

Green Watcher by Rogelio A. Maduro

Marshall Institute refutes hoaxes

A new book takes on the anti-science ideology which places "perceptive biases" above "scientifically demonstrable facts."

Some of the most distinguished scientists in America have launched an attack against the promoters of scientific fraud. On March 3, the George C. Marshall Institute issued a 40-page book that challenges the philosophy underlying the major environmental scare stories. The book, *Global Warming and Ozone Hole Controversies: A Challenge to Scientific Judgment*, polemicalizes against the ideology of those who are promoting these frauds.

The book quotes Stephen Schneider, one of the leading promoters of global warming, stating that scientists "have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we may have" in order to get "loads of media coverage." Schneider concludes that "each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest."

The Marshall Institute warns that the ideology expounded by Schneider "represents a break in the traditions that have made the scientific revolution of recent centuries possible. It permits one to place perceptive biases, perhaps politically motivated, above scientifically demonstrable facts."

This is a direct attack on the irrationality and mysticism that have taken over scientific and policymaking bodies over the past several decades.

The counterattack was authored by Dr. Frederick Seitz, chairman of the board of directors and president emeritus of Rockefeller University, who has held the highest positions in the hierarchy of American science. He

is past president of the National Academy of Sciences, past president of the American Physical Society, former chairman of the Defense Science Board, and recipient of the National Medal of Science.

The book demolishes the 12 leading environmental frauds and boogymen being promoted today, from asbestos to ozone depletion. It reserves special attention for global warming and ozone depletion. Instead of refuting each "fact" behind these scares, Seitz challenges the most important philosophical assumptions behind the scare theory, and, in the process, demonstrates that they lack scientific credibility.

In discussing global warming, Seitz presents evidence which shows that the rise in global temperatures since the so-called Little Ice Age (1450-1850) may be entirely a natural phenomenon, having nothing to do with the activities of man. He also notes the discrepancies between the theory of global warming and scientific observations. Seitz states that "among other things, most of the actual rise [in temperatures] occurred prior to 1940 when the use of fossil fuels was relatively modest."

Seitz's debunking of the ozone depletion theory is even more thorough. He notes how the data have been manipulated by its promoters to show ozone depletion where there really is none.

Seitz states, "Depending on what time frame you choose to measure, ozone levels can be shown to increase, decrease or remain the same. The Ozone Trends Panel looked at the

years 1969 to 1986 and found a depletion in ozone. And yet, a line drawn from 1962 to 1979 would have shown an increase in ozone levels and one drawn from 1962 to 1986 would indicate virtually no change at all."

The book also chastises the United Nations for the promotion of this fraud. "That natural factors may be involved in the variations in the ozone layer is clearly understood by most atmospheric scientists," it states. "Unfortunately, this fact was omitted, presumably intentionally, from the summary which accompanied the master report issued by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change associated with the 1992 conference in Brazil. This summary is most widely read by the politicians, members of the media, and the general public. It was prepared by a special group of participants who apparently had a personal interest in recommending tighter environmental controls regardless of economic or social cost."

Seitz concludes that "there is reason, based on sound scientific work, to express doubt that we are in immediate danger from either global warming or depletion of the ozone layer as envisaged by some extreme activists in the environmental movement. There is ample time to carry out much more thorough research, particularly experimental research, on these topics so that we can feel far more confident than at present of any actions that should be taken, if they are indeed necessary. The cost of hasty action based on the recommendations of extreme activists could be enormously high and destructive to the fabric of our society."

To obtain a copy of the book, write to the George C. Marshall Institute, 1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20036, or call (202) 296-9655. The price is \$5.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.