

FEMA, ecologists declare war on the Mississippi

by Richard Freeman

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is steering a destructive policy shift in American flood control policy, by closing down hundreds of Midwest communities, and paying sums of money to relocate their populations. Working with a hard-core group of environmentalists in the Clinton administration, FEMA is preventing the rebuilding of levees, and uprooting 60 years of high-technology engineering development, including the building of river diversion channels and floodways, that led to the birth of waterborne commerce, agriculture, industry, and civilization along the Mississippi River System. This shutdown is being done allegedly to help the victims of the Flood of '93 who live in the nine states that define the Upper Mississippi Valley: Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Scott Faber, a director of the extremist environmentalist American Rivers group, jubilantly proclaimed Nov. 9, "This is revolutionary. People may not appreciate it, but this is reversing 100 years of federal flood control policy. As part of the relocations, people will be moved out of the Mississippi floodplain areas. There should not be and there will not be development in these areas anymore. This development had to be stopped." Faber announced that "in the 1930s, there was building of levees [to halt and mitigate flooding]. Levees are really bad for rivers. They should never have been built. If we don't rebuild the levees now, we won't have the development. But this is also a good policy because it reduces the long-term burden of [future] flood relief." Faber asserted that farmers living on and farming the rich Mississippi riparian plains will have to move away to higher bluffs and come down to farm the area when the Mississippi is not flooding, as they did 100 years ago. The Washington, D.C.-based "conservationist" American Rivers is funded by "green foundations," including the World Wild Fund for Nature of Brit-

ain's Prince Philip.

Faber's elation over a new Clinton policy is based on the announcement by Richard Krimm, deputy associate director of FEMA, who stated on Nov. 2 in a telephone press conference that the federal government will spend \$400 million—of which \$286 million is available, and the rest will have to be appropriated by the Congress—to relocate 10,000 buildings, mostly homes, out of the 90,000 buildings damaged in the Midwest by the flood.

Under the program, according to the Nov. 3 *Chicago Tribune*, "local governments would pass ordinances preventing future development in the areas that are purchased in the buyout program." Instead, FEMA's Krimm stated, the areas would be turned into parks, recreation areas, and above all, wetlands. Krimm reported that 53 entire towns and villages, mostly in Iowa and Illinois, will be funded to relocate immediately. In some cases, this means moving to higher ground, if the community has enough money to buy new land and transfer services such as water, electricity, etc. But in most cases, the communities, many a hundred years old or older, will be wiped out. An additional 150 communities are on a waiting list to be "relocated."

Because of the severe flood damage, and because of the depression, many financially desperate communities approached by FEMA to relocate can't refuse the money: Either they move or they dissolve on the spot. The leaders of one 900-person community, Grafton, Illinois, told *EIR* several weeks ago that they did not want to be relocated. They proposed a plan to relocate their vital infrastructure (sewer works, main roads, etc.) to higher ground in order to keep their town otherwise intact. But they are under severe budgetary constraints. With the government denying them levee-building, and any other funding, Grafton is now close to accepting blood money from FEMA to shut down most of its

community forever.

Though FEMA is directing a portion of the policy, two individuals stand at the center of the administration's program for the shutdown and depopulation of the Upper Mississippi Valley effort: T.J. Glauthier, the associate director for Natural Resources, Energy, and Science, of the Office of Management and Budget, a little-known but extremely powerful post; and Kathleen McGinty, the director of the White House Office of Environmental Policy, and the former chief environmental aide to then-Sen. Albert Gore. On Aug. 23, Glauthier and McGinty issued a directive, in which they enunciated the policy on flood control that would be binding on the entire government. Their directive was sent to the Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Housing, and Interior, as well as to FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies.

Radical environmentalist destruction gang

In the directive, Glauthier and McGinty stress that "in evaluating applications for levee repair and restoration in the region of the Midwest floods of 1993, each agency shall consider . . . non-structural design alternatives . . . lower long-term cost to the federal government, and natural resource protection."

"Non-structural design alternatives" is a euphemism for tearing apart the Army Corps' engineering achievements, starting with the 1928 Rivers and Harbors Act. These achievements made the Lower Mississippi River System, south of Cairo, Illinois, which used to suffer violent flood damage, virtually impregnable to such damage: During the Flood of '93, the Lower Mississippi suffered no damage. The crime is that such engineering means were only spottily applied to the Upper Mississippi region, which suffered \$15-25 billion worth of damage during the Flood of '93, three-fourths of which was preventable. Lyndon LaRouche has called for extending the Army Corps' infrastructural flood control methods used on the Lower Mississippi to the Upper Mississippi.

Glauthier and McGinty's alternative is called "flood control management," which would let the Mississippi River, when it floods, rage and destroy wherever it chooses.

Where did Glauthier and McGinty obtain the expertise to run the nation's flood control policy? The answer is, they have none; they are both radical environmentalist lunatics. Glauthier today has budget approval for all OMB expenditures for environmental, interior, agricultural, energy, and science issues, and heads what is unofficially called the Inter-Agency White House Task Force on Flood Control. His background? As director of Weather and Climate Change at the eco-fascist World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund, or WWF), Gauthier pushed the ozone hole scare, a hoax which is being used to shut down the production of life-strengthening chlorofluorocarbons

(CFCs), and now even chlorine production. According to his own biography, Glauthier "led WWF's U.S. participation in the international negotiations leading to the treaty on climate change, which was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June of 1992." This is the summit that declared war on manufacturing, technology, and the concept of man in the image of God.

McGinty has spent her short life on the fringes of the radical environmentalist movement, and also attended the 1992 Rio Earth Summit as the personal assistant and policy aide of Albert Gore, who endorsed the Earth Summit's goals. Thus, the two most powerful persons determining flood control policy for the United States are implementing the Earth Summit's anti-human agenda.

Attack on the Lower Mississippi

The Lower Mississippi is also under attack. On April 8, 1992, Kevin Coyle, president of American Rivers, held a press conference to announce the allegedly "ten most endangered rivers." American Rivers started in the 1970s as a group to oppose the development of hydro-power and the building of any dams on America's rivers, and eventually expanded into attacks on scientific flood control methods.

At the April 1992 press conference, Coyle gave a rambling tirade of lies about the Lower Mississippi, which in fact, is one of the world's famous engineering achievements. "Last year," he stated, "we listed the Upper Mississippi River on our most endangered rivers list primarily because of the movement of toxic materials and petroleum products that could at any time break and leak into the river and destroy its wildlife values and its other significant values." However, this year, he stated, "the lower part of the Mississippi is often called 'Cancer Alley,' and indeed the cancer rates in that area are higher than in many parts of the country, and we view this as one of the outcomes of rivers being the collectors of our land use abuses and in addition to that the whole plumbing system of the Mississippi River is skewed toward navigation and toward the control of the mighty river, which at one time spread over its delta . . . and now its silt that comes down the river is literally washing out into the Gulf of Mexico and the shoreline along Louisiana and other parts of the Gulf is eroding because that natural process is no longer taking place. The Mississippi is, in our view, extremely endangered."

Senator Gore attended the American Rivers association "endangered rivers" press conference as a featured guest. Following Coyle to the microphone, Gore proclaimed, "I'm concerned about all of the rivers included on this list, particularly, may I say, the Mississippi. And having recently written about the problems in the lower Mississippi and 'Cancer Alley,' I agree with you that those problems should be included with the ones in the Upper Mississippi that you talked about last year."

With Gore endorsing this strategy, unless voices are raised in opposition, it will go forward.