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Washington 100
11/2/98

Al Gore Global War

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



Big Talk.



Li

Al Gore the environmentalist says

You said: "This is not about a photo

Gore on Warming



Little Action.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

u said: "This is not about a photo

We urge you to change course now to fulfill

all the right things.

But Al Gore the politician doesn't seem to be listening.

Mr. Vice President, you once wrote a landmark book on the environment called *Earth in the Balance*.

You said: "I have become very impatient with my own tendency to put a finger to the political winds and proceed cautiously."

We are impatient, too.

When George Bush attended the Earth Summit in 1992, you harshly criticized his failure to tackle global warming.

opportunity. It is about leadership, it is about courage, and the President is exhibiting neither.

Now we're reading *your* lips.

After six years in office—and on the eve of another international meeting on global warming—you and President Clinton have promised a great deal, but delivered very little.

In fact, U.S. global warming pollution has grown five times faster during your Administration than it did under Presidents Reagan and Bush. The five hottest years since the Middle Ages have all occurred in the 1990s, and this September was the hottest September since modern record-keeping began.

Start Cutting America's Air P

National Environmental Trust

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Signing the global warming treaty, as your Administration has promised, is only a start. The time has come to say, as you yourself once said: "We must take bold and unequivocal action."

If not you, then who?

TOTAL P.25

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Nov. 2, 98

COUNTERPOINTS

Administration's Actions Fall Short of Rhetoric

By Philip E. Clapp
President

National Environmental Trust

Over the last six years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have talked a great deal about the dangers of global warming. One of these days they're going to actually have to do something.

Clinton and Gore campaigned against President Bush by castigating his weak, voluntary measures to reduce global warming pollution. But since gaining office half a dozen years ago, they have done even less than Bush proposed. Although the United States pledged, in 1992, to cut global warming emissions, we're on track to be 13 percent over the original goal by 2000.

Examples of how the White House has failed to back up its rhetoric abound:

- Both President Clinton and Vice President Gore repeatedly have promised to restructure the electric industry in a way that "delivers a significant down payment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," as Clinton has said. But their proposals included no serious effort to reduce emissions.

- The White House trumpets the recent \$1 billion appropriated by Congress for research in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. But the Administration can't even put a figure on how much of a dent this might make in global warming pollution — it may be too small to be meaningful. Meanwhile, energy efficiency standards approved by Congress long ago have been bottled up in the Administration for years.

- After negotiating the Kyoto global warming treaty, the U.S. quickly became the only nation to qualify its commitment with a vague and misleading call for "meaningful participation" by the developing countries.

- Going into the current round of negotiations in Buenos Aires, the Administration seems intent on using the Kyoto treaty's flexibility mechanisms to achieve more than 80 percent of the United States' emission reductions overseas. While a pollution trading plan has worked well for acid rain and should be a part of the Kyoto Protocol, we cannot continue to refuse responsibility for our own pollution.

The Clinton Administration still hasn't signed the Kyoto Protocol. Expect an orchestrated fanfare when it does. Also expect a continued lack of progress. The United States, with its wealth, its technology, and its lion's share of the contribution to global warming pollution, should be leading the rest of the world toward solutions. We're not. ■

Cont. Washington Post Ad. Supplement

11/2/98

Dr. James Baker

Potentially Devastating Effects

Why should just a few degrees of warming be cause for concern? The answer is that a relatively small change in mean global temperature can lead to a large change in extreme events. This year's El Niño has given us a window on the kind of world we might see as climate changes — increased rainfall, flooding, and droughts. Much of the United States and other mid- to high-latitude regions could be faced with more frequent occurrences of these events. Increased duration and frequency of heat waves would heighten mortality rates, and the potential for transmitting serious infectious diseases would be increased.

With 50 percent of the U.S. population and 50 to 70 percent of the global population currently living in coastal areas, future sea level rises, alterations in storm patterns and higher storm surges could have devastating effects. Even with current global populations, a 20-inch rise in the sea level without adaptive measures would



directly threaten 92 million people. Making matters worse, Americans are moving to coastal areas at a rate of 3,600 each day.

Thousands of the world's leading climate researchers in 150 countries, through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have

concluded that climate change is real and that we are seeing a discernible human influence. If we are to reduce the impact on future generations, perhaps even on our own, we cannot continue with business as usual. We must heed the science, continue to build and fine-

tune our knowledge, and gain meaningful participation in the Kyoto Protocol. Most importantly, we must realize that when it comes to the environment, everyone is a stakeholder. It is a challenge we cannot afford to ignore. ■

Issue Forum

The Science of Global Climate Change

The Risks of a Warmer World



by D. James Baker
Administrator, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

Whether natural or human-induced, changes in the Earth's climate can affect temperature and precipitation patterns worldwide. Long-term climate change such as global greenhouse warming could have major impacts on human health, the environment, the economy and society. It could affect everything from energy use and transportation to water resource management and agriculture to international trade and development.

With the stakes so high, it is imperative that our decisions reflect the best available scientific information. The climate system is driven by the sun and includes the atmosphere, the oceans, the clouds, ice and other factors, all of which are extremely complex. It is the complexity of this system that makes it so difficult to forecast and, hence, makes any forecasts subject to controversy.

What is clear is that people and our global climate system are inherently tied. Human lifestyles can change the climate, and climate changes can impact human lifestyles. The Earth's atmosphere creates a natural greenhouse effect that keeps our world about 80° F warmer than it would otherwise be — and makes life as we know it possible. Our best scientific

evidence shows that as we continue to add carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, we will change the heat balance of the Earth and alter the Earth's climate.

What We Know

Over the past century, greenhouse gases from such human activities as the burning of oil, coal and natural gas have increased steadily; fossil fuel combustion now accounts for about 85 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, agriculture, changing land-use patterns and deforestation are playing a significant role in altering the atmospheric concentrations of greenho-

gases. Since 1880, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by 30 percent. Overall emissions of greenhouse gases have been growing at about 1 percent each year.

Since greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for decades to centuries, today's emissions will affect the Earth's climate well into the next century. If the world continues with "business as usual" and the upward trend in greenhouse gas emissions is sustained, we are likely to see higher atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations than have occurred in more than 80 million years. This buildup of carbon dioxide is likely to result in a faster rate of climate change than we have experienced in the past 10,000 years. And the faster the rate of climate change, the less time there is for our ecological and socioeconomic systems to adapt.

The best scientific assessment of climate change estimates that the globally averaged temperature will increase about 2° to 6° F by the year 2100. The related rise in sea level will be about 6 to 37 inches. Last month, NOAA reported that August 1998 continued an unprecedented string of record-breaking temperatures. It was the eighth month in a row to set a new average high temperature worldwide.

The Politics of Global Climate Change

View from the White House: Momentum Building for "Balanced Approach"

By Todd Stern
White House Climate Change Coordinator

This past year the world has made important progress in mobilizing to confront the threat of global warming, one of the great environmental challenges of the next century. Now, as the 160 nations that negotiated last year's landmark Kyoto Protocol gather in Buenos Aires for the next round of talks, it is fitting to take stock of how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

The United States is heading into Buenos Aires with significant momentum thanks to President Clinton's success in securing over \$1 billion for his climate change technology initiative for fiscal year 1999, a 25-percent increase. This funding will support research and development in energy efficiency and renewable energy — investments that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and save money for consumers and business. The Administration also succeeded in defeating a series of anti-environmental "riders," including a gag order that sought to bar us even from educating the public about climate change.



Washington Post Ad. Supplement

Nov. 2, 1998

Defining an Agenda for Global Action

By Eileen Claussen
Executive Director, Pew Center on
Global Climate Change

As the world focuses on this week's meeting in Buenos Aires, it is important to set a global agenda that will spur action and help us meet the aim of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

This global agenda should be based on concerted action on three fronts, in the view of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. We need to:

1 Take Action Now. One of the core beliefs of the Pew Center is that we accept the views of most scientists that enough is known about the science and the environmental impacts of climate change for us to take action to address its consequences. The challenge for our generation is to do this while sustaining a growing world economy. To meet this challenge, the nations of the world must take concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The sooner we begin, the more likely we will be to succeed in meeting the overall goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. What is needed is a framework that will encourage companies to act

sooner rather than later.

In the United States, we believe that the appropriate framework is an early action crediting program that will reward companies for actions they take to reduce emissions before the Kyoto Protocol starts providing international credit for emission reductions in 2008. This framework must be defined by law, be clear and predictable, reward real and verifiable reductions, and be principally but not exclusively based on actions taken here at home.

2 Develop Market Mechanisms. There is a growing body of evidence that market-based incentives can prompt individuals and companies to take action to protect the environment. These market mechanisms also have been proven successful in spurring technological innovation. As part of the Kyoto Protocol, countries have agreed to use several of these mechanisms in implementing greenhouse gas reductions — from emissions trading to the "clean development" framework that allows industrialized countries to get credit for financing emission-reduction projects in developing nations.

What is needed, however, is to go beyond the language of the Kyoto Protocol and to design the rules and operating procedures that will turn words into reality. Our goal must be to insure that climate-friendly actions make economic sense

for companies, and to make sure companies are confident that their actions will be accounted for.

3 Create a Fair Global Framework. What constitutes a fair response to climate change is the major question underlying many unresolved issues in the global debate on this topic. The "fairness question" drives the levels of commitment of industrialized countries and is a deciding factor in the discussion of developing country participation, the structure of market-based mechanisms, and the nature and magnitude of different countries' financial commitments to the goals of the Protocol.

We believe that three criteria should be considered in differentiating country obligations. They are: a country's responsibility for emissions that can cause climate change; a country's standard of living (or the ability to pay for efforts to reduce emissions); and a country's opportunity to reduce emissions. Based on these criteria, we can divide countries into three groups: those that must act now; those that should act now, but differently; and those that could act now if it were feasible.

Resolving these three issues is critical to the success of the Kyoto agreement, and it is our hope that they are the focus of the conversations in Buenos Aires and in the international negotiations to come. ■

Washington Post Ad Supplement

Nov. 2, 1998

Kyoto Protocol Considered "Dead on Arrival"

By Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE)

The debate that has emerged over the U.N. Global Climate Treaty is not a debate about who is for or against a cleaner environment. The debate is over whether or not this specific treaty is in the best interests of the United States and whether this is the best approach. We're all for a cleaner environment, but environmental actions must be predicated on sound science, a balanced perspective and common sense. This treaty fails on all counts.

The discussions in Buenos Aires will prove to be nothing more than whistling past a graveyard, because in its current form the Kyoto Protocol is dead on arrival in the United States Senate.

The Byrd-Hagel Resolution adopted by the Senate last year on a 95-0 vote was explicit on what was needed in this treaty in order to gain the support of the Senate. First, it directed the President not to sign any treaty that placed legally binding obligations on the United States to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions "unless the protocol or agreement also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for



Sen. Chuck Hagel

Developing Country Parties within the same compliance period."

The Kyoto Protocol, however, does not include a single developing nation. One hundred and thirty four developing nations (including China, India, South Korea, Mexico and Brazil), many of whom compete fiercely with the United States for trade opportunities, are completely exempt from any obligations to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

The second requirement of the

Byrd-Hagel Resolution spoke directly to the impact a treaty would have on the American people, asserting that the President should not sign any treaty that "would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States." A recent study by the U.S. Department of Energy, however, stated that average energy costs would be 17 to 83 percent higher in 2010 if the United States had to reach the emission targets in the Kyoto Protocol. The annual implementation costs between 2008 and 2012 are estimated to range from \$77 billion to \$396 billion.

And for what? Even if the Kyoto Protocol were to be implemented, it fails on its primary objective: the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement excludes the very developing nations that will be responsible for more than 60 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions early in the next century.

The U.N. Global Climate Treaty is complete folly. It cannot achieve its goals. It has no hope of being ratified by the U.S. Senate. Those who care about this issue will be better served if the Kyoto Protocol is abandoned in Buenos Aires and attempts to realistically address this issue are undertaken. ■

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Nov. 2, 1998

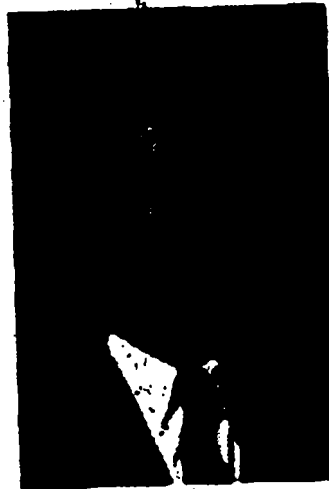
A Call for Early Action

By Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman
(D-CT)

Evidence of global warming is continuing to mount, and it forces us to confront what kind of world we want to leave to our children. It is a question that will be answered next at the Buenos Aires meeting. It will also be answered by how smart and conscientious we Americans are willing to be here at home on our own.

During the recently concluded Congress, President Clinton proposed a balanced program that would arrest greenhouse gas emissions over five years through tax credits for energy-efficient purchases and renewable energy investments, and through new research and development programs targeted towards buildings, industry, transportation and electricity. The good news is that the budget for next year provides for more than \$1 billion some of these research investments.

The bad news is that too much time and effort was spent in the 105th Congress in battles with those who would stop all climate change investments. One of the most ridiculous of these confrontations was over a "rider" in the Environmental Protection Agency appropriations bill that



Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman

would have gone so far as to ban the agency from even educating the public about the Kyoto Protocol. Our debates in Congress must be more informed and sensible than that.

On October 10, 1998, I was proud to join with Republican Senators John Chafee of Rhode Island and Connie Mack of Florida to introduce what we hope will be a climate change log-jam breaker in the next Congress. The Credit for Early Action Act (S. 2817) would provide credit, under any future greenhouse gas reduction sys-

tems we may adopt, to companies that act now to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. This is a voluntary, market-based approach that will bring about a win-win situation for both American businesses and the environment.

The Credit for Early Action Act would provide the certainty necessary to encourage companies to reduce emissions now. Its principles were developed with environmental and industrial perspectives, and were designed to take advantage of an often-too-little appreciated fact: many companies want to reduce emissions. They don't want to wait until legislation requires them to make these reductions. Early action will help businesses save money by allowing their costs to be spread out over more years and by ensuring credit in any future compliance schedule for their investments today.

The debate about climate change is too often vested in false choices between scientific findings, common sense, economic growth and environmental protection. The Credit for Early Action Act offers a model to demonstrate that these are not mutually exclusive choices, but highly compatible goals. ■

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Nov. 2, '98

U.S. Negotiated a Flawed Agreement

By Richard Burt

Former Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Ambassador to Germany; and co-founder of COMPASS, The Committee to Preserve American Security and Sovereignty

The Clinton Administration's new Kyoto treaty on global warming may rank as the most important foreign policy initiative undertaken by the United States since the end of the Cold War. With so much at stake, it is strange that the Administration — in almost cavalier fashion — appears to have abandoned the hard-won lessons of a generation of tough negotiations with the former Soviet Union. The result is a seriously flawed agreement that is almost certain to bedevil the United States for years to come, even if never ratified.

From a foreign policy perspective, the agreement reflects four fundamental shortcomings:

- **Presumptive concessions.** The Administration's capitulations are especially notable in the area of greenhouse gas emission reductions and the exclusion of such major economies as China, India, Indonesia and Mexico from the agreement. The exclusion of these key emerging markets is not only bad economics and bad environmental policy, but in creating exceptions for

specific states it has created a dangerous diplomatic precedent for future arms control and trade negotiations.

- **Inadequate Verification.** With the Kyoto accord, which could reduce U.S. energy consumption by more than 30 percent by 2010, verification is essentially an afterthought. To commit to such goals without really knowing whether and how they will be monitored — both here and, more importantly, abroad — is a major blunder.

- **International Intrusion.** Without any clear and precise implementation and enforcement plans, the Kyoto agreement creates an open invitation for the United Nations and other international organizations to fill the void regardless of the impact on American sovereignty. Clinton Administration officials promised that Kyoto would not be allowed to produce any United Nations "green hats," but then agreed to the establishment of a Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat.

- **Diplomatic Cynicism.** Politically, some analysts have begun to argue that we need not worry too much about Kyoto, that it is a "feel good" accord designed mainly for its public relations value at home and abroad. But if the Kyoto accord is nothing more than a cynical exercise to win the support of the environmental lobby, the Administration looks manipulative and runs the risk of jeopardizing more serious diplomatic enterprises, such as NATO expansion and fast-track trade authority. ■

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Nov. 2, '98

- Todd Stern

The Private Sector Responds

Still more encouraging are the constructive developments in the private sector, where a growing number of businesses are publicly recognizing the threat of climate change and the need for precautionary action. For example:

- The 18 members of the Pew Center for Global Climate Change's Business Environmental Leadership Council have explicitly called for prompt action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Recently, British Petroleum, Shell, United Technologies and IBM have announced specific numerical commitments for reducing their emissions.

- And just last week, General Motors, Monsanto, BP and the World Resources Institute jointly declared that there are real business opportunities for corporate leaders who act early to reduce the risk of climate change.

The private sector's growing receptivity on the issue has been reflected as well in the Administration's own consultations with U.S. industry about how, with government support, companies can take effective, voluntary action to reduce emissions.

The Kyoto Protocol: "A Historic Step"

On the international front, last December's Kyoto Protocol was the seminal event of the year. By agreeing to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, the world's leading economies took a historic step forward in addressing global warming. Thanks largely to the efforts of the United States, the Protocol takes a flexible, market-based approach that will allow emissions to be reduced in ways that make the most sense, both environmentally and economically.

This flexible approach includes emissions trading and the new "Clean

Development Mechanism" under which industrialized companies can undertake clean energy projects in the developing world and share the resulting emission credits with the host countries. These provisions will help the world reduce emissions at the lowest cost, ensuring that we get the biggest environmental bang for the buck. The Protocol also contains provisions that protect our national security, ensuring that our Kyoto targets will in no way constrain the activities of our military forces.

Beyond Buenos Aires

Despite significant progress, we still have a long way to go. Diplomatically, important work remains on the flexibility measures, the way to treat carbon-absorbing "sinks" (such as forests), developing country participation, and compliance. What we need in Buenos Aires is not a great leap forward, but steady, solid progress that can begin to turn the Kyoto Protocol into reality.

The United States delegation will work to advance our positions in all these areas. Among other things, we will continue to press for meaningful participation

by developing countries, and we will resist efforts by some to limit a country's right to engage in emissions trading or make investments in developing countries under the Clean Development Mechanism. Such limitations would accomplish only one result — making the reduction of greenhouse gases much more expensive for everyone.

As we look past Buenos Aires to the year ahead, the Administration will be working on new domestic efforts to speed development and broader use of clean energy technologies and will continue engaging with private industry to achieve better energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also strongly support efforts to ensure that U.S. companies earn credit for actions to reduce their emissions.

The threat of climate change has been decades in the making and it will take many years to solve. But with the best science and technology, smart, market-based solutions and, most of all, the political will, we can get the job done. President Clinton's balanced approach to the challenge of global warming will ensure that we maintain a growing economy and protect the environment. ■



White House Climate Change Task Force

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PEN - EILEEN

BRT - BURT

NRC - LASHOFF

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GLOBAL ENV. FACILITY - MOHAMMED

C. SUST. DEV. IN LATIN AMERICA CHRISTINA FIGUEROA

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PAGE 2

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SCIENCE - NOAA
- WWF
- IPCC

NEXT
STEPS
FOR
U.S.

③ - U.N. KUTIARE
① - LASHOFF - CREDIT
② - BURT, BET

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

HAGEL

LIEBERMAN

RICHARD BURT - COMPAS ASST. SECY STATE

1. STERN

- DEV. COUNTRIES
- ENERGY ASPECTS
GEF, SOUTH ENERGY
REP. INTERNAI

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“Climate Change: Taking Stock”

By Todd Stern

This past year the world has made important progress in mobilizing to confront the threat of global warming, one of the great environmental challenges of the 21st century. Now, as the 160 nations that negotiated last year's landmark Kyoto Protocol gather in Buenos Aires for the next round of talks, it is fitting to take stock of how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

The United States is heading into Buenos Aires with significant momentum thanks to President Clinton's success in securing over \$1 billion for his climate change technology initiative for fiscal year 1999, a 25% increase. This funding will support research and development in energy efficiency and renewable energy -- investments that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and save money for consumers and business. The Administration also succeeded in defeating a series of anti-environmental riders, including a gag order that sought to bar us even from educating the public about climate change.

Still more encouraging are the constructive developments in the private sector, where a growing number of businesses are publicly recognizing the threat of climate change and the need for precautionary action. For example, the 18 members of the Pew Center's Business Environmental Leadership Council have explicitly called for prompt action to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. Recently, British Petroleum, Shell, United Technologies and IBM have announced specific numerical commitments for reducing their emissions. And just last week, General Motors, Monsanto, BP and the World Resources Institute jointly declared that there are real business opportunities for corporate leaders who act early to reduce the risk of climate change. This growing receptivity on the issue has been reflected as well in the Administration's own consultations with U.S. industry on how, with government support, they can take effective, voluntary action to reduce emissions.

The past year has also produced important new scientific findings -- including new analyses of tree ring, ice melt, borehole and satellite data -- reinforcing the consensus that human activities are starting to disrupt the Earth's climate. And it has been a year of truly extraordinary weather. Last year was the hottest on record, and so far 1998 has been even hotter. Meanwhile, El Niño offered us a troubling window on the kind of extreme weather that global warming may bring: drought-driven fires in Indonesia, the Amazon, Florida and Mexico; droughts followed by floods in Texas; and ruinous floods in China and Bangladesh.

On the international front, last December's Kyoto Protocol was the seminal event of the year. By agreeing to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, the world's leading economies took an historic step forward in addressing global warming. Thanks largely to the efforts of the United States, the Protocol takes a flexible, market-based approach that will allow emissions to be reduced in ways that make the most sense both environmentally and economically. This flexible approach includes emissions trading, and the new “Clean Development Mechanism,” under which industrialized companies can undertake clean energy projects in the developing world and share

the resulting emissions credits with the host countries. These provisions will help the world reduce emissions at the lowest cost, ensuring that we get the biggest environmental bang for the buck. The Protocol also contains provisions that protect our national security, ensuring that our Kyoto targets will in no way constrain the activities of our military forces.

Despite significant progress, we still have a long way to go. Diplomatically, important work remains on the flexibility measures, the way to treat carbon-absorbing "sinks" (such as forests), developing country participation, and compliance. What we need in Buenos Aires is not a great leap forward, but steady, solid progress that can begin to turn the Kyoto Protocol into reality. The United States delegation will work to advance our positions in all these areas. Among other things, we will continue to press for meaningful participation by developing countries, and we will resist efforts by some to limit a country's right to engage in emissions trading or make investments in developing countries under the Clean Development Mechanism. Such limitations would accomplish only one result -- making the reduction of greenhouse gases more expensive for everyone. In a world where there is limited capital to deal with an array of profound challenges, it makes no sense to deliberately design a system that makes reducing carbon emissions more expensive than it needs to be.

As we look past Buenos Aires to the year ahead, the Administration will be working on new domestic efforts to spur development and broader use of clean energy technologies and will continue engaging with private industry to achieve better energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And we will strongly support efforts to ensure that U.S. companies earn credit for early actions to reduce their emissions.

The threat of climate change has been decades in the making and it will take many years to solve. But with our best science and technology, smart market-based solutions and, most of all, firm political will, we can get the job done. President Clinton's balanced approach to the challenge of global warming will allow us both to maintain a growing economy and protect the environment.

"Climate Change: Taking Stock"

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The United States is heading into Buenos Aires with significant momentum ~~on climate change~~ thanks to President Clinton's success in securing over \$1 billion for his climate change technology initiative for fiscal year 1999, a 25% increase ~~over last year's level~~. This funding will support ~~investments for~~ research and development in energy efficiency and renewable energy -- investments that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and save money for consumers and business. The Administration also succeeded in defeating a series of anti-environmental riders, including a gag order that sought to bar us from ~~even talking~~ about climate change. **EVEN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC** ①

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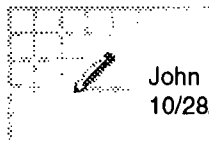
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^{SPUR} ^{BROADER USE OF} ^{TECHNOLOGIES}
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But



John D. Gibson
10/28/98 01:41:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Todd Stern/WHO/EOP

cc: Elliot J. Diringer/CEQ/EOP, Martha L. Wofford/WHCCTF/EOP, David B Sandalow/CEQ/EOP, William J. Antholis/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: tds op-ed 

I think it sounds odd to say that global warming may bring "warmer, wetter" weather and then follow it with a list that includes forest fires and drought. I would just say "the type of weather global warming may bring:"

DRAFT -- 10/26 -- "tdspost4.wpd" -- 855 words

"Climate Change: Where We've Been, Where We're Going"

By Todd Stern

This past year the world has made remarkable progress in mobilizing its will and its resources to confront the threat of global climate change -- which looms as one of the greatest environmental challenges of the 21st century. Now, as we approach next week's gathering in Buenos Aires of the 160 nations that negotiated last December's historic Kyoto Protocol, it is appropriate to take stock of just how far we have come -- and just how far we still have to go.

The United States is heading into Buenos Aires with significant momentum on the issue of climate change thanks to President Clinton's victory in securing over \$1 billion for climate change programs in Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations bills. This represents a 25% increase over last year's funding for R&D investments that will reduce greenhouse gas pollution, create jobs, and save consumers money by increasing energy efficiency and spurring the development of renewable energy technologies. The Administration was also successful in defeating a series of anti-environmental riders, one of which would have prohibited us from even talking about climate change.

Perhaps even more encouraging than anything the government is doing, are the growing ranks of those in the private sector who have come to realize that the threat of climate change is real and that precautionary action is necessary. This past year an impressive list of companies, including British Petroleum, Sunoco, Shell, United Technologies, Intel, IBM, Monsanto and General Motors, have announced that they will take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This growing receptivity on the issue has been reflected in the Administration's own consultations with U.S. industry this past year on how to remove barriers to improved energy efficiency and emissions reductions.

1998 will also be remembered as a year when significant new scientific findings -- including new analyses of tree ring, ice melt, borehole and satellite data -- reinforced the consensus that human activities are disrupting the Earth's climate. Unforgettably, it has also been a year of truly extraordinary weather. 1997 was the hottest year on record, but so far 1998 has been even hotter. At the same time, El Nino offered us a profoundly disturbing window on the future if we fail to act: drought driven fires in Indonesia, the Amazon, Florida and Mexico; droughts followed by floods in Texas; and floods in China and Bangladesh earlier this year that left tens of thousands homeless, hungry and sick. Indeed, we may one day look back upon 1998 and mark it as the year in which the seriousness of the climate change threat fully permeated the consciousness of the world's citizens.

Against this backdrop, last December's Kyoto Protocol appears even more important and historic than it did at the time. By agreeing to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, the world's leading economies have taken a huge step forward towards a meaningful down payment on the climate change challenge. Thanks largely to the efforts of the United States, these reductions will be driven by proven market-based flexibility mechanisms (including emissions trading, Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism) that will help the world reach the

greatest reductions in emissions at the lowest possible cost. Importantly, it also contains critical provisions to protect our national security, ensuring that our Kyoto targets will not interfere with our military forces' ability to train and deploy wherever they are needed around the globe to protect America's interests.

Despite this tremendous progress over the last 12 months, we still have a huge hill to climb. On the diplomatic front, the world needs to use Buenos Aires to begin providing more texture and detail to the broad strokes of the historic agreement reached in Kyoto. Kyoto was a giant leap forward. Buenos Aires will be about solid, but probably incremental, steps. The United States will continue to press hard to secure meaningful participation by developing countries (without which the Administration will not seek ratification). We will also strongly resist efforts by the European Community to limit parties' ability to use the Protocol's flexibility mechanisms, such as emissions trading. At a time of global economic uncertainty, we cannot afford to handicap ourselves by designing a system where a ton of carbon emissions reductions is more expensive than it needs to be.

As we look past Buenos Aires to the year ahead, the Administration is anxious to begin work on climate change initiatives that can be included in the Fiscal Year 2000 budget and to make further progress in preparing the U.S. to step up to the challenge of meeting its Kyoto target. It will also be critically important in the coming year to make continued progress on how U.S. companies can receive credit for actions taken to reduce net emissions before the start of the Protocol's first commitment period (2008-2012).

The threat of climate change has been decades in the making. It will take years to solve it. But allied with science, technology, market-based solutions and, most of all, political will, we do have the tools to get it done. President Clinton's balanced approach to the challenge of climate change will allow us to grow the economy and protect the environment at the same time.

BY: **D. James Baker**
Under Secretary for Oceans & Atmosphere and
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
U.S. Department of Commerce

President Clinton has called climate change "one of the ^{21st} ~~most~~ ^{URGENT} important ^{ENVIRONMENTAL} challenges of the ~~century~~." It will take action by all of us to address it.

At NOAA – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – we think about climate change each day. From research to operations, we are working to improve our understanding and prediction of the Earth's weather and climate system – from short-term changes, to changes that occur over seasons and decades, to very long-term changes.

Whether natural or human-induced, changes in the Earth's climate can affect temperature and precipitation patterns worldwide. Long-term climate change, such as global greenhouse warming, could have major impacts on human health, the environment, economy and society. It could affect everything from energy use and transportation, to water resource management and agriculture, to international trade and development.

With the stakes so high, it is imperative that our decisions reflect the best available scientific information. The existing climate system is driven by the sun and includes the atmosphere, the oceans, the clouds, ice and other factors – all of which are extremely complex. It is the complexity of this climate system that makes it so difficult to forecast and hence subject to controversy.

What is clear is that people and our global climate system are inherently tied. Human lifestyles can change the climate, and climate changes can impact human lifestyles. The Earth's atmosphere creates a natural greenhouse effect that keeps our world about 60° F warmer than it would otherwise be – and makes life as we know it possible. Yet human beings and our emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide ~~and aerosols~~ that trap heat in the lower part of the Earth's atmosphere, are among a number of "agents" that can cause global climate change.

Human activities and natural climate-forcing agents, such as changes in the amount of solar energy reaching the Earth, can prod the Earth's climate into new patterns. Changing heat exchange between the atmosphere and the oceans is an example of such a process. The result is that the planet may have a slightly new climate, possibly changed temperatures or rainfall. These physical changes can, in turn, cause such biological changes as more or less vegetation. Such changes, perhaps loss of coastal habitation due to rising sea levels, could directly impact human welfare.

EL NINO –
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 CLIMATE A

STAKES SO HIGH
 DECISIONS BASED ON
 - BEST SCIENCE
 - COMPREHENSIVE
 INVOLVEMENT BY
 INTERNATIONAL
 COMMUNITY

The shared impact of people and the global climate system raises critical questions that relate to choices about activities and interaction that may foster future climate changes. Our best scientific evidence shows that as we continue to add CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, we will change the heat balance of the Earth and alter the Earth's climate.

We know that, over the past century, emissions of greenhouse gases from such human activities as the burning of oil, coal and natural gas have increased steadily – fossil fuel combustion now accounts for about 85 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Over this same period, the logging of forests has reduced the amount of carbon absorbed by trees. At the same time, agriculture and changing land-use patterns are playing a significant role in altering the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Since 1860, the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has increased by 30 percent. Overall, emissions of greenhouse gases have been growing at about one percent each year.

Since greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for decades to centuries, today's emissions will affect the Earth's climate well into the next century. If the world continues with "business as usual," and continues the upward trend in greenhouse gas emissions, we are likely to see higher atmospheric CO₂ concentrations than have occurred at any time during human civilization. This buildup of atmospheric CO₂ could result in a faster rate of climate change than we have experienced in the past 10,000 years. And the faster the rate of climate change, the less time there is for our ecological and socio-economic systems to adapt. Both the expected atmospheric concentration levels and the rate of change concern us.

Climate change can intensify the hydrological cycle and increase overall evaporation and precipitation, bringing severe droughts and floods as a result. An index developed by NOAA's National Climate Data Center indicates a noticeable increase in extreme one-day precipitation events in our country over the last century, a pattern consistent with global greenhouse warming. We may already be experiencing changes in the water cycle due to climate change.

Global temperatures are another consideration. The best scientific assessment of climate change estimates that the globally averaged temperature will increase about 2° to 6° F (1° to 3.5° C) by the year 2100. The related rise in sea level will be about 6 to 37 inches. Last month NOAA reported that August continued an unprecedented string of record-breaking temperatures. August was the eighth month in a row to set a new average high temperature worldwide.

Why should just a few degrees of warming be cause for concern? The answer is that a relatively small change in mean global temperature can lead to a large change in extreme events. Much of the U.S. and other mid-to-high-latitude regions could be faced with increased heat waves, flooding and droughts. Increased duration and frequency of heat waves would heighten mortality rates. The potential for transmitting serious infectious diseases would be increased. With 50 percent of the U.S. population and 50 to 70 percent of the global population currently living in coastal areas, future sea level rises, alterations in storm patterns and higher storm surges could have devastating effects. Even with current populations, a 20-inch rise in the sea level without adaptive measures would expose the number of people with at-risk property to about 92 million. And Americans are moving to coastal areas at the rate of 3,600 each day.

WE ARE SEEING A

7 *and* Broad scientific consensus tells us that ~~the issue of~~ climate change is real, and *that* discernible first signs are suggested now. If we are to reduce the impact on future generations, perhaps even on our own, we cannot continue with business as usual. We must heed the science, continue to build and fine-tune our knowledge, and gain meaningful participation in The Kyoto Protocol. Most importantly, we must realize that when it comes to the environment, everyone is a stakeholder. It is a challenge we cannot afford to ignore.

Auction 8/66 → 175
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- INTERVENTION

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CALL W/ CHICAGO TRIB ED. WRITER
CALL STEVENS

~~TUE/WED. PAPER/CELEBRATION~~

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BRIAN McLEAN
564-9150

PETER O'TOOLE
JACKIE KRIEGER
260-0275

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EVIDENCE TO
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TRYING TO GET IT TODAY - DECREASE IT IN BA
BILL WORKING - (CIRCULATION WORKING) (ED.)

PERN, → 703/273-1099

PUSH ON

BY: D. James Baker
Under Secretary for Oceans & Atmosphere and
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
U.S. Department of Commerce

① President Clinton has called climate change "one of the most important challenges of the century." It will take action by all of us to address it.

② At NOAA – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – we think about climate change each day. From research to operations, we are working to improve our understanding and prediction of the Earth's weather and climate system – from short-term changes, to changes that occur over seasons and decades, to very long-term changes.

③ Whether natural or human-induced, changes in the Earth's climate can affect temperature and precipitation patterns worldwide. Long-term climate change, such as global greenhouse warming, could have major impacts on human health, the environment, economy and society. It could affect everything from energy use and transportation, to water resource management and agriculture, to international trade and development.

④ With the stakes so high, it is imperative that our decisions reflect the best available scientific information. The existing climate system is driven by the sun and includes the atmosphere, the oceans, the clouds, ice and other factors – all of which are extremely complex. It is the complexity of this climate system that makes it so difficult to forecast and hence subject to controversy.

⑤ What is clear is that people and our global climate system are inherently tied. Human lifestyles can change the climate, and climate changes can impact human lifestyles. The Earth's atmosphere creates a natural greenhouse effect that keeps our world about 60° F warmer than it would otherwise be – and makes life as we know it possible. Yet human beings and our emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, and aerosols that trap heat in the lower part of the Earth's atmosphere, are among a number of "agents" that ~~are causing~~ global climate change. *Significant of* *appear to be causing* *Don't like this R*

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relationship between human ~~activities~~ health and well-being

⑦ The shared impact of people and the global climate system raises critical questions that relate to choices about activities and interaction that may foster future climate changes. Our best scientific evidence shows that as we continue to add CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, we will change the heat balance of the Earth and alter the Earth's climate.

⑧ We know that, over the past century, emissions of greenhouse gases from such human activities as the burning of oil, coal and natural gas have increased steadily - fossil fuel combustion now accounts for about 85 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. ~~Over this same period, the logging of forests has reduced the amount of carbon absorbed by trees.~~ At the same time, agriculture and changing land-use patterns are playing a significant role in altering the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Since 1860, the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has increased by 30 percent. Overall, emissions of greenhouse gases have been growing at about one percent each year.

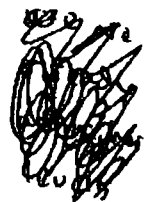
and
deforestation

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years.

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Today's
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than it

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World wide?

⑬ Broad scientific consensus tells us that the issue of climate change is real, and that discernible first signs are suggested now. If we are to reduce the impact on future generations, perhaps even on our own, we cannot continue with business as usual. We must heed the science, continue to build and fine-tune our knowledge, and gain meaningful participation in The Kyoto Protocol. Most importantly, we must realize that when it comes to the environment, everyone is a stakeholder. It is a challenge we cannot afford to ignore.



White House Climate Change Task Force

734 Jackson Place, N.W. • Washington, DC 20503

Facsimile

To: ROSINA

Fax: 6-6025

From: Martha Wofford
395-2310

Total # of Pages: 4

Comments:



FAX

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC & CONSTITUENT AFFAIRS
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

FROM: SIM TOMASTIK.

PHONE: 202/482-6090 (voice) 202/482-3154 (fax)

TO: MARTHA WOFFORD

AT: _____

COMMENTS: AS WE DISCUSSED,
THE BAKER PIECE FOLLOWS.

Sim

PAGE 1 OF 4