



H. Armstrong Roberts

DEEP FREEZE ON 2.3 BILLION ACRES LOCK-UP

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■ IN 1977 the Rockefeller Brothers Fund issued a report on the state of the nation, along with a list of government policies it favored for the balance of the century. The study, entitled *The Unfinished Agenda*, with the subtitle "The Citizen's Policy Guide To Environmental Issues," was quickly offered, reviewed, and distributed as an Important Book. It

was, after all, assembled by such certified worthies as Gerald Barney of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, John Adams of the Natural Resources Defense Council, David Brower of Friends of the Earth, George Davis of the Wilderness Society, Robert Dennis of Zero Population Growth, Thomas Kimball of the National Wildlife Federation, John

The federal government now holds some 2.3 billion acres. This goes at least a billion acres beyond preservation of scenic wonders. Imagine what the ecology fanatics could have done to development of our country if they had gotten control of the Louisiana Purchase and declared it to be protected Wilderness.

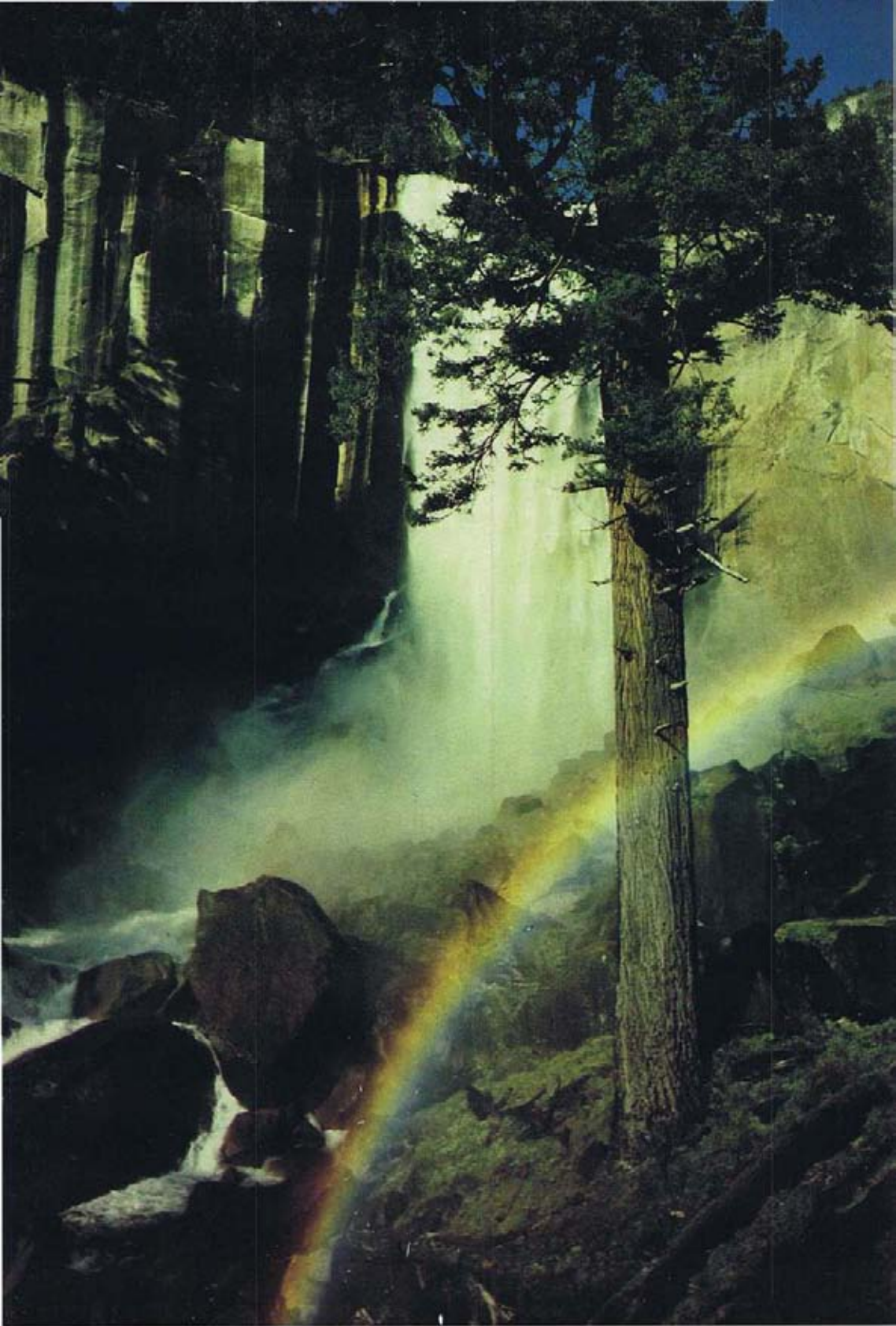
Roush of The Nature Conservancy, Arlie Schardt of the Environmental Defense Fund, and Paul Swatek of the Sierra Club.

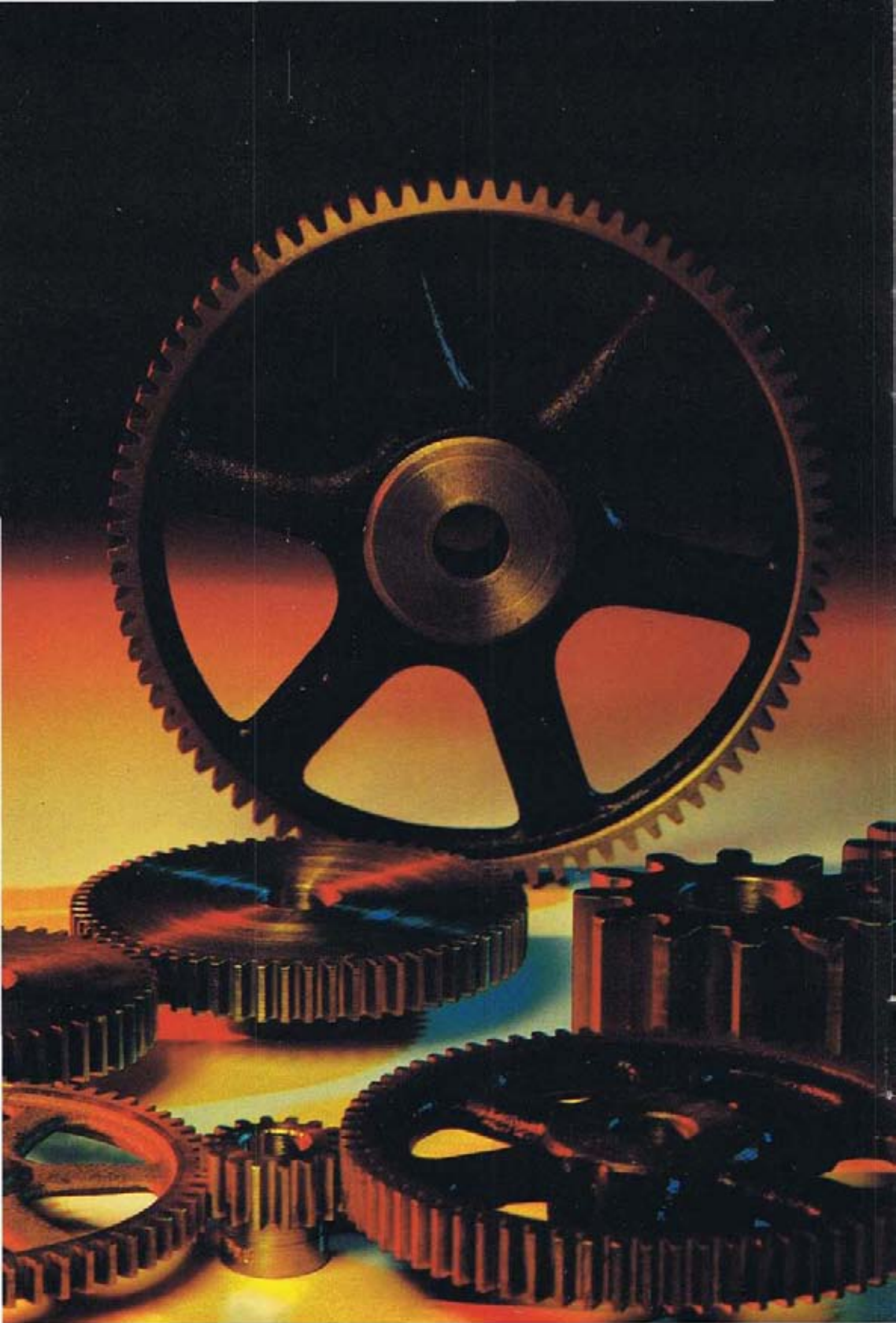
As you can readily see, the brothers Rockefeller intended a certain result from their review of environmental issues. To those who prefer economic growth to the nurturing of the Houston toad, it was not unlike putting John Wayne on trial before the Mattachine Society. But the Rockefeller family is used to getting what it pays for, whether it be a polemic on ecology or an obedient President of the United States. The family has been financing self-serving studies on national issues since 1912. And these studies, stretching from the days of high button shoes to the age of space flight, invariably recommend federal controls as the answer to every problem and urge that decision-making be centralized in Washington, D.C., where they can have a hand in controlling it. Many people wonder why the nation's wealthiest family promotes socialist planning rather than Free Market solutions. The fact is that the Rockefellers long ago realized that government is the ultimate monopoly.

During the 1960s, for instance, the Oilbucks tribe pushed the idea of using government to fight poverty. Billions were spent, huge deficits

were created, and government reached into every community in the land with new regulations and authority. Through their leverage in the mass media and the academy, the Rockefellers made *poverty* the "Liberal" catchword of the decade as they used the phony War on Poverty to finance the creation of whole armies of street radicals. In the 1970s they changed gears and we all learned a new word: *ecology*. The new street radicals and hordes of professional "Liberals" who for decades had wrapped themselves in the tear-stained garb of noble humanitarians now forsook people for the beloved furbish lousewort and the sacred snail darter. In the new scenario, human beings were now bad guys — crass desecrators of Mother Nature's handiwork.

A part of the promotion of this decade's ecology-environmentalism has involved selling the idea that our standard of living must be reduced. *The Unfinished Agenda* tells us: "The United States has entered an era of scarcity." We are assured that the Age of Abundance is over and therefore we must have a new "land ethic," a euphemism for a federal land grab that would leave only giant companies, with armies of lawyers, free to operate. The concluding chapter begins: "As must be clear by





To assure your control of the wheels of our economy you lock up the lands where miners and drillers in competition with you are looking for developable natural resources. And you sell the idea that paying more for less is naturally to be expected. False solutions can then be proposed to keep the confidence game going.

now, this book is about a world transition from abundance to scarcity, a transition that is already well underway."

In a cover feature called "Running Out Of Everything," *Newsweek* soon provided a long list of products it was suddenly good for us to do without. Though less frantic, *U.S. News & World Report* picked up the theme, listing shortages of thirty items needed by industrial producers.

James Reston, regarded by many as a spokesman for the Rockefeller Establishment, had the colossal gall to write from Washington: "The craziest notion that has hit this country in a long while — and we've had quite a few nutty notions lately — is that shortages of gas, beef, and a lot of other things are bad for the American people. What America really needs is more shortages. It is not our shortages but our surpluses that are hurting us. Too much gas, too much booze, too much money, talk, noise, and — fire me tomorrow! — too much newsprint are our problem . . ."

Yes, you read that correctly. James Reston of the *New York Times* wrote that what we need are more shortages. Shortages, like high taxes and playing for a losing football team, build character. Other people's character. Shortages are actually good for you! That has been

the official line of the "Liberal" Establishment for the past five years. What is more, say the masters of the Establishment, we should welcome, even *celebrate*, driving a smaller car, living in an apartment instead of owning a home, having fewer children.

But if we are doomed to a falling standard of living because we are running out of everything, *i.e.*, because we have used up most of our proven raw materials, does it not seem logical to encourage the search for more? Shouldn't we be providing encouragement to producers, or using our vast technical skills to develop substitutes, instead of preparing to share the shortages? One would think so. Yet this is not what the Establishment is promoting. Quite the opposite. Try to remember that shortages and scarcities are *good* for you. So the Establishment is telling us it does not want raw materials to be more readily available, it wants them to be *less* readily available. Of course, with shorter supply, prices will rise dramatically and . . .

How do you *do* this? You lock up the lands where miners and drillers in competition with you are looking for developable natural resources. And you sell the idea that patchwork austerity is really a virtue. False solutions can then be proposed to keep the con going. The answer the Rocke-

feller Brothers Task Force proposes to what it says are dwindling natural resources is not a greater emphasis on finding and producing natural resources but *recycling*. Of course, wherever recycling is feasible and economical it makes sense to do it. But to think we can sustain our high-technology economy by saving string, bottles, and yesterday's newspaper is like proposing to bail out the *Titanic* with cups from the ship's pantry. It would have made as much sense to have tried to save the Donner Party by sending them a Big Mac.

Why are the Rockefellers proposing to perpetuate shortages rather than alleviate them? Because, if there is abundance and prosperity, there is no excuse for federal controls, rationing, and national planning. If the marketplace is open, there will be new competitors striving to displace the current leaders by cutting prices. The Rockefellers and their cartel friends have never been keen on competition. Monopoly is their game. Old John D. once thundered that "Competition is a sin."

In order to lock up the untapped mineral wealth of the nation, the Establishment operators are seeking to abolish the 1872 Mining Law which for over a century has served as the basis for providing rich supplies of new raw materials to U.S. industry. The 1872 Mining Law states the prospectors can enter U.S. lands without a permit or license, and that these lands shall be "free and open to exploration and purchase." Every citizen is privileged to prospect, file a claim, and when certain minimal conditions are met, file for a patent which gives him title to the land he has made productive.

Using the Mining Law of 1872, the small, independent miner found the great Mesabi iron range in Minnesota, the Comstock silver lode in

Nevada, the rich copper of Arizona, the phosphates in Florida, the coal and silver of Utah, the uranium in New Mexico, the molybdenum in Colorado, the tungsten in California, and gold deposits in many Western states. According to a 1977 study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, small mine operators are still responsible for much or all of this nation's output of crude asbestos, graphite, garnet, perlite, barite, feldspar, mica, and gypsum. Additionally, it is common for a small miner to make a discovery and then sell it to, or become partners with, a large mining concern which has the capital to develop the deposits. And, of course, the larger mining companies have also had the freedom under the 1872 Mining Law to search for and develop new sources of raw materials.

It is obvious that a nation without minerals (including fossil fuels) is in a sad position in world competition, both economically and militarily. National policy should be to encourage discovery and development of such riches. But, for reasons of their own, this fact does not faze the *Insiders* of the Rockefeller-dominated Establishment. To these people the Mining Law of 1872 is anathema. It means competition. It means that supplies, and hence prices, cannot be controlled by the big boys. Here is what the Rockefeller-bankrolled *Unfinished Agenda* says on the subject:

"The Mining Law of 1872, still in force, allows almost unlimited private exploration of public-domain land for mineral development, at the expense of all other resource values. The law has encouraged development of the most insignificant mineral resources, which are often mined in the cheapest possible way, without regard for water pollution or land

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THE LOCK-UP

reclamation. Most often, the renewable resources of the few [*sic*] precious wild lands are far more valuable in the long run than are those subsurface resources for which they are sacrificed. However, even land managers who recognize these values are helpless to prevent destructive development allowed by this archaic law."

Notice the pejorative connotation in the phrases "unlimited private exploitation" and "destructive development" and "archaic law."

The recommendation of the butterfly boys on the Rockefeller Task Force, most of whom never turned a productive shovel of dirt in their lives, was: "The 1872 Mining Law should be drastically reformed or replaced with an environmentally enlightened law which no longer results in the wholesale abuse of the land, air, and water." And that recommendation is important. Because, before Jimmy Carter ascended to his worldly throne in Washington, he played a little game of "Let's Make A Deal" with the Rockefellers.* The Rockefeller Task Force proposed and the Carter Administration disposed. The first task was to load the Administration with certifiable ecofreaks. As *U.S. News & World Report* for December 9, 1977, observed:

"President Carter, who had strong environmentalist support in last year's presidential campaign, has appointed at least 18 environmentalists to key Government posts, where they run programs they fought to establish. Organizations such as the Sierra Club and Wilderness Society say that

they are routinely consulted on policy He signed into law a prime environmentalist goal: stiff controls over strip mining." Controls that will put the efficient production of our vast coal supplies into the hands of a few energy giants — including our old friends the Rockefellers.

Now the campaign is on to lock up other needed minerals. Charles Warren, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, has written an article carried by the *Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Post* entitled "Time To Retire The Mining Law Of 1872." Warren actually complains that minerals are "free for the taking" on public lands. Dr. Ralph Pray, a consulting mining and metallurgy engineer, has replied to Dr. Warren's plea for a federal lock-up. He says:

"Our nation's mineral wealth is certainly not free for the taking. A valuable mineral deposit is not like a tree, or a river, or a fish. It is hidden from view beneath solid earth, and must be sought using devices of great sophistication. With the passage of time and the rapidly accelerating exploitation of mineral wealth from the crust of the earth, our more accessible deposits have been depleted. Increasingly more complicated methods of detection and extraction must be employed to assure us, and our children, that the assembly lines will not falter.

"Anyone, not just prospectors and miners, can stake claims on the public domain. One does not even have to be a citizen of the United States to file a mining claim. Your suggestion that 'royalties' be paid on mineral wealth removed from the public land is not completely out of reason, but it may be too late. The government paper work required of a mine operator is rapidly becoming a major cost factor, and a fair royalty would

*See "They're Catching On," *American Opinion*, November/December, 1977, available in reprint at two copies for one dollar.

probably cost more to collect than it would yield the treasury.

"The leasing system currently under study by Congress is highly detrimental to the mining industry. The small miner, the one who usually brings new properties to the attention of large producers, would be throttled by bureaucratic red tape under a leasing system.

"Miners are rarely given title to land administered by the BLM [*Bureau of Land Management*]. It has not always been so, but no person or party in the U.S. has, for many years, simply obtained title to BLM land through payment of \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre on mining claims, as you stated. Permission to locate is given in the 1872 Mining Law, and it is as a 'reward' for finding valuable minerals that location rights, and possessory ownership, not fee title, are granted."

A favorite ploy of those who would keep lands from being developed in competition with their own holdings is to claim that the frontier is no more; that there is no land left for prospecting and that we must save what "few precious wild lands" remain for the irreplaceable furbish lousewort and the vital snail darter. Anyone who has taken an airplane ride over the United States knows what absolute hogwash this claim is. One flies over miles and miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles. As Dr. Pray observes:

"The frontier of land, water, buffalo and vast wilderness evaporated in the dust clouds of man's progress in the 1800s. But the frontier of mineral wealth is now larger than ever. This frontier widens, deepens and expands, three dimensionally, each day, each hour, that man strives for superiority, for velocity, for protection. Man's greatest pride, his weapons, are made from metals

taken from the crust of the earth, from mineral deposits which safeguard our liberty. Until a more rational set of social rules than mortal combat is accepted, who among us shall deny liberty in favor of 'wild-life, range, timber, watershed and wilderness'? Facing the frontier of mineral deposits in every one of our States are pioneers searching for metallic and non-metallic minerals, everything from aluminum to zirconium. The pioneer days are not gone, Mr. Warren; they are here with us today. There would be no advance of civilization without searchers, seekers, researchers and pioneers.

"How then can you recommend to Congress that the reward system, the location system, be terminated? The growth pattern of metal consumption cannot be halted by such edict. Whole nations are boosting their economies to permit higher living standards, the inevitable precursor to accelerated metal consumption. This trend will continue for decades, perhaps for centuries, until silicate-metals, containing predominantly modified silicate rock components, supplant most metals and alloys used today."

The size of the area that the ecologists are being used to lock up is enormous. The U.S. Government owns 2.3 billion acres of land in our country — thirty-four percent of the total. Much of the government-owned land is located in the West where most of the undiscovered minerals lie. For example, 66.1 percent of Utah, 47.8 percent of Wyoming, 52.6 percent of Oregon, 45.2 percent of California, 86.6 percent of Nevada, 63.7 percent of Idaho, and 96.4 percent of Alaska are still federally owned.

According to the terms of the Mining Law of 1872, virtually all of these 2.3 billion acres of land were

available for prospecting and development by anyone. Prior to 1964, a relatively insignificant amount of public land was withdrawn from public access and mineral development. Then, between 1964 and 1967, some fifteen hundred public-land orders were filed and, beginning in 1967, the number of withdrawals began increasing with a roar. Two-thirds of the public lands have now been withdrawn from mineral development. Between 1967 and 1974, the percentage of land withdrawn had multiplied from seventeen percent to sixty-seven percent. And the curve continues to rise.

Even though Congress has refused to pass a federal land-use bill, and has not repealed the Mining Act of 1872, the bureaucrats have gotten through the back door what the Rockefellers and their environmentalist complex wanted. The Agriculture Department's Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management seem to be running a neck-and-neck race to see who can close down the opportunity to produce needed resources on the most land. Citing laws passed by Congress in the name of providing parks and preserving the wilderness or wetlands, the bureaucrats have filed Executive Orders in the *Federal Register* and literally made their own laws to shut down access to public lands in direct violation of the Mining Law of 1872.

Now the Congress is being pushed into participation in this lock-up. Our Representatives and Senators, most of whom know little or nothing about mining, were lobbied by the Rockefeller-backed ecology groups to pass laws which have turned the Bureau of Land Management into an agency for harassment of independent miners already working their legally granted claims. Mining activities oc-

cupy less than one percent of all federal lands, but the ecofreaks at B.L.M. contend that miners are destroying the pristine beauty of *their* wilderness. Miners across the nation have come to think of the B.L.M. as a sort of Gestapo in Smokey the Bear suits.

In October of 1976, Gerald Ford signed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which made B.L.M. the viceroy of millions of acres of public lands. The public lands administered by B.L.M. comprise an area that is considerably larger than any country in Europe except Russia. The Wilderness Act of 1964 had put 243 million acres of public lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and gave these agencies the power to declare any part of these lands as Wilderness Areas to be off-limits to mineral development. As we have seen, they have done so with escalating abandon. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, also known as the Organic Act, put an additional 470 million acres into the hands of the anti-people ecology fanatics at the B.L.M.

The Organic Act might also be called the Mineral Lock-Up and Harassment Act because Congress virtually gave the B.L.M. *carte blanche* to make its own rules in what Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah called "the most oppressive bill ever to hit the west." In an employee bulletin the B.L.M. expressed delirious happiness, calling the measure a "milestone in public land legislation" because it gave B.L.M., "at last, a clear mandate."

Within months B.L.M. had issued two sets of regulations which had the independent miners of the West up in arms. A large Denver law firm, Dawson, Nagel, Sherman & Howard,

which specializes in mining law, sent its clients a memorandum concerning the new dictatorial rules. It states in part:

"The intent of the Regulations is to wrest control of mining exploration and development on the public lands from prospectors and unpatented mining-claim owners and vest in Government employees discretionary power to impede or prohibit mineral development dependent upon use of or access to or across public lands. It is doubtful that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has either the manpower or the funds necessary to administer the Regulations properly; costly delays, unproductive and counter-productive additional expenses, and the frustrations of inconsistent results discriminating among companies and individuals will surely result, primarily because the BLM need not do what the Forest Service has done in applying its similar regulations. The Forest Service, well aware its regulations — if applied unreasonably — would surely fare poorly upon judicial review, has instructed its employees to act reasonably where prospectors and miners attempt to comply in good faith with the regulations and to avoid unnecessary interference with forest resources. No such assurance can be expected of the BLM with respect to its management of surface resources."

While the B.L.M. was refusing to allow many miners to work their claims, the miners pointed out that under the terms of the 1872 Mining Law they had to develop their property or it would revert back to the public domain. Welcome to Catch 22. With their new congressional "mandate," arrogant bureaucrats from B.L.M. were assuming authority over mines which had become private property under the law.

Citing the Organic Act, the B.L.M. now launched a so-called Law Enforcement Ranger Program, complete with a "uniformed armed force," and trained them into piney-woods SWAT teams which operate with M-16 automatic rifles and helicopters. Under the Organic Law these gunsels are unconstitutionally authorized to make arrests without warrant or due process and search without warrant "any person, place or conveyance" to "seize without warrant or process any evidentiary item as provided by federal law." So far the miners have yet to hear from the American Civil Liberties Union. Apparently fascism in defense of ecology is no vice.

The Bureau of Land Management is literally making war on the small miners. Sometimes these ecofreaks with badges come in with their M-16s and helicopters. Other times they sneak in when the miner is gone and destroy his claim. Arnold Soares wrote of his experience with the B.L.M. public servants in the July 1977 issue of the *California Mining Journal*:

"It has happened here. The BLM burned my mining cabin at Coulterville and they admitted it to me — although not publicly, for any record. No notice of any kind was given me before the burn. I went to the claim one day to work and discovered the cabin had been burned to the ground in a very professional manner; obviously it was not the work of vandals. I had arranged for a man to help me tear the cabin down because of repeated vandalism, but we had not done the work yet so I lost at least \$1,000 in salvage. Usually even anyone who maintains a public nuisance is given reasonable warning to abate . . ."

Particularly hard hit have been the miners around the small town of

Denny in Trinity County of northern California. Journalist James Real writes of the war on the miners of Trinity County in the February 27, 1978, issue of *New West*:

"The war between the grubstake miners of Trinity County and the rangers of the Forest Service — who are known locally as the 'smokeys' — has been escalating steadily over the past few years So far, the local smokeys appear to be ahead. They are determined to prove that all 40 claims around Denny are invalid. They intend to evict all these miners who live on government land and to destroy the cabins and houses they have built. The Forest Service is acting on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department of the Interior; the BLM is responsible for the administration of federal mining laws. The Forest Service rangers, if spooked or irritated, can and do whistle up marshals armed with semi-automatic weapons, helicopters and other gear to suppress incipient rural insurrections"

Local victims have varying theories on why there is a war on the miners. Real reports:

"The grubstake miners of Denny believe their struggles with the smokeys are symbolic of a larger issue. Zeke Isaacs, for instance, sees the Forest Service tactics as an almost inevitable bureaucratic power trip, a predictable spiral of authority — more budget, more power. And the mineral examinations, he says, are an all-purpose tool of control"

"Dick Arbo's theory is more expansive. He sees a multidepartmental government conspiracy to tightly control every aspect of the nation's natural resources which lie within the bounds of public lands. 'If you just look at the areas the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have swapped with

private individuals and the areas they've withdrawn from mining claims, you get a clear picture of what's going to happen,' he says. 'The BLM proposes to withdraw another 617,000 acres just here in Trinity County. They're after three things: water, which gives them control of electrical power; mining sites, which give them control of the minerals; and the forests, which give them control of the timber. If you look at the topographic maps, they've got or are after every square inch of watershed and every water basin where you can put a power or irrigation dam. They're after everything the mineral industry could ever hope for. The timber goes with the first two deals.'

"Ralph Modine, a 33-year-old Trinity County supervisor who served as president of the Western Mining Council for two years, agrees with Arbo. 'Denny is the test case. The object is to clear the forests and other public land of all occupants. The Forest Service people had a big brainstorming meeting and concluded the way to get into evicting 14,000 California miners was to shotgun the Denny area — take everyone to court. Then they'd have a legal base to go after every occupant in the country who's legal on public land.'"

The miner is caught in a crossfire by the bureaus and regulations, all aimed at keeping him from extracting minerals from the ground as authorized by Congress for over one hundred years.

Jerry Howard of Idaho's Bunker Hill mines reports in the *California Mining Journal* of November 1976 that the six top executives in his organization spend fifty percent of their time dealing with the massive and continuously increasing government regulations. Says Howard: "Presently, there are 50 federal agencies, bureaus and councils that

the company must answer to and that can make the mining companies change their plans." People in cities think they are the only Americans who have to put up with arrogant and arbitrary planners. Not so. By a country mile.

But, asks a "Liberal" voice from the back of the room, won't we run out of everything if the government doesn't step in and control the land and access to it? One thing is for sure: We'll never know what natural resources are hidden beneath those 2.3 billion acres if our independent miners are not allowed to prospect or are refused reward for their efforts. Certainly such experts as James Weber, author of *Grow Or Die*, do not think we are going to run out of raw materials if we are allowed to find and develop them. Weber quotes a director of the U.S. Geological Survey:

"Personally I am confident that for millennia to come we can continue to develop the mineral supplies needed to maintain a high level of living for those who now enjoy it and raise it for the impoverished people of our own country and the world. . . . I am sure all geologists would agree that mineable undiscovered deposits remain in explored as well as unexplored areas and that progress in our knowledge of regional geology and in exploration will lead to the discovery of many of them. With respect to unexplored areas, the mineral potential of the continental margins and ocean basins deserves particular emphasis, for the technology that will give us access to it is clearly now in sight. For many critical minerals, we already know of substantial paramarginal and submarginal resources that experience tells us should be brought within economic reach by technological advance."

What holds true for minerals is

also valid for oil and natural gas. The United States now imports half of its oil. The nine million barrels which are imported each day have created a balance of payments deficit which is currently running in the neighborhood of thirty-five billion dollars a year — bleeding America to the annual tune of \$595 per household. As a consequence of this and growing deficit spending, the value of the dollar on foreign money markets has shrunk like a prune. The oil cartelists meanwhile have their fingers around America's throat. Anybody with more sense than the cast of Hee Haw would assume that the long-promised "Operation Independence" would by now be in full swing with the government encouraging anyone willing to do so to sink a hole anywhere there was a possibility of finding oil or gas. The problem is that we are not dealing here with logic but with conspiracy.

The Rockefeller-backed ecotomaniacs, be they radicals at the bottom of society or Mercedes Marxists at the top, hold the American middle class in contempt and welcome the opportunity to restrict its life-style. To cover the con, the Rockabucks gang at the top of the Environmental Pyramid urges us to reduce our standard of living as it leads chorus after chorus of "Save The Mosquito." No one is supposed to notice that, while the world looks aghast at the Middle East potentates making billions of dollars a year from oil which costs fifteen cents a barrel to pump, that oil comes from wells drilled by Rockefeller oil companies. It is carried in pipelines owned by Rockefeller oil companies. It is transported across the ocean in tankers owned by Rockefeller oil companies. It is refined at a Rockefeller refinery and sold through Rockefeller stations. And our anger is supposed to be directed at the guys in the turbans.

You might also be laboring under the delusion that the sinking dollar is likely to put a hole in the side of the S.S. Rockefeller. Not a chance. Keep in mind that the Rockefeller operations are not only multinational but involve the leading international banks. They simply play the currency game. In fact it is quite conceivable that much of the mysterious speculation against the dollar overseas is a product of Brother David and his cronies at Chase Manhattan shorting the buck on foreign money markets.

So the Rockefellers go right on applying the squeeze as the New York connection of the energy cartel. To prevent their little game from being spoiled they are meanwhile doing their best to lock up the vast supplies of energy fuels on America's public lands. Recognizing this, you should not be too surprised at the Western Oil and Gas Association's *Energy-gram* for June 1978, which states:

THE U.S. PUBLIC DOMAIN: DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL FOR ENERGY WILL DEPEND ON WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE. *In the nation's quest for means to reduce our oil dependence on foreign powers, nothing stands out more clearly than the need to increase production on lands that the federal government itself owns. Such domestic production can increase availability of both crude oil and natural gas. Simply put, the question is, should public land be withdrawn from all development and set aside as "wilderness" or should it be used to serve multiple purposes?*

The on-land public domain (off-shore is something additional) covers some 877 million acres. Of this territory, 62% or some 546 million acres is either closed to, or so burdened by restrictions as to preclude, energy exploration and development. Most of

this land is in 11 western states and Alaska, where mineral and energy resources are relatively abundant.

Federal ownership of this amount of land gives members of Congress (and the Executive Branch, meaning the Interior Department) direct control over a major share of the nation's mineral resources. Our future depends on their decisions, for there are currently under consideration congressional bills and agency plans which, if enacted, would withdraw well over 100 million additional acres of petroleum and energy mineral exploration.

The widely respected *Oil And Gas Journal* warned in a recent editorial about the needed search for oil and natural gas: "Now the government may be putting still more billions of barrels and trillions of cubic feet in limbo. And for what? Because of the false notion that the only way to preserve a beautiful ecosystem is to ban drilling forever."

And while America hemorrhages cash to buy foreign oil from the cartel, only three percent of our entire outer continental shelf has been leased by the federal government for drilling purposes. Even after a lease is obtained, the drillers are at the mercy of the indecision makers in the Department of Energy, the E.P.A., the B.L.M., and other paragons of the Peter Principle. The development program is booby-trapped with interminable delays in a Rube Goldberg system of restrictions and regulations. As Congressman Steve Symms has observed, we don't have an energy crisis, we have an energy production crisis. That production crisis is going to get worse unless the truth of the matter is exposed and the complexion of Congress is changed. The Carter energy program is designed to divide energy, not multiply it.

Meanwhile, the no-growth clique is selling the idea that we must cut back on our living standard — even as experts in the field insist that our nation is sitting on a huge sea of petroleum and natural gas. Thomas P. Medders Jr., president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, told a Senate Committee as far back as 1972 that our recoverable resources “are in the order of 100 years’ supply at present rates of U.S. consumption of both oil and gas.” A Senate Interior Committee Report reviewed numerous projections of recoverable oil and concluded that Mr. Medders had significantly *underestimated* our potential reserves.

Huge amounts of America’s energy fuels and minerals are in Alaska — which is of course today’s major target of the lock-up boys. Within the next few weeks the Senate could be voting on the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, which passed the House earlier this summer under pressure from the Rockefeller ecology lobbies, the New York bankers, and other interested parties. This Act would put an astronomical 100 million acres — an area roughly the size of California — into the deep freeze of national parks and forests, scenic areas and monuments, and wildlife preserves. Needless to say the ecofreaks are doing hand flips for joy.

Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, a favorite of the bugs and butterflies crowd, proclaims: “With this legislation, we have an opportunity to protect resources in Alaska in a manner that has been lost forever in the ‘lower 48’ states.” Imagine what Andrus could have done to the nation if he had gotten his hands on the Louisiana Purchase!

Alaska’s Congressman Don Young, who actually lives in Alaska and knows that the federal government

owns more than 96.4 percent of the land there, takes issue with the lock-up. He says this land grab amounts to establishing “colonial rule from Washington, D.C.” According to Representative Young, “These vast, arbitrary designations [*of parks and wilderness areas*] will have a disastrous impact. State and Native lands will have very little value because there won’t be access across federal lands. Ninety percent of the state’s hydropower sites will be eliminated. There’s very little recreation in wilderness areas, only for the select few, mainly the young.”

A poll commissioned by Alaska’s Governor Jay Hammon showed sixty-seven percent of the people of that state are opposed to the bill. And many Alaskans are sarcastically asking whether they made the right decision in becoming a state, pointing out that they had more control over their land when they were only a territory. They remark with cold irony that if Alaska still belonged to Russia you could bet our government would be providing money and technology for its development.

One would think that even the bureaucrats would be satisfied at deep freezing an area the size of California. Not so. Bureaucrats at the Bureau of Land Management have told Congressman Young’s staff that under Sections 603 and 204 of the Organic Act they intend to close *all* public lands. Roadless areas will be designated for study as Wilderness. And, while being studied, they will be managed as Wilderness. There will be no prospecting and no mineral development.

The schedule under which studies will begin has not yet been established. But, meanwhile, whenever any development is proposed, *the area surrounding the proposed development* will be withdrawn for study as

a Wilderness. All development, even taking samples on a mining claim, now requires a permit. Therefore, B.L.M. automatically knows of any proposed activity and can quickly choke it.

The area scheduled for *de facto* withdrawal in Alaska is eighty million acres — an area the size of Arizona, Ohio, Washington, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maine, and half of Massachusetts combined. This amounts to a *de facto* withdrawal of public land in Alaska with the cute twist that the developer himself initiates his own demise as soon as he proposes any work in a "roadless" area. And it leaves little of Alaska open for development. The Eskimos have forty-four million acres, with the rest mostly in the hands of the state and federal government. Only one-quarter of one percent is privately owned and available to be bought and sold. If the Alaska Land Conservation Act passes the Senate, 73.3 percent of all public lands there will be closed to development and, as we have noted, the B.L.M. intends to finagle the closing of almost all the rest. In total, this represents the closing to development of vast resources over an area approximately one-fourth the size of the Continental United States.

What does this mean to the future supply of raw materials for our economy? *Barron's* of January 23, 1978, reports: "To the American mining industry, Alaska represents the greatest mineral bonanza in the U.S. The Bureau of Mines reports that 28 of the 37 minerals imported into the U.S. can be found in Alaska, and 18 of these are in potentially mineable deposits. Despite this, and despite the nation's increasing dependence on imported minerals, there is not a single major mine in Alaska. And the industry fears that

Alaskan pay dirt will be locked up forever."

Many of these minerals, such as nickel and molybdenum, are of vital strategic importance. Of course, national survival is not as important as protecting the purity of unoccupied lands which 99.999 percent of Americans will never see.

Science magazine of November 4, 1977, tells us of Alaska that "The state is known by geologists as heavily mineralized and a likely place to find rich deposits of molybdenum, nickel, chrome, platinum, and the base metals copper, lead, and zinc." According to the Chamber of Commerce: "Stanford Research Institute International estimated non-fuel mineral development in Alaska from just seven known mineral occurrences would provide the nation with \$1 billion annually of gold, silver, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, molybdenum and asbestos; create 40,000 additional jobs, which is equal to about 0.5 percent of our unemployment; reduce the balance of payments deficit by \$1 billion annually (in 1977 dollars)." And that, remember, is only seven non-fuel minerals.

Little wonder that the government has been deliberately dishonest about the value of the minerals being put in the deep freeze. In a column entitled "The Bonanza File — Hiding Alaska's Billions Under A Bureaucratic Bushel," no less a "Liberal" than Jack Anderson reported in the *Washington Post* for January 13, 1978:

"Buried in the files Bert Lance left behind may be the biggest mineral controversy since the Great Gold Rush. Before he left the White House, the former budget boss was refereeing a dispute over 92 million acres of unspoiled Alaskan wilderness, which Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus wants to set aside as a national preserve. The stakes are enor-

mous, involving oil, natural gas and mineral deposits worth billions. We have now seen evidence that Lance and other Federal officials may have been misled. Interior Department documents, intended for official use only, indicate that the mineral riches were deliberately, drastically underestimated. The value of the unexplored acreage was downplayed in a briefing book, which the Interior Department sent to Lance's office."

The phony figures were prepared by the Interior Department's Cynthia Wilson, formerly of the National Audubon Society. Tweet, tweet! The early worm gets the bird from the environmentalists.

We all remember the five-year delays which the environmental radicals and their Rockefeller patrons created on the Alaskan pipeline. During this period the price of crude oil more than doubled and the Rockefellers' oil investments in the Middle East increased in value by many billions of dollars. Remember the cries to "save the tundra"? It was all absurd. A pipeline across Alaska was about as disruptive as laying a thread across a football field. The delay was simply arranged to prevent the new oil from driving down the price and to facilitate creation of the international oil cartel. The same operators are at it again. They are now trying to kill a proposed gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay across Canada to bring natural gas to the lower forty-eight states. It seems that the pipeline would cross the Arctic National Wildlife Range, an area of thousands of square miles visited by the grand total of two hundred people annually.

Meanwhile there is this fascinating scheme to ship Alaskan oil to California and then run it through a Rockefeller-owned pipeline. You see, we are told, there is a growing "glut"

of Alaskan oil on the West Coast. A "glut" which if not properly managed — if increased — could break the cartel price and return us to thirty-cent gasoline. We just can't have that. The Chamber of Commerce reports of the Alaska land withdrawal program:

"This bill would lock up or cut off economical access to huge areas of Alaska's sedimentary basins which are promising areas for oil and gas. Up to 40% of the lands to be locked up have oil and gas potential. The restrictions in the proposed legislation could withhold 13 percent to 26 percent of America's domestic crude oil supplies and 5 percent to 10 percent of domestic natural gas supplies in future years. This is based on the United States Geological Survey's estimates of currently undiscovered but likely to be discovered and recovered oil and natural gas resources in Alaska."

And this bill also establishes a six-mile offshore boundary for coastal wildlife refuges — a clear effort to stop oil and gas leasing of the richly promising Outer Continental Shelf areas such as the Beaufort Sea. It would withdraw from production 20 billion barrels of *known* oil reserves and 11 trillion cf of proven natural gas.

The short- and long-run effects for our standard of living and national defense from Rockefeller manipulation of federal resource policies are immense. Yet very few people are aware that any of this is happening. The areas affected are rural and their representatives are outvoted by the Establishment "Liberals" who hop to the tunes orchestrated by the Oilbucks sophisticates. Maybe we need a bumpersticker which says "Unlock the Land; Lock Up the Rockefellers and their Eco-freaks." ■ ■