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Mediocre a

Rep. Thomas Manton announced yesterday that he would not announce his resignation until it was too late for New York Democrat Joseph P. Kamp to pick his successor, apparently has a hand-picking his successor.

The New York Times reported yesterday that Manton's successor, chosen by voters like Mr. Manton, would be a Queens Democrat, Joseph P. Kamp, who has been a mediocre congressman at best, despite his time to district newspapers said in an interview.

His chosen successor, Joseph P. Kamp, had an equally undistinguished career, notable mainly for his loyalty. The district with elected officials younger than Mr. Manton would like to have him in the post, most of the and more energetic than Joseph P. Kamp.

The newspaper's member of Congress will quickly be forgotten back home, he should be remembered as an emblem of mediocrity that permeates politics — an attitude that permeates politics — an attitude that permeates politics are unnecessary in the way of the dispensing of power.

Plaintive r

Phil Maloof, the veteran Democrat who received a special election to fill a House seat from New York will be on the ballot next week. And he apparently is still working on his resignation.

"I'm not taking any special-interest money," said Maloof in a day political column. "I'm speaking for Philip Maloof, not Philip Maloof."

The columnist said Maloof then added plaintive that in your article. •Greg Pierce can be reached at 202/636-3285 or by e-mail at (Pierce@twtdmail.com).

Inside Politics



Compiled by Greg Pierce

"At the heart of CBO's 'potency' is our reputation for providing objective, nonpartisan analysis. The Journal's editorial is one long harangue for 'rosy scenarios' and politicization of the agency."

They call it summer

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas Republican, accused Vice President Al Gore yesterday of politicizing the weather.

Mr. Gore, quoted in yesterday's Christian Science Monitor, had this to say about the brutal heat wave in the southern Plains and the Southwest: "How much more proof do we need that global warming is real?" The vice president went on to criticize Congress for ignoring the issue.

Mrs. Hutchison, appearing on C-SPAN's "Morning Journal," said: "I think we really don't want to politicize this heat wave by trying to indicate that there is a cause that is not proven at all."

The senator added: "Actually, the science does not in any way indicate that we are in global warming because of anything that is in the environment. Actually, we're in a cooling period."

Stassen loses again

Harold Stassen, who became the youngest governor ever elected in the United States 60 years ago, has lost a bid at running for the Minnesota post this

year.

The 91-year-old perennial presidential candidate was denied a shot Tuesday because he didn't have a running mate, said Joe Mansky, secretary of the state's elections division.

Mr. Stassen, who said in May that he would seek another term as governor, was 31 when he made U.S. history by being elected in 1938. By contrast, President Clinton was 32 when he was elected Arkansas governor in 1978.

In recent years, he has been known for political futility.

Mr. Stassen sought the Republican nomination for the White House 10 times, first in 1948 and most recently in 1992, when he won one Minnesota delegate.

His most recent shot at high office came in 1996, when he offered to be Bob Dole's running mate. Mr. Stassen said he wanted to show that Dole, then 72, was "young enough to be a successful president."

He was philosophical yesterday about his latest rebuff, the Associated Press reports.

"It's OK," Mr. Stassen said. "Half my thoughts were not to enter, but then of course, I had the old urge to participate."

Asked if his days as a candidate were over, he said, "I wouldn't say that."

Then he added, "I'll approach the future when it comes along."

yesterday at a weekly luncheon here hosted by conservative activist Paul Weyrich.

Mr. Bayley, the former prosecutor for King County, described himself as "a Ronald Reagan Republican" and said if he defeats Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, he would be one more vote to override President Clinton's veto of a ban on partial-birth abortions.

However, one conservative activist objected that in a TV interview Mr. Bayley had outlined a "Ted Kennedy" position on abortion in general, saying he was personally opposed to it but would not impose his beliefs on others.

Then, to the discomfiture of the candidate, the tape of the interview was played so the activists could judge for themselves.

Return fire

This column on Tuesday quoted from a Wall Street Journal editorial that criticized the performance of the Congressional Budget Office and urged a shakeup there after Director June O'Neill departs.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the CBO phoned to say the director had responded in a letter to the Journal that was expected to be published today or tomorrow. Here it is:

"If the editorial page staff of the Wall Street Journal aspire to become writers of fiction, Monday's great adventure in fantasy ('Beltway Potency, editorial page, July 20) suggests a successful future awaits them. For the record, I have not 'let it be known' I will not continue after my term expires. I will make that decision at an appropriate time. Further, CBO analyses are dynamic — not static — in that we take into account the anticipated changes in behavior that attend significant shifts in policy. And if our results would 'put a private forecaster out of a job,' as the Journal contends, there must be a lot of unemployed private-sector forecasters out there because most of them missed the revenue surge of the last couple of years as we did.

Kasich pushes for \$167 billion tax c

By John Godfrey
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich pitched a plan to House GOP leaders yesterday to use looming budget surpluses to cut taxes by \$167 billion over five years while reducing fed-

Social Security would get \$338 billion

erality funds for every liberal program you have ever dreamed of," said House Republican Conference Chairman John A. Boehner of Ohio.

Conversely, Sen. Minnesota Republican Tim Wirth said Mr. Kasich's plan is "getting closer" to the amount needed to secure the long-term solvency of Social Security. He and other Senate Republican leaders

Conversely, Sen. Minnesota Republican Tim Wirth said Mr. Kasich's plan is "not a step in the right direction." Commenting on the House Republican Senate Minority Leader Daschle, South Dak-

Global Warming Is a Hot Topic at the White House

■ **Weather:** Clinton, Gore use interest created by heat wave to focus attention on dangers of a changing climate. Scientists debate theory from sidelines.

By JAMES GERSTENZANG
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A-6

WASHINGTON—With a wide swath of the nation caught in the enervating grip of a deadly summer heat wave, President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have seized on the attention it has generated to warn of the dangers of global warming.

"As you can see from this sweltering heat, the climate of our country and our globe is changing," Clinton said Monday during an appearance in sweltering New Orleans.

But the science of global warming, the term attached to the notion that the Earth's temperature is increasing because of the greenhouse effect, is much more complicated than that, as scientists, including government experts, have taken pains to emphasize.

It is unlikely that any one event can be attributed to global warming, they say, even though a trend to which it contributes—in this case record-setting high temperatures around the globe month after month—is said to prove that the world's climate is getting warmer.

"Global warming is a relatively small change from year to year, but it is always pushing in one direction," said Kevin Trenberth, one of the government's leading researchers studying climate change around the world. "A lot of what we're seeing at the moment is the kind of extremes we expect from global warming."

Several recent climate trends have fueled the debate over global warming.

For each of the first six months of 1998, the mean global temperature was warmer than it was during the corresponding month in 1997. The monthly trend was topped off in June, when global surface temperatures were, on average, 1 degree warmer than the long-term mean

temperature for the month, according to records kept since 1880 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

But critics of the global warming theory say measurements taken anywhere from 5,000 to 30,000 feet above the Earth—which, some say, show little recent change or perhaps even a cooling trend—are more meaningful.

In addition to the temperature increase at the Earth's surface, drought in Florida contributed to the devastating fires there over the last several weeks, and torrential downpours produced unusually fierce flood torrents in the northeastern United States.

It is unclear whether these events are related to global warming.

Warmer temperatures may have pushed back the start of the summer rainy season in Florida, scientists say, and thus induced greater evaporation from the surface of the ocean, lifting more moisture into the atmosphere, carrying it elsewhere and then dropping it in sudden, intense storms.

"When you put the whole picture together, one should conclude that global warming is playing a role," said Trenberth, head of the climate analysis section of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. "A few degrees on top of what would already be a heat wave pushes the edge a bit more. It goes over a threshold, and things are no longer tolerable."

On the other hand, he added: "Most of what is going on is summertime. It's supposed to be hot. Maybe it's bit hotter than it would

be..."

Reflecting scientists' uncertainty about when the occasionally unusual crosses the line to become a demonstrable trend, as well as his conviction that "the atmosphere is a pretty chaotic, hard-to-understand system,"

Randall Ceverny, a climatologist at Arizona State University, said: "If we were to see many, many more heat waves each and every year, that would be a trend associated with global warming."

Gore and, increasingly, Clinton, have been among the more vocal political adherents of the global warming theory—reflecting the widespread agreement, but certainly not unanimity, among scientists and others who have studied data that the Earth's climate has been growing measurably warmer, most notably in the last decade.

Both Clinton and Gore have focused their attention on the weather pattern as Congress has debated an appropriations provision that the administration says would restrict its ability to take steps intended to counter global warming and even to study the phenomenon.

"This strange pattern of weather is in keeping with the consequences that were predicted as a result of global warming," Gore said.

the Electricity Daily

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 24

A PUBLICATION OF THE ELECTRICITY JOURNAL

TUES., AUG. 4, 1998

Clinton Climate Plan Would Kill Coal

The latest White House estimate of the costs of complying with the Kyoto global warming treaty assumes the replacement of every coal-fired power plant in the U.S. with gas generation by 2008, according to an analysis of the estimate by **Charles River Associates**. White House economic advisor **Janet Yellen** last week issued an update of an earlier paper on the costs of Kyoto compliance, concluding that reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the levels required by Kyoto protocol would cost a mere \$7 billion to \$12 billion per year in 2008-2010.

The **Global Climate Coalition**, an industry-backed group that opposes U.S. ratification of the treaty, commissioned the CRA review of Yellen's work. CRA said, "The administration has assumed extremely rapid replacement of coal-fired power plants by new natural gas plants by 2008. This is a very optimistic assumption about how rapidly large change in natural gas infrastructure and power generation can be achieved, and there is some inconsistency between a very low

permit price and achievement of these assumed changes."

Among other problems with the Yellen estimate is that it assumes worldwide trading of CO2 among all countries, at \$14-23 per ton, says CRA. Under this scenario, the U.S. would be purchasing over 80 percent of its permits from abroad, rather than making reductions in emissions here. This level of trading drew fire from environmentalists, who prefer that U.S. industry reduce emissions directly.

The GCC, sounding a bit green itself, noted that the U.S. would "spend billions of dollars to purchase emissions credits - mainly in Russia - to offset our own inability to meet the goals set by the protocol. That is, instead of actually cutting back on our own greenhouse emissions, mainly carbon dioxide, we will be forced to make a massive transfer of wealth to other countries that are actually producing less greenhouse gases than they were in 1990."

CRA's estimate, using "perhaps more realistic assumptions about technology, fuel substitution, and the scope of international trading,"

is that permits will cost about \$170 per ton. "In such circumstances," says the report, "GDP losses at least 10 times the costs derived by the administration could occur, with similarly greater impacts on families, jobs, and businesses - increasing the average household's energy bill by about \$850 per year and gasoline prices by almost \$.50 per gallon. Such impacts are consistent with the findings of others who have analyzed the likely impact of complying with the Kyoto protocol."

Entergy to Spin Off Assets, Cut Dividend

Seeking to boost its stagnant stock price, **Entergy Corp.** yesterday announced it would sell off its international electric distribution businesses - **London Electricity** in the U.K. and **CitiPower** in Australia; **Entergy Security Inc.**, its security company with 200,000 customers in the Southeast; portions of its telecommunications interests; and **Entergy Integrated Solutions**, its energy management company. New Orleans-based Entergy also said it will cut the company's quarterly dividend to 30 cents per share from 45 cents, effective Sept. 1. The company hopes to raise \$4 billion through the asset sales and trimmed dividend.

"We need to get back to basics with our core domestic utility business," said **Robert Luft**, Entergy chairman and acting CEO, acknowledging that customer service quality has suffered at the utility. The trimmed-down company will focus on four areas, Luft told reporters yesterday, including international power generation in merchant plants, nuclear operations through **Entergy Nuclear, Inc.**, and power trading and marketing. "We've over-extended our resources in the past," he said, "and were not doing justice to some of our businesses. With the new,

White House IDs Areas of Electric Interest

The electric industry held a summit meeting with the Clinton administration's global warming team last week in Washington, including Vice President Al Gore. Among the folks at the meeting from the industry side were several investor-owned utility CEOs, including **Richard Abdo** of Wisconsin Energy, **Wayne Brunetti** of New Century Energy, **Lawrence Cadey** of Public Service Electric & Gas, and **E. Linn Draper** of American Electric Power.

According to **John Novak** of the Edison Electric Institute, the White House identified three areas where it

and the electric industry can work together productively. Novak told reporters yesterday that those areas include:

- Regulatory flexibility and regulatory incentives. That includes issues such as hydro and nuclear relicensing.
- What to do to encourage nuclear power and hydroelectric, two areas where administration action could bring Gore into collision with his environmentalist friends.
- Credit for early action taken by the electric industry to voluntarily reduce CO2 emissions.

Gore's remarks heat up global warming debate

By James W. Brosnan
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

A4

Looks like even presidential candidates will be talking about the weather.

Vice President Al Gore took the time yesterday to announce that July was the hottest month since reliable recording began in 1880 — further evidence, he said, of global warming.

Republican officials said it was evidence that Mr. Gore, the favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, is an environmental extremist.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center, July temperatures averaged 61.7 degrees Fahrenheit, 1.26 degrees higher than average, and 0.45 degrees higher than the previous record set last year. Every previous month in 1998 set a record, too.

"When you look at these figures, it's easy to see the long-term trend, and it's easy to see how unprecedented this January through July really is," Mr. Gore said. "And when we warm up the planet, the result is more extreme weather, more floods, more drought, stronger storms.

"How much more evidence do we need that global warming is real and it's here?" he asked.

Republicans said it was certainly evidence of a trend, but not necessarily one proven to be caused by carbon monoxide emissions from burning coal in utility plants, gasoline in cars and other fuels, as Mr. Gore contends.

"Of course there is global warming," said Lamar Alexander, a contender for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination. "Everyone's grandmother can tell you that winters were colder 70 or 80 years ago. It's part of a process that's gone on for thousands of years. . . .

"The question is whether the industrialization of the Earth is accelerating that process and what to do about it. That's a serious issue. He's running around like Chicken Little warning us that it's going to

be hot in August and that global warming is some new phenomenon."

Another GOP contender, magazine publisher Steve Forbes, said, "The earth is 4 billion years old. Thirty-one days does not a major climatic change make. We need sober scientific evidence, not superficial, superheated musings."

Sen. John Ashcroft, Missouri Republican, who also is considering a presidential run, said the global warming treaty that Mr. Gore helped negotiate in Kyoto, Japan, last year would "sacrifice the living standard of all Americans."

The Republican Party Web site includes a map that claims to show the estimated job loss in each state if the treaty is ratified. In Florida, where Mr. Gore has blamed this summer's forest fires on global climate change, the map says the treaty would cost 56,600 jobs. In Texas, where temperatures in Dallas stayed above 100 degrees 29 days in a row, the study claims the treaty would cost 123,000 jobs.

"He is making a choice between the extreme environmental fringe of his party and American workers. And he's making the wrong choice," GOP spokesman Mike Collins said of Mr. Gore.

But the vice president argued yesterday that "we can meet the challenges of global warming without economic cooling."

In the Washington area, the average daily high temperature recorded at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in July was 1.1 degrees cooler than average, according to the National Weather Service.

The normal average temperature is 80 degrees, based on daily highs for the past 30 years. The average high temperature in July 1998 was 78.9 degrees.

During a late July heat wave, though, the mercury rose to 96 degrees on July 21. The stifling heat lasted about a week before subsiding.

The hottest July in Washington since records have been kept in 1871 was 1993, when the average high temperature for the month was 83.1 degrees.

● *Leslie Koren contributed to this report.*

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White House, Hill Democrats Vow to Stop 'Anti-Environmental' Riders

WEDNESDAY
9/30/98

By Joby Warrick
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 30, 1998; Page A05

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The White House joined congressional Democrats yesterday in vowing to block Republican spending bills that contain "anti-environmental" amendments -- even if it means risking a government shutdown.

In a new signal of the Clinton administration's willingness to stand firm on the issue, Vice President Gore called on congressional leaders to end "backdoor assaults" on the environment and "send the president clean bills."

"We are once again putting Congress on notice: We will not tolerate stealth attacks that do unacceptable harm to our environment or threaten public health," Gore said in a statement.

In a coordinated response, congressional Democrats promised to supply the votes needed to block any attempt to override a veto. More than 140 Democrats signed a letter to President Clinton urging him to strike down appropriations bills that have what they consider anti-environmental measures attached.

"They are a poison pill," Sen. Max Baucus (Mont.), ranking Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, warned in floor speech yesterday. "We'll be back to where we were three years ago, facing a veto, gridlock and a political showdown."

At issue are as many as 50 "riders" or amendments attached to appropriations bills that fund government agencies. Often buried within the dense language of "must-pass" spending bills, riders are favored by some lawmakers as a way of affecting policy while bypassing the normal legislative process.

Included in the current crop are measures that would allow road-building or other encroachments on federal wilderness areas, delay implementation of federal air pollution standards and ban government actions to reduce emissions blamed for global warming.

Although most are narrow in focus, the riders collectively would represent a significant step backward for the environment, opponents said. "Make no mistake," said Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-Ore.), "if these riders are passed this will have been the most anti-environmental Congress ever."

But Republicans say critics of the riders are being hypocritical,

Congress Sold Out to Big Tobacco.

Congress Sold Out to Big Tobacco.



denouncing

some riders while remaining silent on scores of others. Many environmental protections, including bans on offshore drilling, were achieved through riders, they note.

In addition, policies that are considered "anti-environmental" to some may be life-savers to others, helping them keep their jobs and earn a living for their families. "It all depends on whose ox is getting gored," said a GOP staff aide for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Controversy over the riders has already snarled progress on several of the dozen spending bills still before Congress. With just over two weeks remaining before Congress's scheduled adjournment, Republican leaders were considering combining the measures into a single omnibus bill -- a move Baucus predicted would "only compound the mayhem."

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Gore Asks Chemical Industry To Test for Any Toxic Effects

By JOHN H. CUSHMAN Jr. ^{A24}

WASHINGTON, April 21 — The Clinton Administration today asked chemical companies to test thousands of common chemicals and disclose their toxicity, threatening to require the tests if the companies do not comply voluntarily.

Vice President Al Gore proposed the idea at a small rally in a picnic area in Washington's Rock Creek Park, where he also signaled a partisan political tone for this week's observances of Earth Day by accusing Republicans in Congress of "cozying up to the worst of the polluters."

Emphasizing two of the Administration's favorite environmental themes — protecting children from pollution and expanding the public's right to know about emissions of potentially harmful pollutants — Mr. Gore said that testing chemicals and disclosing their toxicity would serve both purposes.

Under the Administration's plan, industry would run a standard set of tests on each of about 3,000 chemicals that are produced in amounts of more than a million pounds a year. Fewer than a tenth of these chemicals have been fully tested to date, officials said.

The chemical industry said today that it would voluntarily accelerate the pace of this kind of testing, submitting as many as 100 new chemicals per year to the tests by the year 2003. But environmental groups said that was not fast enough.

Mr. Gore also told the Environmental Protection Agency to consider additional testing for chemicals that children are most likely to be exposed to, and for chemicals that tend to build up in bodily tissues.

Officials said the agency already had the authority to require the chemical tests under existing laws and would not have to seek Congressional approval.

Mr. Gore lashed out at the Republi-

can leadership in Congress, which he said was "up to its anti-environmental games, tempted, as they are, to do what the large polluters are asking them to do."

"They are helping the polluters and hurting children and families," he said to a group made up largely of children from neighborhood schools. "If they don't learn that soon, they will learn it suddenly," he said, calling for voters in November to "get people in there who will vote to clean up the environment."

Mr. Gore complained that the Senate, in its budget resolution, had cut much of the financing for several of the Administration's environmental initiatives, including those dealing with parks, clean water and energy conservation tax credits.

Environmental groups welcomed the Administration's position on chemical testing. "Even basic health-effects tests are missing from the public record for most of the top-selling public chemicals," said Fred Krupp, the executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund, which called attention to the problem in a report last July.

Fred Webber, the chief executive officer of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, said his industry group was already working closely with both the environmental agency and Mr. Krupp's group to increase the rate of testing and expand public access to the information.

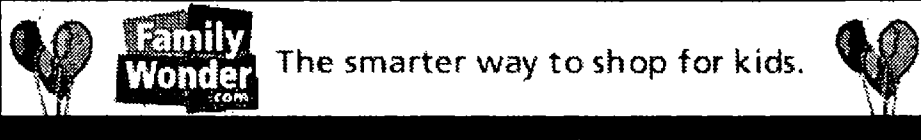
He said it would cost the industry an estimated \$26 million per year to test 100 chemicals annually. But Mr. Krupp said that at the industry's proposed rate it would take two decades to complete the screening tests, and urged the companies to act by the year 2000.



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WIRE:12/20/1999 01:10:00 ET

WASHINGTON YESTERDAY: Two centuries of White House makeovers



WASHINGTON (AP) _ When President Truman ordered the White House interior gutted and rebuilt in the early 1950s he exposed a fossil record of the mansion's 150-year home improvement drive.

Gouged into the red bricks that backed the old sandstone walls were the channels cut for gas lighting, the pipes for early indoor plumbing, the remains of ancient electric wires.

The Truman demolition left skeletal outlines of old fireplaces, evidence of early central-heating ducts and the remains of the bell system used to summon servants.

In its two centuries the White House has been a showcase of American innovation, refitted repeatedly to accommodate new and changing technology.

President Clinton added the latest chapter this month when he reported on what his administration has done to bring the newest methods of reducing waste and increasing efficiency at the old house. He cited everything from using new halogen light bulbs to employing the latest energy-efficient generation of computers, copiers and fax machines.

Some presidents and their families resisted modern conveniences.

When workmen in 1848 installed pipes for gaslights

which workmen in 1840 installed pipes for gaslights — cheaper, safer and brighter than candles — the wife of President Polk was unimpressed.

Sarah Polk demanded that one room — the Blue Room — be lighted only by the candles always used there.

So at 9 p.m., during the first reception after the advent of the new lighting system, the gas company unexpectedly cut off the flow of gas for the evening.

The flames in the chandeliers flickered and died, throwing the crowded White House into darkness — except for the Blue Room, where Sarah Polk presided serenely in the comforting glow of dozens of shimmering wax candles.

The first improvements at the White House were made before the building was a year old.

Thomas Jefferson began by demolishing the outdoor privy that had served President John Adams.

Historian William Seale, in his definitive two-volume chronicle of the White House, "The President's House," writes that Jefferson ordered a pair of indoor water closets, specifying that they be "cleansed constantly by a pipe throwing water through them at a command from a reservoir above."

It was the first White House plumbing.

Heating was always a problem in the drafty White House. Adams installed a coal-fired furnace to warm the dining room for his guests, but the rest of the house depended on fireplaces and occupants often shivered.

"Hell itself couldn't heat that corner," Andrew Jackson growled about one chilly spot.

His successor, Martin Van Buren, experimented with central heating in 1840, and President Pierce added improvements in 1853. The Pierce system used copper coils filled with hot water to heat air, which then circulated through ducts.

"Central heat — still uncommon at this time — was a luxury to which the 19th century presidents quickly



grew accustomed," Seale writes.

Alexander Graham Bell's telephone arrived "on trial" on May 10, 1879. At first, there were so few telephone subscribers in the capital that there was almost no one to talk to.

But Seale records that the first typewriter proved its worth shortly after the crate it came in was opened in 1880, quickly replacing the elegant penmanship of generations of scribes.

Electric lights were installed in the White House in 1891 _ shortly after Thomas Edison perfected the light bulb. But President Benjamin Harrison and his wife were wary.

"As long as they remained at the White House, the Harrisons refused to operate the electric lights because they feared being shocked," Seale writes.

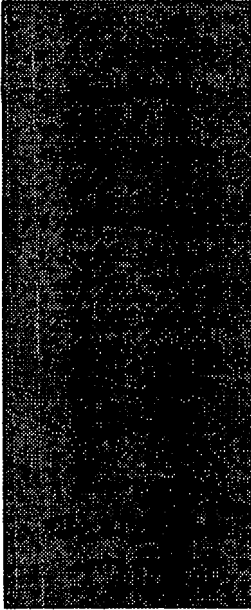
Air conditioning was first attempted during a medical emergency in the steamy summer of 1881. Electric blowers and tons of ice were used to cool the overheated bedroom in which President Garfield suffered for weeks after being shot by an assassin.

The first attempt to air-condition the whole house was made in 1909, again with fans blowing on ice. It was not a success.

A workable modern system was installed in Franklin Roosevelt's White House in 1933. It used units installed in fireplaces and rooftop compressors to cool six bedrooms. The central system now in place, improved as needed over the years, dates from Truman's time. So does the rest of the White House interior.

President Carter tried to leave his mark with solar panels in the 1970s. It was hoped they would heat the water for a staff kitchen, but the results were disappointing. The apparatus was removed during the Reagan administration.

Clinton said he hoped the changes he approved will make the White House a model of efficiency and environmental excellence well into the next century



while setting an example for the country.

"Before I ask you to do the best you can in your house, I ought to make sure I'm doing the best I can in my house," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lawrence L. Knutson has reported on Congress, the White House and Washington's history for more than 30 years.

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Green lobbyists breathe down the neck of 'Ozone Man'

As Al Gore redraws his campaign plans, he also finds himself in trouble on the environmental front, writes Nancy Dunne

It was "Ozone Man" to the rescue in Kyoto two years ago, when negotiations over a treaty to address global climate change were deadlocked.

US Vice-President Al Gore, so nicknamed by former President George Bush for his well-publicised commitment to the environment, swooped into the Japanese city for a speech and in less than 24 hours had strengthened the minimalist US position and helped forge a compromise which led to the Kyoto Protocol.

The White House now lists the breakthrough on climate change as a big accomplishment of the Clinton environmental team. But it has yet to send the treaty to the US Senate for approval, which many critics say characterises the administration's failure to take strong leadership on environmental issues.

Widespread disillusionment with the administration's environmental record culminated in a recent endorsement by the Friends of the Earth political action committee of Bill Bradley, a former senator and Mr Gore's opponent for the Democratic party's presidential nomination.

Although Friends of the Earth, with 20,000 members in the US, is one of the smaller environmental groups, it was a significant setback for Mr Gore, whose best-selling book Earth in

the Balance had raised the hopes of US greens for a new era of environmental progress.

On climate change, perhaps the most important issue of the decade, the administration has bowed to vehicle and energy industry and union lobbies, despite popular support for action in what has become the warmest decade in recorded history.

Although many environmentalists criticised the Kyoto treaty as inadequate - greenhouse emissions are to be reduced 7 per cent below 1990 levels by 2006-2012 - they are even more upset about the administration's failure to follow through on implementation.

They concede that the treaty faces certain defeat in the Senate, where a group of influential Republicans has vowed to block it. But they say such lapses in leadership have become more the rule than the exception in an administration that has failed to use the White House to mobilise public support.

"This administration may have caused more international environmental damage than any before it," said Brent Blackwelder, president of Friends of the Earth. "Its trade agreements have undermined environmental protections, and now it is pushing towards a new global timber agreement



Al Gore, pictured at a fundraising reception this week, has suffered a rebuff from Friends of the Earth

which will accelerate the decline of forests."

The administration blocked the international Biosafety agreement, which was to have dealt with the risk of biological pollution, and failed to curb environmentally damaging lending by the multilateral institutions, he said. It signed legislation which would ultimately reduce the Environmental Protection Agency's budget.

While disappointment with the administration's record is widespread, most of the mainstream green groups are not ready to withdraw support from the vice-president. Many say they do not know whether to blame him or President Bill Clinton for the lapses, and most are reluctant to expose Mr Gore to criticism, as they consider the Clinton record an improvement over the two previous Republican administrations.

In fact, the White House

can boost some real achievements, according to Bruce Hamilton of the Sierra Club environmental pressure group.

These include the California Desert Protection Act, which protects millions of acres of wilderness; the designation of a portion of south-eastern Utah, threatened with oil and gas development, as a national monument; protection of Alaska's Arctic Slope; and strong action on air pollution.

"The agencies have done a good, but not excellent, job," Mr Hamilton said. "However, we are disappointed by many actions they haven't taken, and there are many lawsuits for failing to do things required by law."

Environmentalists reluctantly accept that the "spin control" machinery, which dominates the administration's actions on other fronts, controls environmental strategy as well.

Early this month the White House put out a statement on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, taking credit for reductions in ozone-depleting chemicals begun in the Bush administration.

In fact, according to John Passacantando of Ozone Action, a national group focused on atmospheric protection, the administration actually slowed the phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons when Dupont offered to end their production in 1995, a year early.

Other steps the administration claimed would strengthen international efforts to restore the ozone layer were "not bold risk-taking stuff but rather timid measures that at the most anti-environmental forces would easily accept", Mr Passacantando said.

While the White House has sought to balance the interests of business and the environment, it has also had

to manoeuvre against the most anti-environmental Congress in recent history.

Treaties on climate change, law of the sea, desertification and biodiversity conservation stand virtually no chance of passage. Congress has prohibited any spending to implement the Kyoto Protocol.

Every year the Republican-dominated Congress adds anti-environmental amendments to key appropriations bills - only some of which have brought presidential vetoes. This year there are about 40 provisions expected, ranging from a proposal to restrict rules for wetland development and prohibitions on stricter fuel economy standards from sports-utility vehicles.

Now the administration handles these will be closely watched by environmental groups, who have yet to decide whether support for Ozone Man is worth the

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Inside Politics



Compiled by Greg Pierce

Getting warm

President Clinton, on a visit to Newport, R.I., yesterday, blamed the warm weather on so-called global warming — and then said how much he was enjoying it.

“On the way in here I thanked Senator [John H.] Chafee in particular for his help in trying to sensitize the Congress to the great challenge of climate change and global warming,” he said of the Rhode Island Republican.

“But on this magnificent December day in Rhode Island, it’s hard to see it as a threat, I must say. I appreciate this wonderful day.”

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White House Climate Change Task Force

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Total # of Pages: 12

Comments:

- ① PRESIDENT'S RADIO ADDRESS
- ② VA, HUD BILL LANGUAGE & REPORT LANGUAGE (THAT WAS REMOVED BY THE OBEY AMEN.)
- ③ BUDGET INFO

July 26, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TODD STERN

SUBJECT: Climate Change Weekly Report (weeks of July 13 and 20)

Congressional

Appropriations. A little good news in the House this week. First, we worked with Rep. Obey on an amendment to override the Knollenberg gag order in the report to the VA-HUD bill. The amendment passed 226-198, with 175 Ds and 51 Rs voting for it. Rep. Greenwood had planned to offer an amendment to neutralize the Knollenberg bill language, but at the last minute, Greenwood, decided to not offer it. We were working this hard, as were the enviros. It would surely have lost, but probably with a respectable vote. Greenwood, along with Reps. Boelhart and Waxman, criticized the bill language during floor debate. Because the Senate bill does not contain any such language on this issue, we are hopeful that we can work with the Senate and these House members to modify the language in conference.

Second, after an initial 213-212 defeat, the House accepted a Skaggs/Fox amendment to the Interior Approps bill to add back \$45 million to DOE's energy efficiency budget; \$34 million of this was part of our climate change initiative. This still leaves us far below your requested increase of \$193 million, but it was an important step in the right direction.

Domestic policy

Economic analysis. CEA's economic analysis, which provides the underpinning to Janet Yellen's February economic testimony on the Hill, is ready for release. There is one open issue that I will address through a separate memo that should be ready for your review Monday or Tuesday.

Federal energy. As you know, we used this week's radio address to roll out the first four elements of your federal energy plan, all related to significantly reducing the use of energy in federal buildings. A good AP story ran in the Sunday *Washington Post*. Your announcement included: (1) a directive to all agencies urging them to maximize their use of energy saving performance contracts, accompanied by specific OMB guidance; (2) a new campaign to replace 300,000 light bulbs/fixtures in federal buildings with fluorescents in the next three years; (3) a directive to agencies to maximize efforts to earn EPA's Energy Star label for their buildings; (4) DOD's and six other agencies' agreement to build all new buildings, starting in the year 2000, according to sustainable design principles (e.g., 50% more energy efficient). We are pressing ahead on the other elements of your federal energy plan.

Auto tax credit. I met separately with GM and Chrysler this week to see if the logjam could be broken in discussions on an auto tax credit. The discussions to date, led by NEC, CEQ and OVP, have foundered on the companies' opposition to a performance based credit (i.e., a credit for cars that achieve two/three times ordinary mileage for their class). What they would support is a credit for use of specific technologies -- such as hybrid engines. Our side has resisted until now out of concern that unless the credit is performance based, you can't be certain that greenhouse gas emissions will decline; the technology could be put into larger cars so that net emissions, compared to a conventional engine in a smaller car, were the same. GM argues that these technologies will always save emissions because even if the hybrid goes into a bigger car, it'll emit less than a conventional engine in the bigger car. My feeling is that to have an auto tax credit which Detroit would actively support on the Hill would be a huge boost for us -- and would give us a transportation initiative with some zip -- so I want to rapidly explore whether we can't bend enough to make a deal. Adequate acceptance by the environmental community (which likes our performance based proposal) would be essential to make this work.

Industry consultations. We met recently with CEOs from the steel, cement and forest products industries. The meetings were cordial, but there is a good deal of wariness on the part of many of these leaders. They are uncertain about the level of reductions that would be expected of them under a ratified treaty, uncertain about how mechanisms like trading would work, and concerned about the lack of developing country participation. The Asian financial crisis has made this last concern a good deal more acute, especially for industries like steel and forest products facing stiff competition from those countries. The idea that our Kyoto obligations would give these countries *another* price advantage (beyond cheap labor and a devalued currency), riles many of these CEOs. We, of course, stress the value of working in partnership with us, but with many industries, this is going to be tough sledding.

Diplomatic

A senior Chinese official has offered one of the most positive statements from her government to date on the topic of emissions trading. Deng Nan, Vice Minister of Science and Technology (and daughter of Deng Xiaoping), said that China is willing to work with other countries to develop rules for emissions trading and would welcome further discussions with the U.S. on this topic. The remarks came during a ceremony attended by Ambassador Sasser, launching a program to build a demonstration energy efficient building in Beijing.

The G-8 climate change working group held its first meeting last week in London. Talks were constructive, but underscored the wide gaps between ourselves and the EU on the difficult issue of emissions trading. EU officials continue to insist on a percentage cap on the amount of reductions that any country may purchase from abroad.

Communications

Tuesday and Wednesday, *CNN* aired a strong two-minute segment on climate change that included footage of the heat wave in the Southwest, the Vice President's event last week and your speech to the AFT. Anti-climate remarks by Rep. Knollenberg were countered by a litany of recent weather data. On Thursday, *The Los Angeles Times* ran a story detailing your and the Vice President's recent activity on climate change. There was also significant press coverage of the House vote to drop the "gag order." In next week's issue, *Newsweek* is expected to run a piece on the heat wave, its connection to climate change and its agricultural implications.

Editorials. Our editorial mailing of a couple weeks ago continued to pay dividends. The *Washington Post*, *Detroit Free Press*, and *Los Angeles Times* all editorialized against the gag order provision in the VA, HUD bill. The *Free Press* also criticized the funding cuts. On Sunday, July 12, the *New York Times*, ran an editorial attacking the Knollenberg and other anti-environmental riders. On Friday, July 17, the *Times* editorialized on the heat wave in the South and Southwest and its possible link to global warming.

The Vice President's weather event on Tuesday, July 14, was covered by NBC and ABC in long pieces on the Texas drought, and also received a good deal of print coverage.

United Technologies Corporation pledged to reduce energy use 25% by the year 2007 in over 240 facilities worldwide. A congratulatory letter from you was sent to the CEO, George David.

cc: Vice President
Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Ron Klain
Jack Lew
Katie McGinty
Mike McCurry
Gene Sperling
Jim Steinberg
Janet Yellen

August 1, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TODD STERN

SUBJECT: Climate Change Weekly Report

Domestic policy

Industry consultations. We had a constructive meeting yesterday with top management of 14 major electric power providers, a sector that produces a third of the nation's carbon emissions. The group included CEOs of American Electric Power, the Southern Company, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Texas Utilities, Wisconsin Electric, Illinova, Public Service Electric and Gas (New Jersey) and Trigen, as well as the President of Edison Electric Institute, the industry association. The Vice President did a very effective drop-by for around 30 minutes. Three issues were raised over and over: credit for early action; extending the life of nuclear (and to a lesser extent, hydro) plants, which emit no greenhouse gases but face major hurdles on the relicensing and waste fronts; and a more coordinated, rational approach to environmental regulation.

On this last point, many argued that they face contradictory air pollution requirements on varying time schedules, which can result in their having to ameliorate one problem (say, sulphur or NOX) at the cost of exacerbating another, like CO2. Tom Casten claimed that there are innovative solutions on CO2 that could be put into effect if we had performance-based standards for pollutants. Tom made the useful suggestion to establish an informal task force of people from their side and our side to examine this regulatory question, and the Vice President agreed. We will follow this up on a fast track. On the other points, we were already planning (this week if possible) a working session on early credit with our interagency team and the three outside groups who have done significant thinking in this area (one of these is a joint group from the Environmental Defense Fund and several utilities); and we will move our dialogue on the nuclear and hydro issues to a more technical level to see if helpful options can be developed.

Economic analysis. We released our economic analysis yesterday. Janet Yellen and I briefed several environmental reporters. We also sent it up to all interested Members on the Hill, did a small House and Senate staff briefing, and will do further briefings both on the Hill and for business, labor and environmental groups on Monday. As expected, the analysis has been criticized from both left and right -- the left saying we rely too much on buying permits from abroad, the right saying it's a rosy scenario. The *New York Times* and *AP* both ran stories, which emphasized the report's reliance on international trading. Janet and I both pushed back on this in our briefing; *AP* gave more attention to our arguments than the *Times* did.

Congressional

Rep. Matsui is planning to introduce our climate change tax package at an event on the Hill Wednesday morning. Larry Summers and I are going to participate. The Matsui bill will include our auto tax credit as we proposed it, but we are continuing to work with GM to see if a modified auto tax credit can be fashioned that they can support. To this end, we sent a two-person team from CEA and NEC to Detroit this week to meet with GM. The toughest part of this will be to develop a proposal that gains some support from the environmental community.

cc: Vice President
Erskine Bowles
Sandy Berger
John Podesta
Ron Klain
Jack Lew
Mike McCurry
Katie McGinty
Gene Sperling
Jim Steinberg
Janet Yellen