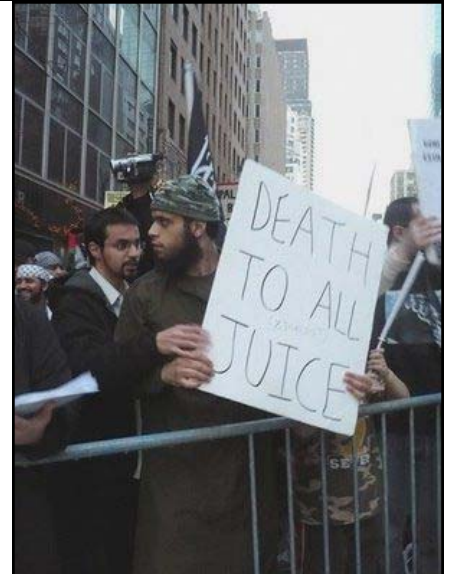


A less literate, young man at a New York demonstration was even more frightening by waving a misspelled placard that demanded, “Kill All Juice!” The photo brings a smile to most that see it on the internet but it isn't funny. We know that he doesn't

want to kill orange juice – he wants to kill me, my children and grandchildren and all those other “juice”.

In Fort Lauderdale, on December 30, hundreds of anti-Israel demonstrators protested the Israeli military operation in Gaza. Their hatred encompassed all Jews – “Go Back to the Ovens! You Need a Big Oven” and “Kill All Jews!” (this time spelled correctly), read their placards.

Pamphlets in Denmark demand, “Kill Israel's People”, and on the reverse, less correctly, “Kill Jewish People Evry Where in Ther World”. In Mumbai, a city with very few Jews, the Islamic terrorists went to the trouble to find a tiny, unmarked Chabad facility to slaughter the 6 Jews there. In Britain the police are unable to guarantee security for Jewish schools. In Amsterdam, in January, a crowd at a rally chanted “Hamas! Hamas! Jews to the Gas!” In Belgium, pro-Hamas demonstrators burned a public menorah and painted swastikas on



Jewish-owned shops. In Berlin, the police chief warned Jews not to wear scull caps in public and avoid “acting Jewish”. In France, a burning car was rammed into a Toulouse synagogue. In southern Sweden a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a synagogue. And there is more, everywhere...

The hatred is not hiding. On the official Hamas website, on 12/31/08, there were calls for attacking Jews throughout the world, “...a Jewish adolescent boy in an Australian synagogue, a Jewish minister in the Georgian government, a Jewish businessman in the New York Stock Exchange, an illiterate Jew from Ethiopia...they all belong to the same gang and the same nation...” And Al-Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahiri demanded that Jews be attacked worldwide, “... everywhere you can reach them. Support your mujahedeem brothers and children against them.”



The British online forum “Ummah” asks, “Have we got a list of top Jews we can target? Can someone post names and addresses?” And, in response, “Saladin1970” gives a link to 100 top British Jews.

There are those who believe that this isn't anti-Semitism – just anti-Zionism. Here is a quote from a great and wise man: “When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews. You are talking anti-Semitism” (Martin Luther King, 1968).

I am worried. ☆

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT GLORIOUS CARBON DIOXIDE

By Alan Caruba, Canada Free Press, January 4, 2009

Okay, children, LET'S ALL SIT UP STRAIGHT AT OUR DESKS. WE ARE GOING TO BEGIN 2009 WITH A LESSON ABOUT CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂).

Why do we need to know about CO₂? Because the President-elect, several of his choices for environmental and energy agencies, the Supreme Court and much of the U.S. Congress has no idea what they are talking about and, worse, want to pass legislation and regulations that will further bankrupt the United States of America.

Do I have your attention now?

For the purpose of the lesson, I will be borrowing heavily from a paper on CO₂ written by Robert A. Ashworth. It requires some understanding of science, but anyone with a reasonable education and common sense should be able to read it on their own. Ashworth is a chemical engineer.



Suffice it to say that if any of the nitwits babbling about CO₂ and global warming ever went

to any of the several dozen excellent websites that provide accurate scientific data and analysis, they would cease from their abusive manipulation of the public and perhaps find honest work. To begin at the beginning; at the heart of the global warming hoax is the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. While it purports to represent the views of thousands of scientists, it does not. As Ashworth notes, "Most scientists do not agree with the CO₂ global warming premise. In the United States 31,072 scientists, including the author, have signed a petition rejecting the Kyoto global warming agreement." An additional 1,000 scientists are being verified to be added to the list. Thousands more exist who find the assertion the CO₂ will destroy the Earth totally absurd.

Here's what you need to know; if an increase in carbon dioxide (CO₂) is directly related, i.e. causes changes in the Earth's temperature, there would be a direct correlation between the two. As CO₂ rose, we would see a comparable rise in the Earth's temperature. This correlation does not exist.

Global warming liars, however, insist that CO₂ builds up on the atmosphere over a 50 to 250 year period, but this is untrue. "Every year around April, increased CO₂ absorption by plants in the Northern Hemisphere starts reducing the CO₂ in the atmosphere," notes Ashworth, "and the reduction continues until around mid-to-late August when plants start to go



dormant."

"It is clear that nature reacts very fast in its consumption of carbon dioxide." Farmers call this the growing season, followed by the harvest season, followed by snow and cold during which nothing grows. Modern civilization, beginning about 5,000 years ago, is predicated on the ability to provide food to both humans and livestock, all based on these obvious seasonal cycles.

The ancient Egyptians and Mayans understood the seasons, but they are apparently too difficult a concept for today's many ex-politicians, some PhD's, United Nation's flunkies, and high school teachers.

Warming and cooling cycles are well known throughout human history, reaching back to the days of ancient Rome. There were Viking settlements in Greenland because they arrived in warmer times. By 1410 the place froze up. Shakespeare lived during a Little Ice Age when the Thames would freeze too. The man-made emissions of CO₂ had nothing, zero, to do with these climate events.

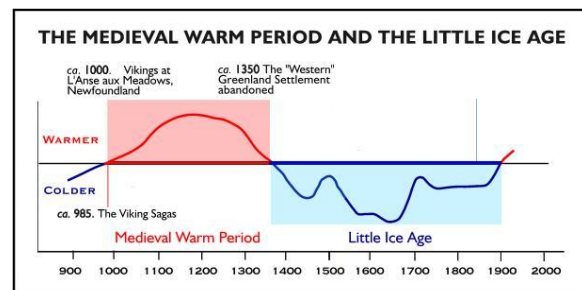
The IPCC, however, with its agenda to tax and control energy use that produces CO₂, is not based on either the obvious or more complex science involved. Its "data" is the invention of computer models that are deliberately manipulated to produce false results which, in turn, can be announced and repeated worldwide.

In March 2008, The Heartland Institute brought together more than 500 climatologists, meteorologists, economists, and others for two days of seminars and addresses that totally destroyed the IPCC's lies. It will do so again for a second time, March 8-10 of this year in New York City. Suffice it to say that the mainstream media did it best to ridicule or ignore the event and will no doubt do so again.

Here, then, is a fundamental fact about CO₂ you need to commit to memory. "Nature absorbs 98.5% of the CO₂

that is emitted by nature and man." Nature is a totally self-regulating mechanism that dwarfs any mindless effort to "control" the amount of CO₂ produced by coal-fired utilities, steel manufacturers, autos and trucks, and gasoline fueled lawn mowers, not to forget fireplaces where logs glow or just about any human activity you can name, including exhaling two pounds of the stuff every day!

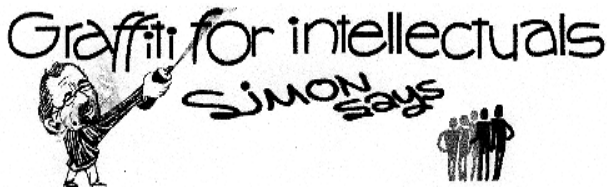
"Further," says Ashworth, "no regulation by man is necessary because CO₂ is not a pollutant; it is part of the animal-plant life cycle. Without it, life would not exist on Earth. Increased CO₂ in the atmosphere increases plant growth, which is a very good thing during a period of world population growth and an increasing demand for food."



"Taxing carbon," Ashworth adds, "would do absolutely nothing to improve the climate but would be devastating hardship to the people of the world." For example, U.S. Representative John Dingell's plan to tax carbon would add 13% to the cost of electricity and 32% to the cost of gasoline; just what we need during a Recession that threatens to become a Depression.

Dr. Tim Ball, a former climatology professor at the University of Winnipeg, recently asked, "How many failed predictions, discredited assumptions and evidence of incorrect data are required before an idea loses credibility? CO₂ is not causing warming or climate change. It is not a toxic substance or a pollutant."

It is time to rebuke everyone attempting to foist the global warming hoax and carbon taxes on the United States and the rest of the world. It is time let Congress and the White House know that Americans will not be ruled by laws that have no scientific merit. Ω



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ZIMBABWE IS DYING By Bob Herbert, L.A. Times, 1/17/2009

IF YOU WANT TO SEE HELL ON EARTH, GO TO ZIM-

BABWE WHERE THE MADMAN ROBERT MUGABE has brought the country to such a state of ruin that medical care for most of the inhabitants has all but ceased to exist.

Life expectancy in Zimbabwe is now the lowest in the world: 37 years for men and 34 for women. A cholera epidemic is raging. People have become ill with anthrax after eating the decaying flesh of animals that had died from the disease. Power was lost to the morgue in the capital city of Harare, leaving the corpses to rot.

Most of the world is ignoring the agony of Zimbabwe, a once prosperous and medically advanced nation in southern Africa that is suffering from political and economic turmoil — and the brutality of Mugabe's long and tyrannical reign.

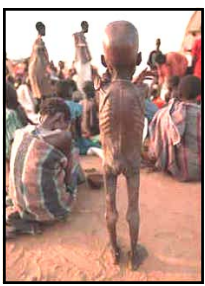
The decline in health services over the past year has been staggering. An international team of doctors that conducted an "emergency assessment" of the state of medical care last month seemed stunned by the catastrophe they witnessed. The team was sponsored by Physicians for Human Rights. In their report, released this week, the doctors said:

"The collapse of Zimbabwe's health system in 2008 is unprecedented in scale and scope. Public-sector hospitals have been shuttered since November 2008. The basic infrastructure for the maintenance of public health, particularly water and sanitation services, have abruptly deteriorated in the worsening political and economic climate."

Doctors and nurses are trying to do what they can under the most harrowing of circumstances: facilities with no water, no functioning

toilets and barely any medicine or supplies. The report quoted the director of a mission hospital:

"A major problem is the loss of life and fetal wastage we are seeing with obstetric patients. They come so late, the fetuses are already dead. We see women with eclampsia who have been seizing for 12 hours. There is no intensive care unit here, and now there is no intensive care in Harare.



"If we had intensive care, we know it would be immediately full of critically ill patients. As it is, they just die."

Mugabe's corrupt, violent and profoundly destructive reign has left Zimbabwe in shambles. It's a nation overwhelmed by poverty, the H.I.V./AIDS pandemic and hyperinflation.

Once considered the "breadbasket" of Africa, Zimbabwe is now a country that cannot feed its own people. The unemployment rate is higher than 80 percent. Malnutrition is widespread, as is fear.

A nurse told the Physicians for Human Rights team: "We are not supposed to have hunger in Zimbabwe. So even though we do see it, we cannot report it."

Mugabe signed a power-sharing agreement a few months ago with a political opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai, who out-poll-ed Mugabe in an election last March but did not win a majority of the votes. But continuing turmoil, including violent attacks by Mugabe's supporters and allegations that Mugabe forces have engaged in torture, have prevented the agreement from taking effect.

The widespread skepticism that greeted Mugabe's alleged willingness to share power only increased when he ranted, just last

month: "I will never, never, never surrender ... Zimbabwe is mine."

Meanwhile, health care in Zimbabwe has fallen into the abyss. "This emergency is so grave that some entity needs to step in there and take over the health delivery system," said Susannah Sirkin, the deputy director of Physicians for Human Rights.

In November, the primary public referral hospital in Harare, Parirenyatwa Hospital, shut down. Its medical school closed with it. The nightmare that forced the closings was spelled out in the report:

"The hospital had no running water since August of 2008. Toilets were overflowing, and patients and staff had nowhere to void — soon making the hospital uninhabitable. Parirenyatwa Hospital was closed four months into the cholera epidemic, arguably the worst of all possible times to have shut down public hospital access. Successful cholera care, treatment and control are impossible, however, in a facility without clean water and functioning toilets."

The hospital's surgical wards were closed in September. A doctor described the heartbreaking dilemma of having children in his care who he knew would die without surgery. "I have no pain medication," he said, "some antibiotics, but no nurses ... If I don't operate, the patient will die. But if I do the surgery, the child will die also."

What's documented in the Physicians for Human Rights report is evidence of a shocking medical and human rights disaster that warrants a much wider public spotlight, and an intensified effort to mount an international humanitarian intervention.

Some organizations are already on the case, including Doctors Without Borders and Unicef. But Zimbabwe is dying, and much more is needed. Ω