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NEWS FROM

U.S. Senator Al Gore



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FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
11 A - M Monday, May 1, 1989

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GORE ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE, OZONE LAYER PROTECTION PACKAGE

Bills on Consumer Products, Five-Year CFC Phase-out, Trust Fund

WASHINGTON -- Consumer products that release chemicals destroying the earth's ozone shield -- from automobile air conditioners to noise horns and certain fire extinguishers -- would be labeled, regulated, and nonessential uses would eventually be phased-out under legislation to be introduced today (5/1) by Sen. Al Gore, D-TN.

Gore, who tonight will announce a new Strategic Environment Initiative in a keynote address at the National Academy of Sciences, also will introduce legislation for a phase-out, within five years, of the most dangerous ozone-destroying chemicals and to impose a manufacturers excise tax on ozone-destroying chemicals. Revenues would create an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund to support efforts to find alternatives to those chemicals. This legislation compliments the World Environment Policy Act (S.201) Gore introduced on January 25, the first day of official Senate business.

"We know these chemicals are ripping up the earth's protective ozone layer and contributing to the greenhouse effect. We know that if we immediately stopped all use, the problems they've already created would linger for decades. Hesitation simply cannot be tolerated. We must move as quickly as possible to stop the destruction," said Gore.

"As we work for tougher international agreements for the longer term, there are simple, common sense solutions we can apply now, every day," said Gore. "For example, changing the way we service automobile air conditioners, labeling and eventually stopping the production of non-essential consumer products such as noise horns or party streamers or certain cleaning fluids. I'm also asking the Environmental Protection Agency to design and examine a deposit fee, similar to a 'bottle bill' for chlorofluorocarbons."

(MORE)

Sen. Gore/ May 1/ Page 2

Gore's legislation is being introduced as countries participating in the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement to control ozone-depleting chemicals, prepare to open meetings Tuesday (5/2) in Helsinki, Finland.

"There are urgent international environmental problems that must be addressed, concerning not only the ozone layer, but a broad range of issues," said Gore. "We face unprecedented challenges that we must recognize and confront intelligently, aggressively, and in concert with other nations around the world. Leadership from the United States can serve as a catalyst for broader action."

Tonight (5/1), Gore will outline a new Strategic Environment Initiative when he delivers the keynote speech to participants in the Forum on Global Change and Our Common Future at the National Academy of Sciences.

"My purpose is to sound an alarm loudly and clearly - of imminent and grave danger -- and to describe a strategy for confronting this crisis with changes in our collective behavior and thinking which, if made, can forestall and prevent the horrendous prospect of an ecological collapse," Gore said.

Gore will introduce three separate bills today: The Consumer Ozone Protection Act of 1989; The Ozone Layer Conservation Act of 1989; and The Upper-Ozone Chemicals Act of 1989. These three bills will:

- <Develop regulations for servicing automobile air conditioners;

- <Label and eventually eliminate sales of small CFC recharge canisters, halon fire extinguishers (for some consumer applications), and non-essential CFC-containing consumer products (e.g. party streamers, noise horns, some cleaning fluids);

- <Start an EPA study of a CFC deposit fee to encourage recapture and recycling;

- <Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a manufacturer's excise tax on chemicals which deplete the ozone layer;

- <Establish an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund, to receive one-half of the revenues from the excise tax, and promote government-industry cooperation in the research, development, and deployment of technological and chemical alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals;

- <Phase-out, within five years, production of CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon 1301, and carbon tetrachloride;

- <Establish a safe alternatives policy for replacing the phased-out substances.

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Consumer Ozone Protection Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill would label, regulate, and -- in some cases -- eliminate the sale of certain consumer products that contain manmade substances that have been shown to deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. In addition, it promotes the development of a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan for the purpose of encouraging recapture and recycling of ozone-depleting substances.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

o Mobile Air Conditioners.

- Regulates auto air conditioner servicing, to ensure that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are recaptured and recycled, and not unnecessarily vented to the atmosphere. (About 30% of U.S. emissions of CFC-12 originate from auto air conditioners, and three-quarters of those emissions occur during maintenance and recharging.)

- Eliminates the sale of CFC-containing air conditioner recharge canisters smaller than 30 pounds. (This provision is intended to limit the sale of CFC-containing air conditioner fluid to bulk purchasers -- servicers -- only.)

- Requires that any servicer who recharges an auto air conditioner with CFC-containing fluids, first test the system for leaks and repair those leaks.

o Fire Extinguishers for Consumer Applications.

- Eliminates the sale of fire extinguishers that contain ozone-depleting substances for consumer applications, except for those applications required by Federal law.

o Nonessential Consumer Products Containing Chlorofluorocarbons.

- Eliminates the sale of certain nonessential CFC-containing consumer products (e.g., party streamers, noise horns, certain cleaning fluids.)

o Labeling.

- Labels consumer products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals, or use such chemicals in their manufacture or operation. The label would warn that the product's contents or manufacturing process pose a danger to

the stratospheric ozone layer, and that depletion of the ozone layer could lead to increased risk of skin cancer and damage to natural systems, including food production.

o Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan.

- Calls for a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan, for the purpose of determining the most effective way to ensure widespread reclamation, recycling, or regulated disposal of the ozone-depleting chemicals covered by the Act.

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Upper-Ozone Chemicals Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill provides for a five-year phaseout of six substances that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer (CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, carbon tetrachloride), and a ten-year phaseout of other ozone-depleting substances (CFC-22, CFC-114, CFC-115, methyl chloroform, methylene chloride), with exceptions for medical and national security reasons. There are provisions for certifying that nations from which we import products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals have a similar phaseout program in place, and a requirement for safe disposal of ozone-depleting substances. Finally, the bill calls for developing a safe alternatives policy, for replacing the substances to be phased out with chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risk to public health and the environment.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

- **A Production Phaseout.**

- Five-year phaseout for CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, carbon tetrachloride.

- Ten-year phaseout for CFC-22, CFC-114, CFC-115, methyl chloroform, and methylene chloride.

- There is an exception to the production phaseout for medical and national security reasons.

- **Certification of Equivalent Foreign Phaseout Programs.**

- Requires certification by the Secretary of State that foreign countries have equivalent phaseout programs in place before allowing their products that contain, or are manufactured with ozone-depleting substances, to be exported to the United States.

- **Disposal of Ozone-Depleting Substances, and of Products That Contain Ozone-Depleting Substances.**

- Requires ozone-depleting substances to be disposed of in a way that ensures that the substances will not be released to the environment.

- Requires that ozone-depleting substances be removed from appliances, machines, or other goods before those goods are disposed of, and that the substances be disposed of as indicated above.

- Safe Alternatives Policy.

- Establishes the policy that the substances to be phased out will be replaced, to the maximum extent possible, by chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risks to public health and the environment.

- Calls on EPA to review and report on the alternatives being considered, and assess their risks to public health and the environment.

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Ozone Layer Conservation Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill calls for a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer; establishes an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund in the Treasury Department; and directs half of the revenues from the excise tax into the Trust Fund for the purpose of promoting research, development, and market incentives for technological alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

- **Manufacturers' Excise Tax on Chemicals that Deplete the Stratospheric Ozone Layer.**

- Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. The amount of the tax is adjusted for each chemical, depending upon the chemical's potential for depleting stratospheric ozone.

- A similar bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Stark, with 59 co-sponsors; according to a Joint Committee on Taxation study, this measure would raise 0.4 billion in the first year, 0.8 billion in the second year, 1.1 billion in the third year, 1.3 billion in the fourth year, and 1.5 billion in the fifth year.

- **Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund.**

- Would receive one-half of the revenues from the manufacturers' excise tax.

- Expenditures from the Trust Fund would provide for government-industry cooperation in research, development, and market incentives for non-ozone-depleting chemical and technological alternatives (such as new refrigerator and air conditioner designs) to ozone-depleting substances.

- In addition, the federal government would investigate the means by which it might assist United States manufacturers of such alternative technologies, in exporting the equipment for applications in developing and developed countries.

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Gore says it's war on depletion of ozone layer

BY CAROL BRADLEY
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Do-it-yourselfers not only would have to stop replacing the chemicals in their automobile air conditioners, they would have to pay higher prices to have a service station perform the chore if a bill introduced Monday by Sen. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn., becomes law.

That's because Gore's bill would impose a manufacturer's excise tax on chlorofluorocarbons and other chemicals believed to deplete the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs, which are used to operate mobile air conditioners, can be recycled safely, Gore said, but most novice mechanics don't know how to do it and instead wind up releasing the chemicals back into the atmosphere.

The tax would cost the average motorist about \$2 every time an air conditioner is serviced. The money raised, about \$1.5 billion by the fifth year, would be spent finding safe alternatives to environmentally harmful chemicals, Gore said.

His proposed fee was one of three bills he introduced Monday in an attempt to step up efforts to

phase out hazardous chemicals.

In a speech he was to deliver Monday night before the National Academy of Sciences, Gore planned to go much further by proposing a Strategic Environment Initiative that would be similar in scope to the Strategic Defense Initiative.

A SEI could be used to spread

Please see GORE, 11A

the word about effective new technology, Gore said, and in the long run could encourage the "inescapable need" for re-examining the "the entire structure of our transportation sector, and its inherent demand on the personal vehicle for efficient transport."

The SEI could be funded by "very modest U.S. energy taxes," Gore planned to say, "eventually perhaps even a carbon dioxide tax, although that is not yet politically

amendments, he said. He said new evidence about CFCs that has surfaced over the last couple of months prompted the new push.

"I want to sound an alarm as loudly and clearly as possible of the grave and imminent danger to ecological systems ... and suggest a pattern of changes in industry, energy, agriculture and our way of thinking that can avoid and prevent that imminent harm," Gore said.

The chemicals industry has recognized the need to phase out

be weighed on the same scale against the profits of a particular industry or set of companies? That's absurd."

He wants to phase out production of such items as noise horns or party streamers as well as certain cleaning fluids — products containing CFCs. Gore said he's also asked the Environmental Protection Agency to consider a type of "bottle bill" for CFCs.

Also Monday:

■ Gore said it's too early to earmark federal money for the com-

Scientists at the University of Utah claim they have created cold fusion, a form of fusion that does not require intense heat.

Careful efforts to identify precisely the process reportedly discovered in Utah have been "disappointing," said Gore, who chairs the Senate subcommittee on science technology and space, "and much more scrutiny is warranted before the national makes any substantial commitment to the process."

"Let's see if it's real," he said.

Later Monday the Associated Press reported that a team from the California Institute of Technology said it found no evidence of fusion in Utah.

■ Gore said that despite the safety problems associated with nuclear power, the nation has an obligation to speed up research into what he called a new generation of "demonstrably safe" technology.

"I think the marketplace itself has concluded that the current generation of light water-pressurized reactors is a technological dead end," he said. "I think that research now under way points to a new generation of this technology which might have the potential for more passive safety in a way that can convince even the skeptics that nuclear power might one day have a renewed role in meeting this problem."



↑ marla - I think its time for a new like photo. The Journal must have lost theirs.

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C/A-
5/2/89

WORLD NEWS

Gore files 3 bills to curb chemicals hurting ozone

by James W. Brosnan
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Albert Gore Jr. (D-Tenn.) Monday proposed the toughest U.S. legislation yet to curb chemicals destroying the Earth's protective layer of ozone.

Gore's "Strategic Environment Initiative" aims to prevent a breakdown in the Earth's atmosphere that threatens to increase skin cancer and cataracts and to lower human and animal resistance to disease.

"We know that these chemicals are ripping up the Earth's protective ozone layer and contributing to the greenhouse effect," blamed for a warming trend on Earth, Gore said.

"We know that if we immediately stopped all use, the problems they've already created would linger on for decades," he said. "Hesitation simply cannot be tolerated. We must move as quickly as possible to stop the destruction."

One Gore bill immediately would ban the sale of some non-essential products that use the chemicals, known as chlorofluorocarbons.

A second bill would ban all of the most-destructive chlorofluorocarbons in five years and other chlorofluorocarbons in 10 years.

A third would spur chemical producers to find substitutes by immediately tacking on an excise tax to products like refrigerators that use chlorofluorocarbons.

The ozone layer blocks much of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. Chlorofluorocarbons destroy ozone through chemical reactions.

Representative of companies

How laws would work

WASHINGTON — Here are the three bills introduced Monday by Sen. Albert Gore Jr. (D-Tenn.) and what they would do:

Consumer Ozone Protection Act:

- Eliminate sale of recharge canisters containing chlorofluorocarbons that are less than 30 pounds.

- Require air-conditioner services to ensure all chlorofluorocarbons are recycled.

- Ban the sale of fire extinguishers using halon except on airplanes and in other cases where their use is required by federal law;

- Ban chlorofluorocarbons in noise horns, cleaning fluids and party streamers.

Upper-Ozone Chemicals

Act:

- Phase out use of three chlorofluorocarbons, two halon compounds and carbon tetrachloride over five years;

- Phase out three other chlorofluorocarbon compounds over 10 years.

- Ban imports of products using those chemicals unless originating countries have similar phase-outs under way.

Ozone Layer Conservation Act:

- Impose a tax on chemicals based on their potential for depleting the ozone. It's estimated the tax would bring in \$400 million in its first year and \$1.5 billion in its fifth year.

- Direct half the revenues to research on alternatives to ozone-depleting substances.

making chlorofluorocarbons, including Du Pont Co., contend substitutes won't be available in five years.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency, Chris Rice, said the Bush administration probably would not oppose a user fee on chlorofluorocarbon producers but would not back a ban before other countries agree to a ban.

Last year 37 nations agreed to reduce chlorofluorocarbon use by 50 percent over the next 10 years. But that only slows the rate of destruction of the ozone layer, said Gore. This week representatives of the same nations are meeting in Helsinki, Finland to talk about a faster, complete phaseout.

Earlier this year Gore introduced a broad bill that included a chlorofluorocarbon ban by the year 2000. Now Gore is convinced an earlier deadline is needed and he has also adopted the excise approach outlined in a House bill with 59 co-sponsors.

Gore held the first congressional hearings on the ozone problem eight years ago as a member of the House and staked out ozone as one of his major initiatives for 1989.

Monday night, addressing a National Academy of Sciences forum on global climate change, Gore cast the global environmental problems in terms of national and world security.

Text of Gore speech A9

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 9, 1989

TO: Al

FROM: Rick

SUBJECT: CFC Ban

Jerry tells me that you want to make a CFC ban your primary objective over the next two years. Is this the correct interpretation?

If this is indeed your intention, then what about a rapid overhaul of the CFC phaseout title of your bill, calling for stricter controls and an all-out U.S. production and import ban in the next few years. I could do this on the same crash program with which S.201 was prepared, and you could introduce it at the Feb. 23 CFC hearing...on the heels of the results from the Arctic expedition (assuming that the Arctic results support the need for such action). The timing, right after the Arctic expedition results are announced, would probably generate lot of publicity. It would also scoop anything that Thatcher might be planning for her March conference (see below).

This would require on my part some fast checking into the feasibility of such a ban. My hunch is that the "footdragging" on the part of the industry will continue as long as we let it...and that such a bill could be the catalyst to get feasible substitutes ready for the market ASAP... in the sort of timescale that makes sense if one considers the environmental havoc that CFCs continue to wage day after day.

I won't let us introduce anything foolish, but do you want me to charge ahead to determine if its a good idea?...and prepare legislation if it is? Other thoughts on this?

Margaret Thatcher's meeting is set for Mar. 5-7...and is intended to call attention to the need to strengthen the Montreal Protocol, and to demonstrate the technological readiness, etc., of substitutes. The first meeting of signatory parties to the Montreal Protocol is set for April, in Finland. I am getting more information from the State Dept. and the British Embassy; I'll keep you informed.

ALBERT GORE, JR.
TENNESSEE

393 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: 202-224-4944

Date: February 9, 1989 **United States Senate**
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

To: Rick Adcock

From: Albert Gore Jr. S

Re: memofeb9a

** T16101 From JPA **
** On 02/09/89 At 11:26 pm **

Good memo. What I had in mind was slightly different but this may be a good idea. Let's talk about it further so I can lay out my thoughts.

Gore tax would help fund ways to save ozone

CAROL BRADLEY

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Do-it-yourselfers could no longer recharge their own automobile air conditioners and face paying qualified mechanics more to do it if legislation introduced yesterday by Sen. Albert Gore Jr. becomes law.

The legislation calls for a manufacturer's excise tax to be imposed on chlorofluorocarbons and other chemicals believed to deplete the Earth's ozone layer.

CFCs, which are used to operate mobile air conditioners, can be recycled safely, Gore said, but most novice mechanics do not know how to do it and instead wind up releasing the chemicals back into the atmosphere.

The tax would cost the average motorist about \$2 every time an air conditioner is serviced. The money raised, about \$1.5 billion by the fifth year, would be spent finding safe alternatives to environmentally harmful chemicals, Gore said.

His proposed fee was one of three bills he introduced yesterday in an attempt to step up efforts to phase out hazardous chemicals.

In a speech he was to deliver last night before the National Academy of Sciences, Gore planned to go much further by proposing a Strategic Environment Initiative that would be similar in scope to the Strategic Defense Initiative.

A SEI could be used to spread the word about effective new technology, Gore said, and in the long run could encourage the "inescapable need" for re-examining the "the entire structure of our transportation sector, and its inherent demand on the personal vehicle for efficient transport."

The SEI could be funded by "very modest U.S. energy taxes," Gore planned to say, "eventually perhaps even a carbon dioxide tax, although that is not yet politically viable."

The senator introduced a wide-ranging ozone depletion bill in January and it's likely the three new measures will be tacked on as amendments, he said. He said new evidence about CFCs that has surfaced over the last couple of months prompted the new push.

"I want to sound an alarm as loudly

and clearly as possible of the grave and imminent danger to ecological systems ... and suggest a pattern of changes in industry, energy, agriculture and our way of thinking that can avoid and prevent that imminent harm," Gore said.

The chemical industry has recognized the need to phase out CFCs, Gore said, but at too slow a pace.

"We're looking at the welfare and health of all future generations," he said, "and how can that be weighed on the same scale against the profits of a particular industry or set of companies? That's absurd."

He wants to phase out production of such items as noise horns or party streamers as well as certain cleaning fluids — products containing CFCs. Gore said he's also asked the Environmental Protection Agency to consider a type of "bottle bill" for CFCs.

In other action yesterday, Gore said it's too early to earmark federal money for the commercial advancement of nuclear fusion, which comes from fusing atoms together instead of breaking them apart, as nuclear reactors do.

Scientists at the University of Utah claim they have created cold fusion, a form of fusion that does not require intense heat.

Careful efforts to identify precisely the process reportedly discovered in Utah have been "disappointing," said Gore, who chairs the Senate subcommittee on science, technology and space, "and much more scrutiny is warranted before the national makes any substantial commitment to the process."

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"I think the marketplace itself has concluded that the current generation of light water-pressurized reactors is a technological dead end," he said. ■