

Gore's Hypocrisy On Energy Policy

by Scott Thompson

If one heard Al Gore's remarks on energy policy, on Sept. 29 to the Audubon Naturalist Society, he would have come across as a slightly pale shade of green. In his opening remarks, Gore, sounding almost sane, stated: "Today I want to focus on the right and responsible way to make sure America has a clean, secure, and affordable energy future, while protecting the environment for generations to come." He spoke of keeping oil companies from invading "precious national treasures, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," devising cars that would get 80 miles per gallon, building modern mass transit, and so forth.

But, if this is Gore as "Dr. Jekyll," his "Mr. Hyde" lurks in his book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

In this book, Gore rejects nuclear energy, even though it is safe and supplies a large proportion of the energy in nations ranging from France to Japan.

The book, which is a recipe for genocide against 2 billion people, was re-issued after its 1992 edition as a campaign document, and no one raised a ruckus. Gore, like his gurus Paul and Anne Ehrlich, seems to believe that every real or imagined problem facing humanity today is that there are just too many people.

Gore would also replace existing energy sources with so-called "green energy"—e.g. solar, wind, and water—that would provide "sustainable development." It would also spell the end of the United States as an industrialized nation.

Gore says in his book that "we should move away from the internal combustion engine over the next quarter century," but, he provides no workable alternative.

Elements of Gore's "Strategic Energy Initiative" for the Third World are even worse. He writes, "For example, inexpensive but energy-efficient ovens and 'cookers' distributed on an experimental basis in some Third World societies that depend on charcoal and firewood have dramatically decreased the amount of energy resources scavenged from the countryside."

Gore also advocates so-called "green energy" sources. For example, Gore states: "A little-noticed but surprisingly competitive source of electrical power is wind-generated energy, using a new generation of windmills with advanced aerodynamic design. . . . Some [have] discovered that so-called passive solar techniques were very effective in reducing heating bills."

Gore also had been one of the ringleaders of the December

1997 Kyoto, Japan summit on reducing "greenhouse gas" emissions to 1990 levels by 2010. Just a few examples of this lunacy give the flavor.

According to Dennis Avery of the *Journal of Commerce*, full implementation of the Kyoto treaty would mean a 75% surge in energy prices for farmers on machinery and fertilizer. Wharton Econometric projects that under the treaty, "1.8 million jobs would be lost, gas prices would skyrocket 50¢ a gallon, family energy bills would go up \$440, and every man, woman, and child would have to fork over an extra \$308 a year."

No nation could be even partially industrialized under Gore's energy policy, and millions would die as a result of starvation, lack of health care, and so forth, even in the so-called "advanced sector."

Gore Makes a Killing on Big Oil

Since he launched his campaign for President, Gore has made "Big Oil" one of his favorite targets. However, since approximately 1950, whenever the late "Red Capitalist" and oil tycoon, Dr. Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum, was asked about his relationship with Sen. Al Gore, Sr. (the Vice-President's late father), Hammer would smile and pat his wallet. Since his father's death in December 1998, Gore holds \$500,000-\$1 million of stock in Occidental, which is one of the largest integrated oil companies in the United States.

On Sept. 21, at the headquarters of the Burch Oil Co. in Hollywood, Maryland, Gore called for tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to drive down energy prices—as if the problem of high fuel prices were not commodities futures speculation. Another problem with this proposal is not just that the SPR only holds 570 million barrels, but the number of refineries in the United States has declined from 195 in 1987, to an estimated 150 today, and those are working at 96% capacity. Thus, tapping the SPR at most could produce 4.4 million barrels per day for approximately 125 days.

Even more scandalous is that, in October 1996, as part of Gore's "Reinventing Government" project, the Clinton-Gore Administration sold Elk Hills, one of two reservoirs of the Naval Petroleum Reserve, through a "sealed bid" auction, to Occidental. The price amounted \$3.50 to \$5.25 per barrel. Today, Occidental Petroleum is selling this "light, sweet oil" for \$35 a barrel.

There is also approximately 2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Elk Hills, that Occidental is now selling for \$5.50-7 per 1,000 cubic feet. And, Occidental plans to build a natural gas-fired generating plant and sell the electricity in California, where deregulation has sent electric bills soaring by 50% or more.

As the June 16 *Washington Times* revealed, this giveaway of Elk Hills reportedly tripled Occidental's U.S.-based oil reserves. And, it led to an immediate 10% increase in the company's stock price, from which Gore and his family have reaped at least \$50,000 in profits.