

Bio-Cons, Neo-Greens: Shultz Boys' Corn Scam

by Christine Craig

George P. Shultz has been a busy man these days, even for an octagenarian oligarch. After basking in his bringing down Bretton Woods and creating the global floating-exchange-rate system in the 1970s, the Republican “fixer” personally chose Dick Cheney and the George W. Bush Cabinet in early 2000. A former JP Morgan banker with a publicly stated preference for “war” as the best means of achieving imperial objectives in the Mideast, Southwest Asia, and elsewhere, Shultz has recently taken the lead on regime change in Iran, as head of the Committee on the Present Danger and the closely allied Foundation for Defense of Democracies. With Felix Rohatyn, he has sponsored conferences pushing the galloping privatization of militaries. And lately, he’s been sharing the pulpit with a fascinating circle of associates from both the left and right, on the curious subject of alternative energy sources—including such strange bedfellows as anti-nuke environmentalist Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute, and ex-CIA director, imperial war-hawk R. James Woolsey.

One thing all Shultz’s kindergarten, “left” and “right,” now share: They’re all pushing the ethanol bubble as a purported means to U.S. energy independence and national security. And they demand Congress, and the American taxpayers, throw tens of billions a year at it.

Indeed, in October 2005 alone, Shultz wrote a position paper with Woolsey for the Committee on the Present Danger, titled “Oil & Security.” He then reworked the same story into an article with Woolsey for the journal *Mechanical Engineering*, “Petroleum Bomb,” and then wrote a glowing introduction for Lovins’ new book, *Winning the Oil Endgame*. In all these, Shultz ruled out nuclear power as an alternative to that old Mideast oil addiction—mighty strange, for a former CEO of Bechtel when it was bidding to bid on nuclear power contracts.

Why is Shultz hyping Amory Lovins’ view of a nuclear-free future full of ethanol-guzzling flex-fuel cars and windmills supposedly producing hydrogen? Has Shultz gone senile? Or does this lunacy come naturally after decades of imposing technological apartheid, including by war, on other nations? Shultz’s war-hawk friends, and his and Al Gore’s environmentalist protégés, share a common vision for the future—a world with fewer people and less technology, using fewer resources. Nuclear energy doesn’t fit that vision. When these weird brothers get together, does the haze of ethyl alco-

hol remind them that they all believe mankind is really just “smart biomass,” and not fit for any Promethean fire like nuclear technology?

Gore and Gaffney Puff ‘Corncob Pipes’

As early as 1974, the Ford Foundation published a lengthy policy report titled *A Time to Choose: America’s Energy Future* in which they introduced a pathway termed Zero Energy Growth (ZEG), wherein major research and development would focus on ways to *conserve* energy through greater efficiency and recycling of wastes. New energy sources were envisioned to come from “solar technologies, energy from organic and urban wastes, and geothermal energy, which are the most promising.” The report viewed nuclear power as an unproven and dangerous technology that needed to slow down and catch its breath until scientists and regulators figured out how to tame it and keep it from spreading to the Middle East and developing countries in general. They considered it “wrong-headed to concentrate only on options [breeder reactors and fusion power] that will take decades, and ignore options that are closer at hand and necessary to meet needs in this century.”

But it was George Shultz’s neo-conservative collaborators of decades—particularly that ultimate neo-con cold warrior Albert Wohlstetter of RAND, and Wohlstetter’s students such as Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz—who were and are the primeval anti-nukes. Wohlstetter, from the 1950s to his death, fought to keep civilian nuclear power from spreading in the world, using the argument that it was dangerous and economically unfeasible (see “The Neo-Cons, Not Carter, Killed Nuclear Energy,” *EIR* March 24). From such as Wohlstetter, the Amory Lovinses, Ralph Naders, and Barry Commoners took their case studies in which mankind is a bumbling tinkerer, unwittingly throwing a wrench into the natural ecosystem with his technological innovations.

Boondoggle

One of the boondoggles to have arisen in the vacuum left by the smothering of nuclear energy in the United States in the 1980s, has been the corn/sugarcane ethanol fuel subsidy swindle, perpetrated on gullible taxpayers by agricultural cartels such as Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland (see page 13). In recent years it seems that everybody wants to get on the bandwagon. The major push has been for ethanol and related bio-fuels to replace oil. From the left, it is fueled by hysteria about greenhouse gases and climate change from burning fossil fuels. From the right, comes the battle cry for independence from Middle Eastern oil. Of course, nuclear power would solve both of these problems at the same time with ease, while powering an industrial renaissance, but that is not what either side wants. They want soft energies with a small footprint, and no major new technology or capital expenses. They want solutions that emphasize conservation, not development.



*Mr. Gore and Mr. Preventive War:
Why are they all for ethanol?*

Alan Yue

In 2006, it is neo-cons allied with Shultz and Dick Cheney who are the leading think-tank propagandists for ethanol and nastier wastes as “American energy independence.” Environmentalists and Democrats are joining them in a truly smelly alliance.

The major front organization for both sides is called the Set America Free Coalition, pushing George Shultz’s and James Woolsey’s line of independence from foreign oil, through domestic production of cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel for transportation. The Set America Free Coalition, started by the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, includes leading “regime change” warhawks and neo-cons such as Woolsey, Perle, Clifford May, Frank Gaffney, Meyrav Wurmser, and Daniel Pipes.

The Coalition includes such general right-wing non-profit institutions as: the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, Hudson Institute, Committee on the Present Danger, Center for Security Policy, National Defense Council Foundation, American Values, and American Jewish Committee. They all act as if they were taking an “ethanol bubble break” from their normal shrill pursuits of wars against “rogue states.”

The Left Cheek of the Ethole

But the *same* ethanol-pushing Coalition also includes the American Council on Renewable Energy; the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); and the Apollo Alliance.

The Apollo Alliance is a joint project of the Institute for America’s Future and the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, and is a huge grouping of liberal environmentalists causes, including Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, Americans for Democratic Action, and Rainbow Coalition. Various unions such as the International Association of Machinists and United Automom-

bile Workers are represented. Its funding comes from groups like the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Financial Services.

Two rotten Democrats prominent in the fetid mess are Al Gore and Sen. Joe Lieberman (who sits on the Committee on the Present Danger and the Foundation for Defense of Democracies with other neo-cons)—the turncoats who tried to destroy President Clinton as well as the Democratic Party. As the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), Lieberman and Gore were and are funded in this treachery by the extreme-right Smith-Richardson Foundation of CIA “secret wars” fame.

Gore’s sensationalist global warming movie, “An Inconvenient Truth,” is contributing \$500,000 plus 5% of ticket sales to Gore’s new group, Alliance for Climate Protection, headed by former Reagan EPA chief Lee Thomas. Its stated aim is to combine conservatives with labor groups for eco-friendly legislation.

Gore is on the stump all over the country, repeating NASA scientist James Hansen’s scare-line that within 10 years, the greenhouse effect is going to be unstoppable. In a recent interview, Gore panned nuclear power for exactly the same bogus economic/security reasons as Wohlstetter did 50 years ago, then waxed poetic on cellulosic ethanol as the salvation of the world: “I think it is going to be a huge new source of energy, particularly for the transportation sector. . . . You’re going to see new processes that utilize waste as the source of energy, so there’s no petroleum consumed in the process. . . . You may also begin to see a new generation of fuel cells that run on cellulosic ethanol, where you can grow your own electricity. I think it’s going to play a huge role.”

So both bio-cons and neo-greens are waging this insane war to bury nuclear power with subsidized switchgrass and cow pies, shuffling backwards into the Third World.