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THE DOOMSAYERS' FRIGHTFUL VISION IS FRIGHTFULLY WRONG

By David M. Stirling
Calif.Polit.Review 11/06

The economy may be the global warming hoax's first casualty, but the ultimate target is science

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be lead to safety), by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary. H.L. Mencken - author, journalist.

WHEN I BEGAN composing this article, it was going to be about California Attorney General Bill Lockyer's lawsuit against the auto manufacturing industry for contributing to global warming through the exhaust emissions of the cars they make. But I was sidetracked by an *ABCNews.com* headline that came across my PC screen. "Earth Headed for Warmest Temps in a Million Years," it declared, followed by the statement:

"In about 45 years, temperatures on Earth will be hotter than at any time during the past million years, says the U.S. government's top climatologist in a new report released today [September 26,2006]."

ABCNews.com describes leading global warming climatologist, Dr. James Hansen, as reporting that "the planet is just two degrees shy of an average temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit, which is what [he] believes the temperature was about a million years ago." According to Hansen, "based on a 'business as usual' scenario in which greenhouse gases continue to rise unabated," earthlings will "break the million-year-old record in about 45 years."

Excuse me while I shoo away those "hobgoblins" who are doing a zany dance all around my screen. I mean - in about 45 years; just two degrees shy; average temperature of 59 degrees; warmest temperatures in the past million years. Come on! How can he possibly know that? One doesn't need a scientific background to recognize that this is, at best, science fiction, and at worse, "politicized science," *i.e.*, a scientific statement presented to achieve a political objective. In either case, such specificity about the earth's temperature one million years ago is ludicrous.

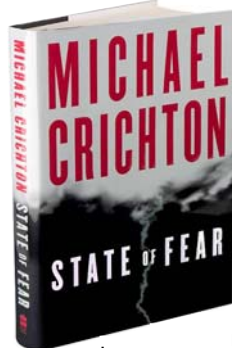
In his scientific report, Dr. Hansen takes

usual step of criticizing human-induced global warming disbeliever Dr. Michael Crichton, M.D., who, in the non-fiction portion of his best-selling novel, *State of Fear*, questions Dr. Hansen's global warming premises and predictions. Hansen expresses indignation that Crichton is not a "climate expert." While that is true (although Crichton has seriously studied the subject with regard to global warming), the author of *Jurassic Park*, *The Amdromeda Strain*, and 19 other fiction and non-fiction books, graduated from Harvard University *summa cum laude* in anthropology, taught anthropology at England's Cambridge University, and graduated with a medical degree from the Harvard Medical School in 1969. In a 2003 lecture at Caltech, Dr. Crichton warned the scientific community: "once you abandon strict adherence to what science tells us ... you [can] subvert science to political ends." He also pointed up the dangers of "consensus science," especially as practiced with regard to such popular, but disputed, theories as global warming.



THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL WARMING

In the global warming debate, there are two sides; each sees the world in entirely different ways. The Global Warming Doom-sayers, lead by the outspoken Dr. Hansen, and taken on the road by Al Gore with his film *An Inconvenient Truth*, say the continued burning of fossil fuels and buildup of carbon dioxide will cause drastic climate changes and reactions. Those reactions will include more frequent and powerful hurricanes, more intense and prolonged heat waves, droughts, an increased threat of wildfires, declining Sierra snow packs with less water for California water users, greater amounts and extended periods of precipitation causing flooding, melting Arctic and Antarctic ice causing a rise of 20 feet in sea level, shrinking and eventual loss of ocean coral, the extinction of hundreds of wildlife species, worsening ur-



the un-

ban air pollution, and human starvation. Mr. Gore predicts "deaths from global warming will double in just 25 years - to 300,000 people a year."

If such drastic predictions sound a bit familiar, it is because we heard similar ones about 30 years ago. In a piece titled "Don't Don't Be Very Worried," Pete du Pont of the National Center for Policy Analysis reminds us: "'After the first Earth Day [1970], the *New York Times* predicted 'intolerable deterioration and possible extinction' for the human race as the result of pollution. Harvard biologist George Wald predicted that unless we took immediate action 'civilization will end within 15 to 30 years,' and environmental doomsayer Paul Ehrlich [author of *The Population Bomb*] predicted that four billion people - including 65 million Americans - would perish from famine in the 1980s." (<http://eteam.ncpa.org/commentaries/dont-bevery-worried>)

Even though its earlier supposedly scientific predictions failed to materialize, the doomsayers of Team Global Warming attract a large, impressive lineup, including most of the major media. Having dropped all pretense of objectivity, the big networks and major newspapers continuously disseminate the global warming message in news stories and editorials ("Most researchers agree ...") while minimizing those who hold serious doubts ("However, a few skeptics say ..."). *CPR's* sister publication, e-mailed news bulletin *Capitol Watch*, quoted a *San Francisco Chronicle* article by environmental reporter Jane Kay that states without reservations, "Global scientists agree that to prevent catastrophic temperature increases in this century, greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 would have to be 70 to 80 percent lower than 1990 levels." Seldom do large urban newspapers provide their readers with even a guest commentary by a credentialed climate expert who disagrees with or questions the politically correct line on global warming. This is, of course, the same media that in the 1970s passed along, also without reservations, the predictions of scientists certain that "global cooling" threatened a new ice age.

WELL-HEELED DOOMSAYERS

The large, well-financed environmentalist organizations have been among Team Doomsayers' earliest and most reliable players: The Natural Resources Defense Council (which launched the unfounded "Alar scare" in 1989), the



Sierra Club (whose opposition to forest thinning has enabled some of the most horrendous wildfires to devour millions of forest acres and countless species), and Environmental Defense (whose efforts brought about the ban of DDT that causes more than one million sub-Saharan Africans to die each year from mosquito-carried malaria). Now each of these organizations have tied their "anti" -campaign against business, technology, and growth to the global warming agenda. Through their web sites, press releases, and endless mass mailings, they market the global warming line to millions of potential believers.

Team Doomsayers' roster also includes a collection of liberal multi-millionaires who commit their vast financial resources to promoting its political agenda. In 2001, just after President Bush refused to sign the United States on to the Kyoto Protocol (correctly predicting, as the European signatory countries are discovering, that it would do substantial harm to the national economy), wealthy ketchup heiress Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, presented Dr. Hansen with a \$250,000 Heinz Foundation Award for his work on climate change. In late



October 2004, just before the tight Bush/Kerry presidential election, Hansen accused the president of ignoring growing global warming evidence that the sea level could rise dangerously unless prompt action was taken to reduce CO2 emissions from the burning of fossil fuels ("80 feet in a few centuries," as he recently put it on ABC's "Good Morning America").

Movie mogul Stephen Bing recently gave a record \$40 million to the campaign for November's Proposition 87, a measure that would severely reduce California oil production. So concerned are



Bing, venture capitalists John Doerr, Vinod Khosla, and other pro-87 funders that oil use is causing global warming that they are pushing ethanol and solar energy as quick replacements. But if they succeed in reducing oil production before the alternative energy sources can replace it, not only

will California's economy suffer but Californians' quality of life will be hurt severely. (See: "Pain Therapy, Taking the Prop 87 Cure," M. David Stirling, *CPR*, Sept./Oct.2006.)

It's one thing - usually healthy - for scientists to argue over scientific questions. But when politicians make decisions and take action in areas that scientists have not yet resolved, their selective use of "the data" politicizes science; lends a false appearance of scientific respectability to larger, more costly, and more intrusive government; and brings counterproductive economic, employment, and quality of life results for the people to endure.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has made global warming a centerpiece of his reelection campaign. Declaring the palpable falsehood that "[the] science is clear. The global warming debate is over. We have a responsibility to act now," he signed Democrat Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez' AB 32, thereby joining every Democrat member of the Assembly and Senate in backing a bill that won only one Republican vote in either house. AB 32, which arbitrarily commits California to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25 percent by 2020, is the equivalent (as *Sacramento Bee* political commentator Dan Walters wrote) of "ratifying the Kyoto

greenhouse gas treaty that the Bush administration has shunned."

Walters opened his column observing that "politicians - especially those seeking re-election - love symbolic acts that send attractive messages without, or so they hope, any political or financial cost." A September 11 *Wall Street Journal* editorial titled "California Dreamin'" pointed out, as all parties supporting AB 32 privately admit, that by 2020 California will account for only 1.3 percent of total world-wide CO2 emissions. China, by contrast, is expected to have increased its CO2 emissions to more than 22 percent (surpassing the entire United States) and, even if California reaches its AB 32 goal, it will have reduced world CO2 emissions by a mere 0.3 percent.

But this new law will not be entirely without effect. On the contrary, as the *Journal* reported, AB 32, piling on top of California's already high energy prices and strict pollution controls, will drive utility companies out of the state and force those that remain to pass on their higher energy costs to consumers. Calling it a "lose-lose" proposition, California Chamber of Commerce President Allan Zaremberg - head of the state's largest business employer organization - called 32's "cap on carbon emissions ... a cap on economic and job growth...."

Speaking of piling on, we have Attorney General Lockyer's automaker lawsuit. It accuses the automakers' "millions of vehicles that collectively emit massive quantities of carbon dioxide" of creating a "public nuisance" - global warming - that has damaged California's resources, infrastructure and environmental health.

Lockyer's suit flies in the face of a New York federal judge's ruling last fall dismissing a similar "public nuisance" suit filed by Lockyer, seven other state attorneys general, and the city of New York against several Midwest electrical power energy producers. The court ruled that their claim was a national issue for the political branches of government, not a legal issue for the courts. During this term, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear argument on whether California (again, through Lockyer), 11 other states, and major environmental groups can compel through court action the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - when EP A disputes the Doomsayer scientists' position that CO2 contributes to global warming - to limit emissions of carbon dioxide and other so-called greenhouse gases from cars and factories anyway.



Lockyer hopes an activist judge might let him take the case to a jury where Doomsayer scientists can testify to the world that auto manufacturers, oil companies, electrical power

generators, and other industrial producers are polluting the planet and, as he said at the press conference, should pay "tens or hundreds of millions of dollars" for doing so. Both the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity immediately issued press releases praising Lockyer's "bold action." CBD declared that "Corporations profiting from global warming pollution should be held responsible for the profound damage they are causing."

THE SCIENCE

The major media largely ignores the other, politically incorrect side of the global warming debate. Yet it is an optimistic, positive message, albeit one conveying substantial irritation at what the

Doomsayers are doing to science. A distinguished global warming skeptic is Dr. Richard Lindzen, Ph.D., professor of Meteorology and Oceanography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Lindzen firmly believes the climate change debate has been corrupted by politics, the media, and money. "It's a sad story, where you have scientists making meaningless and ambiguous statements [about climate change]. They are then taken by advocates to the media who translate the statements into alarmist declarations. You then have politicians who respond to all of this by giving scientists money (by way of grants)." Suggesting that the marketing of scientific research has become like marketing the news, Dr. Lindzen says, "[the] research and support for research depends on the alarm." He laments the truth of Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels observation that even a lie will be believed if it is



repeated often enough. "There is little question that repetition makes people believe things [for] which there may be no basis."

Another leading skeptic of human-induced global warming is Dr. S. Fred Singer, Ph. D., distinguished

astrophysicist and professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Virginia. In his book, *Hot Talk, Cold Science* - one of 14 he's authored on climate science and environmental issues - Dr. Singer observes that between 1900 and 1940 earth's average temperature warmed substantially; then, from 1940 through 1975, the temperature cooled again. In the 1970s, "global cooling" led to predictions of a coming ice age. Then again, in 1975, the cooling stopped, followed by concerns about global warming. He has monitored satellite temperature readings for decades, saying he has confidence in satellite readings "because satellites measure the globe from South Pole to North Pole daily, with the same or similar instruments." His steady watchfulness has revealed no substantial warming since 1979.

The most vocal of the skeptics is Dr. Bill Gray, Ph.D., emeritus professor of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, and pioneer of hurricane forecasting science. He agrees, like the other politically incorrect scientists, that some global warming is occurring, but concludes that humans are not the cause. The Doomsayers have "been brainwashing us for 20 years," he says, "starting with the nuclear winter, and now with global warming." He says "this scare will also run its course. In 15 to 20 years, we'll look back and see what a hoax this was." Doomsayer scientists dismiss Dr. Gray and his seasoned fellow skeptics as "senior scientist[s] whose view is out of step with a lot of [their] colleagues." Dr. Gray labels global warming "a baby-boomer, yuppie thing."

Last year's resignation of esteemed climate change scientist Dr. Christopher W. Landsea, Ph.D., from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) revealed the extent to which irresponsible, unscientific politicking has infected the scientific community on the global warming question. The IPCC is the official international organization of climate researchers. Every few years it summarizes how climate is changing and how it may be altered in the future due to manmade global warming. An "Open Letter to the Community from Chris Landsea," (<http://www.lavoisier.com.au/papers/articles/landsea.html>), described events that occurred after Landsea was asked by a lead IPCC representative to provide a write-up for the IPCC report on Atlantic hurricanes. Before his research or conclusions were provided to the

panel, the scientist who had invited Landsea's participation took part in a high-visibility press conference on the topic: "Experts to warn global warming likely to continue spurring more outbreaks of intense hurricane activity." Dr. Landsea's "Open Letter," noting that "none of the participants had performed any research on hurricane variability," pointed out that "all previous and current research ... has shown no reliable, long-term trend up in the frequency or intensity of tropical cyclones, either in the Atlantic or any other basin ... *Moreover, the evidence is quite strong and supported by the most credible studies that any impact in the future from global warming upon hurricanes will likely be quite small.*" (emphasis added) Landsea harshly criticized not only the apparently intentional misrepresentation of research findings about global warming but also what it implied about the IPCC's scientific integrity and its ability to engage in credible science at all. He wrote that statements made at the press conference were "so far outside of current scientific understanding" it would be difficult for the IPCC process to proceed objectively. He wrote that when he raised the issue with IPCC higher-ups, "their response was simply to dismiss my concerns." He concluded: "I personally cannot in good faith continue to contribute to a process that I view as both being motivated by pre-conceived agendas and being scientifically unsound."

AMERICA'S VASTLY IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT

While the Doomsayers wring their hands over global warming, the 2005 and 2006 editions of the Pacific Research Institute's *Index of Leading Environmental Indicators* (compiled by Senior Fellow Steven F. Hayward, Ph.D.) highlight numerous examples of the nation's vastly improved environmental health. For example, Dr. Hayward reports that:



* dangerous smog days in the City of Los Angeles fell from 192 a year in 1975 to 27 in 2005;

* between 1970 and 2004, total nationwide emissions (from EPA statistics)

of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, and lead dropped 55.8 percent, 30.1 percent, 51.37 percent, and 98.6 percent, respectively;

* volatile organic compounds (VOCs, which create ozone) from car and truck emissions have declined 73.8 percent since 1970 even though total cars and trucks have doubled in that time while total miles driven has increased 181 percent;

* the nation's forest land expanded by 9.5 million acres between 1990 and 2000 and forest researchers estimate that North America has more trees now than when Columbus arrived;

* wetlands (that were declining by 500,000 acres a year at mid-century) have shown a net increase, at least on private land, of about 26,000 acres per year between 1997 and 2002 (according to the National Resources Inventory); and

* the population of grizzly bears, an endangered species except in Alaska, which numbered 200 in Yellowstone National Park in the 1980s, is more than 600 today and growing between 4 and 7 percent a year, while bald eagles, numbering less than 500 nesting pairs in the mid-'60s, are now estimated at more than 7,500 nesting pairs.

Although the Global Warming Doomsayers never offer positive information, the truth is that, environmentally speaking, our country has made great improvements during the last third of a century.



Readers may get an idea of what life under the Doomsayers' regime would be like from an interview with Al Gore conducted by Australian broadcaster Andrew Denton. Asked how he squared *An Inconvenient Truth's* CO2 admonitions with his traveling around the world aboard a jet aircraft emitting CO2, the former vice president uttered a priceless response: *For the CO2 [emissions] ... represented by my portion of that flight, I go into this emerging marketplace for off-sets, and purchase verified, validated reductions in CO2 by an amount that more than compensates for the quantities that I'm responsible for. There is a Web site that accompanies the movie and book, climate.crisis.net, that has a carbon calculator that individuals can use to*

calculate exactly what the magnitude of CO2 that you're responsible for in your own lives how to reduce, how to find the offsets - if you desire to become a carbon neutral. ("Carbon Neutral," *Washington Times, National Weekly Edition*), September 25, 2006, p.6.)

Contrast Gore's feel-good nonsense with some real world wisdom from Dr. Fred Singer: "Energy is the lifeblood of economic growth. Any time you restrain the use of energy, any time you force people into situations where energy becomes more expensive, or where you have to ration energy ... you're clipping economic growth, and you're reducing the number of productive jobs." The cost to the United States of signing on to the Kyoto Protocol's reductions in CO2 emissions (still the ultimate objective of the Doomsayers) would be \$300 billion a year, as estimated by the



federal Energy Information Administration. And the benefits, according to Dr. Singer, would be a paltry "two hundredths of a degree, one fiftieth of a degree ... You don't have to be an economist to know what to do in that kind of situation. This would mean for the United States ... that we would have to reduce our energy consumption by 35 percent. That's one third. That would be a tremendous blow to the economy." ("Climate Facts, Not Fear - Scientist Refutes Global Warming Alarmists," Speech to the John Locke Foundation, July 12, 2006.) CPR

Mr. Stirling is vice president of Pacific Legal Foundation, the nation's leading public interest legal organization in the defense of limited government, private property rights, and balanced and common sense environmentalism. www.pacificlegal.org