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AL QAEDA'S AMERICAN COUSINS: ECO-TERRORISM TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY FOLLOWING 9-11

by Sean Paige

They're among us: a secretive cadre of fanatics bent on imposing their worldview on the United States of America and winning attention for their cause by any means necessary. They hate what we stand for yet blend seamlessly into our communities, enjoying the benefits, comforts, and tolerance of a society they love to loathe. They believe the righteousness of their cause justifies illegal acts. Their semiautonomous "cells" lay in wait, for a moment to strike, believing that by setting America on edge they're making a political statement. And the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is said to be hot on their trail, with a renewed appreciation — in the wake of September 11 — for the danger they pose.

They're not sleeper agents of Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda Network, however; they're America's homegrown eco-terrorists — who as yet lack Bin Laden's diabolical sophistication or appetite for human carnage, but share his fanatical mindset and willingness to use terror and guerilla tactics to advance a cause. Although the primary focus of the U.S. "War on Terrorism" is directed overseas, Americans jolted awake by

the events of September 11 are also taking a closer, more critical look at potential threats at home: not just at Al Qaeda cells that may still be out there, but at their American second cousins in the animal rights and environmental movements, who, if not stopped now, could one day evolve into something nearly as monstrous.



Ecoterrorists burned down the Two Elks Restaurant in Vail, Colo. in October of 1998; this was one of seven fires.

The FBI ranks the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) as the top domestic terrorist threats facing Americans and holds the groups responsible for more than 600 criminal acts since 1996 — causing more than \$42 million in damage. The fact that no one has been killed as a result seems a matter of luck. Some security experts are predicting it is only a matter of time. And the eco-terrorists have shown no sign of second

thoughts or squeamishness in the wake of the September 11 atrocities. In fact, there are indications that many of them not only sympathized with the motives of the suicide hijackers — "Anyone in their right mind would realize the United States had it coming," an ELF mouthpiece told one major magazine

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE DEADLY DOCTOR



by Fred Smith

In a recent *New York Times* interview, Dr. Leon Kass, newly appointed chairman of the Bush Administration's Council on Bioethics, stated that the "finitude of human life is a blessing." Death, a blessing? That's not my perspective. I've always agreed with Woodie Allen's adage: "I don't want to gain immortality from my work, I want to gain immortality by not dying." But Kass's viewpoint is more important than mine; he's charged with advising the White House on the ethics of biomedical research. Is

this a good job for someone who thinks that death is a good thing?

We certainly shouldn't dismiss Kass's opinions lightly. His views illustrate a disturbing and significant trend among western intellectuals, who believe that science and technology have for too long been viewed positively. This group believes society has focused on the blossoms of technology while ignoring the thorns. Indeed, that theme is becoming very prominent in popular culture — as illustrated by the popularity of the Academy Award-winning movie *Lord of the Rings*, adapted from a trilogy of books by J.R.R. Tolkien.

As many of you probably know, the movie is a heroic tale of the war between good and evil. It also warns of the dangerous temptations presented by powerful innovations. And while the story itself extols the virtues of the moral individual in a world of compromise, there remains an anti-technology element. Some creations are evil and should be destroyed, not employed. The story's central element is one such demonic invention — the One Ring — which gives the wearer massive powers, including immortality. But power corrupts and the absolute power conveyed by the Ring will corrupt even the most moral being, rendering them at last an evil "dark lord." Tolkien's epic deals with the quest (ultimately successful) to destroy this evil innovation. Note that this same theme — the risks of power — is central to the *Star Wars* series. Again, one should beware of the "Dark Side of the Force."

I love Tolkien; indeed, I've read the *Fellowship of the Ring* five or more times. The book offers great inspiration to those battling against evil powers, when success seems problematic. But, I don't view *Lord of the Rings* as a useful public policy handbook. There is something strange about the view that technology is evil — rather than that it can be *used* for evil purposes. The world of Tolkien resembles that of most romantic fantasies in that there is an absence of technology. Travel is by foot or wagon; wars are fought with sword, ax, and arrow; wood fires heat buildings. There is little disease and people experience long and healthy lives. The world is *natural* — save for those parts that have fallen into evil, where smoke and vibrations and other perverse forces dominate the scene. Fascinating — but, of course, this is a work of fiction.

Allowing that same romantic vision to influence biomedical policy should concern us. Do we really want the President's ethics advisor to discourage aging research? Does greater knowledge actually undermine our humanity? Do we agree with Kass when he states: "Death at the *natural* time gives meaning and urgency to life." Immortals, he notes, "would not be like us at all." And he's right about that; they would live longer.

But if living longer makes us less human, then we've been losing our humanity for the last century or so. Lifespans have been increasing steadily during that period. Those gains reflect our success in reducing childhood mortality and addressing the ailments of age. Vaccinations, modern medicine, cosmetic surgery, xenotransplants, artificial hearts — all of these are examples of increasingly common upgrades and repairs to the basic homo sapien model. But has any of this made us less human? *Technology* has been changing what it means to be human for over 10,000 years. Perhaps, the largest change was the transition from a hunter-gatherer to an agrarian society. Today, many live who would have died in earlier eras. But are we moderns really less "human" than Attila the Hun or the Spanish inquisitors?

Kass will add weight and passion to the cautionary voices that are already doing so much to slow biomedical advances. Those voices are already very powerful — the FDA might better be named the Federal Delay Agency. But who in this Administration will provide the moral counterweight to Kass? Who will ask CEI's question: *If a drug will save lives tomorrow, then how many died yesterday waiting for the government to grant its approval?* Until we know the answer to that question, hold your applause for Dr. Leon Kass.

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Fred Lee Smith



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– but have escalated the level of vandalism since then.

ALF proudly claims responsibility for 137 acts of arson, tree spiking, and laboratory vandalism last year: criminal acts ranging from torching a University of Washington laboratory to smashing windows at a Maryland hamburger joint. And there's no sign that they're laying low because of the "War-on-Terrorism." Said ALF spokesman David Barbarash: "It would be irresponsible for animal and earth warriors to abandon their campaigns and actions at this time."

Perhaps such impudence springs from the fact that relatively few cases of eco-terrorism have been solved over the years; only a few of its perpetrators jailed; and because, as one FBI counter-terrorism official recently told Congress, "Law enforcement has a long way to go to adequately address the problem of eco-terrorism."

Acts of "monkey-wrenching" and "ecotage" aren't new, however, and date back many years. Some trace their origins to the 1975 publication of Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, a novel about a group of nature lovers in

the American Southwest who launch an escalating campaign of sabotage against development interests and alleged despoilers of the planet. Still others trace the movement's lineage back even further, to the Luddites of the early 1800s, textile workers in England whose bloody war against the Industrial Revolution had to be put down by force. This linkage is evident to anyone visiting the website of the radical environmental group Earth First! (www.earthfirstjournal.org), which for years has run an eco-terrorism advice column called "Dear Ned Ludd" – a character from the Robin Hood legend from which Luddites took their name and inspiration.

Acts of eco-terrorism can no longer be dismissed as the wacky pranks of well-meaning, but overzealous flower children, however. And they are not the benign "victimless" crimes apologists often claim. One can arguably count among eco-terrorism's victims the three people killed and 23 injured during the 17-year terror campaign of "Unabomber" Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski.

When pressed, most "mainstream" environmental groups disavow the actions of eco-terrorists, yet scoff at those urging the Bush Administration to get as tough on eco-terrorists as it is on others. Such groups understand the potential backlash if Americans begin to draw associations between environmental extremists who confine their actions to lobbying, peaceful demonstrations, and saturation litigation, with those who resort to destructive acts.

Yet some critics see in both groups a common unwillingness to compromise and an arrogant self-righteousness that breeds an ends-justify-the-means mentality. "The rationalization of eco-terrorists is no different from the Al Qaeda terrorists," according to Utah Republican

Rep. James Hansen, chairman of the House Resources Committee. "Both believe they are the sole proprietor of truth and righteousness, both believe they have the right to impose their concepts of truth and righteousness on society. Both attack people who they think have violated nature's or God's laws." And, adds Hansen: "Both hate Americans because we are free to make our own decisions."

However, this arrogant, absolutist, anti-democratic mindset isn't confined to groups or individuals that resort to eco-terror. When in positions of power, as they were during the Clinton Administration, greens frequently demonstrated their disdain for the democratic process by advancing their goals through unilateral executive orders, national monument designations, and regulatory mandates — eschewing the need to build consensus, compromise, or consult with Congress.

Leading the campaign against domestic eco-terrorism is Colorado Rep. Scott McInnis, a Republican who learned first-hand about the capabilities of these groups after a 1998

arson fire at a Vail ski resort caused \$12 million in damage. In the wake of September 11, McInnis sent a letter to half a dozen major environmental

"The rationalization of eco-terrorists is no different from the Al Qaeda terrorists."

groups, asking that they publicly disavow the use of eco-terror (a few did; others either ignored the request or accused the Congressman of conducting a McCarthy-like smear).

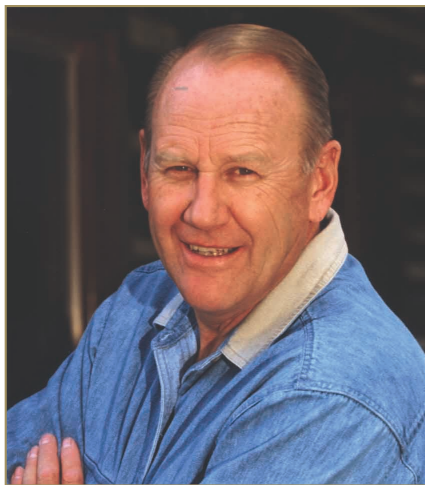
McInnis chaired a February 12 hearing on eco-terrorism before the House Resource Committee's subcommittee on forests and forest health. He also participated in "Stopping Eco-Terrorism," a March 7 conference co-hosted by the Competitive Enterprise Institute and Nichols-Dezenhall, a crisis communications consulting firm. The firm's CEO, Nick Nichols, not only used the occasion to decry the increasing tendency of extreme greens to vandalize, bomb, and intimidate to advance their political agenda, but the failure of corporations, universities, and other targets of attacks to defend themselves and their reputations against the onslaught. Nichols criticized the instinct of many executives in targeted companies to appease the extremists, likening them to Britain's Neville Chamberlain, who won infamy trying to placate the Nazis.

"The individuals that make-up these terror groups are not cut from the same fabric as the nature loving hippies of my youth," Rep. McInnis said at the February 12 hearing. "It would be a serious mistake for anyone to dismiss these hard-liners as just misguided college kids, or trust fund babies with nothing better to do. These people are hardened criminals. They are dangerous. They are well funded. They are savvy, sophisticated and stealthy. And if their violence continues to escalate, it is only a matter of time before their parade of terror results in lost human life."

And, perhaps just as importantly, the loss of the American way of life as well.

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Q & A WITH REP. JIM HANSEN: AN INSIDE PERSPECTIVE OF HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Republican Rep. Jim Hansen's announcement that he will be retiring after spending 11 terms in Congress, was met with mixed reactions in his Utah congressional district and the nation's capital. His constituents saw themselves losing a familiar political figure who had risen to a position of influence in the House of Representatives, including the chairmanship of the House Resource Committee. Environmental groups with whom he frequently clashed expressed glee at his departure. And even some erstwhile allies felt that Hansen, though better than many, might have done more to reverse bad federal environmental laws and protect property owners and resource industries against regulatory excesses. The Congressman's support for wilderness areas and a modified version of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act — which would greatly increase federal spending on land acquisitions — particularly angered some critics. How Hansen is perceived, then, largely depends on where one stands on always-contentious land management debates. And his role as a self-described "moderate" guaranteed that his tenure in Congress was marked by criticism from all sides.

CEI: Looking back over your career, especially here in the House of Representatives, what do you look upon

as your greatest accomplishments in the natural resources arena?

Hansen: Well, there are many things you do that are extremely important for people, but also many things that you block that somebody wants to come up with. And I'd say it's been about 50/50 with what we've blocked and what we've been able to pass. This may sound strange to you, but I think I've saved the environment from the environmentalists. Some of them have been rather extreme on things. The idea of draining Lake Powell and ruining the Southwestern part of America; President Clinton's 58 million square miles of so-called roadless areas; blocking some of those things has been important.

I probably put more [land] into wilderness [areas] than some people might like. Back in 1964, the original [Wilderness Act] bill was intended for very pristine areas — with no roads, no sign of man, no nothing — and those little tiny areas of America I think would be nice to preserve. And I've tried to do that. But taking these huge pieces of land making up millions and millions of acres, with roads, cities, farms, cattle, everything in it, and calling them wilderness — it's assinine. So that's where I've drawn the line.

CEI: What are some of the things that you wanted to accomplish that are left undone?

Hansen: The wilderness bill really needs to be refined. It's called a roadless area, but nobody really says what a road is. There shouldn't be any roads in wilderness. But every proposal that I've seen from the Sierra Club, Audoban Society, Wilderness Society, and the Clinton Administration was filled with roads. If there's a road there, it shouldn't be wilderness. I also think any wilderness designation should have a ten year sunset on it — and this is how the bill is going to be. After the Forest Service or the Park Service finish their work and submit it to Congress, then the

clock starts ticking. And we close it for ten years. With things as they are right now, it just goes on into perpetuity.

I think a lot of people go along with it because the term wilderness has become a hue and cry for the environmental community because it is a romantic word. If we got on the phone right now and randomly picked 30 people in any state and asked them if they wanted more or less wilderness, I swear, you'd get 80 percent of them to say more. Because it's what you envision in your mind. You envision clean air, pines, aspen, and a beautiful vista to look at. And that's great stuff. Now if you called them back the next day and asked if they wanted severely restricted areas, that's a negative term. But they're both basically the same thing.

CEI: There's a new book out, *This Sovereign Land*, arguing that it's time that Western states take more control of the public lands and, by extension, their own economic destinies. Do you think the federal government will really relinquish control of these lands?

Hansen: I don't think the federal government should relinquish control over some ground, but some of it is nonsense to have under them. Frankly, it wouldn't hurt my feelings at all if more of the federal land within the confines of the state were actually owned by the state. Well, all of my greenie friends back here — whether they are Republicans or Democrats — they always want to come out West and tell us how to run the show. Some member from the East can put in a bill for 5.7 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness in Utah and may never have been west of the Mississippi River. Well, there's a couple of million folks in Utah. They aren't stupid. We live there. We raise our families there. We take care of our businesses there. We can figure things out. So it bothers us when an Easterner does something like that.

CEI: Loggers, ranchers, miners, and a

lot of other people felt that they got a raw deal while Bill Clinton was in office. Do you think there's been a turnaround since the Bush Administration has come in?

Hansen: Well first, let me say that they did get a raw deal. Clinton wasn't that tough to deal with. If you could get the President into a one-on-one dialogue, he was almost reasonable. But then, there was his Council on Environmental Quality that was headed by Kathleen McGinty, and she is a flaming liberal environmentalist. Her boss was a guy by the name of Al Gore, who couldn't be worse. As far as we were concerned, Al Gore was our problem. Kathleen McGinty and the others [in the Administration] would resort to these sneaky little maneuvers. One of them was using the only hook they had, The 1906 Antiquities Law, to create national monuments. And they decimated the thing. They violated the law.

I sat with [Vice President] Dick Cheney for many years — we were together for about six years on the Interior Committee — and Dick's voting record is just parallel to mine and most of the Western guys. His philosophy permeates this [Administration] and what they are doing. We'll see some turnaround. I think we are seeing that. The snowmobiles in Yellowstone is an example of that. The idea that we can drill in [the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge], which is a misnomer, because we're not asking to drill in ANWR. We're asking to drill in that section outside of ANWR, that going back to Eisenhower was specifically left out so that we could drill there. Anyway, as I look at it, I think that turning it around is rather difficult. But we're doing it. The Administration is working with us in trying to come up with a moderate position.

CEI: Given the current political situation, what is your hope that the Endangered Species Act can really be overhauled? Or is it just a matter of tinkering around at the edges?

Hansen: I honestly believe that what you said is what we've been doing for the last few years, and that's tinkering

around the edges. And that's because we don't have the political clout, i.e. the number of votes, to really do something about it. So I brought all of the guys in and said: 'Look, it's like eating an elephant. You've got to take one bite at a time to get this thing going.' Look what the spotted owl did to the timber industry. Look at what the sucker fish has done to those proud farmers up in Klamath. I could go on and on. We are just getting hammered. If you go back and read the thing, it was intended for species like the Grizzly Bear and the Bald Eagle. It was never intended for the slimy slug. It wasn't intended for such sub-species. Yet, this has been an absolute godsend to the extreme environmentalists. It's by far the strongest piece of legislation that you could give someone who wants to tie up the West, and someone has got to get a hold of it. In 1973, I don't know, I might have voted for it. If it was on the floor today, with what we now know about it, it would be over my dead body that I'd vote for it, because it is such an extremely dangerous piece of legislation.

CEI: The quality of ESA science has been called into question by the lynx

case and the Klamath Basin case. What assurance does the general public have that the ESA is being underpinned by sound science?

Hansen: The first thing we're going to change is the peer review process. This is how I'd like to see it cracked: If you want to come into the state of Utah and you want to check out the slimy slug, and you're getting your doctoral degree back somewhere, the way it works now is that you can fill out a 3x5 card. Then it gets put on the threatened list. And then the endangered list. And then we tie up ten acres, a thousand acres, or two counties, for the slimy slug. The bill would read this way: "You would come into the state of Utah, and go before a peer review group — composed of say, five people: biologists, scientists, those types — and present your credentials and case for why this animal is possibly, in your mind, endangered. And they can say yeah or nay. They can say: 'All right. We think you're right. We're going to give you a permit that allows you to do so much.' If you don't get the permit, you're out the door. Right now, it's just loose as a goose. Anyone can come up with any dang thing they want to. It just amazes me how easy it is.

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The Good, the Bad, AND THE UGLY

The Good: FDA Suspends "Pediatric Rule" For Two Years

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on March 18 that it would suspend its "pediatric rule" for two years while it determines whether or not the rule is necessary. The rule requires drug makers to perform pediatric testing for drugs even if they are labeled for use by adults only. FDA officials stated that the regulation might no longer be necessary because Congress has offered six-month patent extensions to any firm that conducts voluntary clinical trials on children.

The move is a victory for consumers because it reduces FDA's ability to impose unnecessary delays on the adoption of life-saving drugs and medical technologies. FDA chose to suspend the rule in part because CEI, Consumer Alert, and the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons filed a court challenge against it in December of 2000. When U.S. District Court Judge Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. allowed the case to move forward over FDA's opposition, he recognized that consumers could be hurt by FDA rules that reduce the availability of drugs found safe for adults. Sam Kazman, CEI's general counsel, noted that "FDA can use it to block drugs that had been found safe for adults until its demands for pediatric testing have been met. Similarly, the rule could restrict the ability of physicians to provide the best medical care for their patients."

While not necessarily a signal that a sea change is occurring regarding public accountability at FDA, the decision is a welcome sign that some at the agency recognize that protecting consumers is in the best interest of drug manufacturers. If these officials are able to apply this logic to other arbitrary rules at the agency, the Bush Administration could go a long way toward avoiding regulations that can kill.

The Bad: Environmentalists Continue War Against Military Readiness

Radical environmentalists refuse to retreat in their relentless campaign to keep the U.S. military from protecting national security (See *CEI Update*, November 2001). Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO), who chairs the House Subcommittee on Military Readiness, recently held a hearing to ask Pentagon officials why they aren't seeking exemptions from environmental laws – the Endangered Species Act especially – that are "severely impeding [their] ability to adequately prepare for combat and national defense." The Navy has been forced to close its bombing range off California's San Clemente Island four days a week to protect the loggerhead shrike – despite the fact that the Navy helped set up a breeding program for the shrike at the San Diego Zoo. In addition, the Marines were forced to negotiate a settlement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to avoid surrendering a large part of Camp Pendleton in Southern California as "critical habitat" for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

In a related development, Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia delivered the military a major defeat by ruling that Navy and DOD exercises on Farallon de Medinilla, an island in the Northern Marianas, violates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The military, which was sued by the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, had been declined a permit for the exercises by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sullivan stated that "while it is difficult to calculate the precise number of birds that are being harmed by [the] defendant's activities, it is clear from the record that [the] defendants are killing a significant number of these birds on an ongoing basis."

It is also clear that, if they keep this up, environmentalists will ensure that a significant number of inadequately trained U.S. soldiers could be killed or injured on an ongoing basis as well.

THE UGLY: NRDC MISLEADS PUBLIC, BASHES CEI IN SAME BREATH

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has engaged in a great deal of doublespeak of late. David Hawkins, who directs NRDC's Climate Center, stated during a recent interview on Radio America that wind power is now "commercially proven" and no longer needs to be subsidized. He cited Denmark's decision to withdraw price supports for the industry as evidence that it can now stand on its own. And NRDC's wind power fact sheet, available on its website, echoes his claim by stating that "Despite some minor bumps in the road, wind energy...offers utilities pollution-free electricity that is nearly cost-competitive with today's conventional sources."

However, when CEI issued a press release praising Hawkins for suggesting that subsidies get the axe, NRDC went through the roof. In an irate letter, the group stated that it "strongly supports extension of tax credits for wind power." CEI Policy Analyst Paul Georgia responded by saying, "Perhaps they think subsidies are inherently good and should be protected. If that's the case then maybe they should change their name to the National Subsidy Defense Council."

As though that weren't enough, NRDC blatantly misled the public in a series of radio ads on Massachusetts Senator John Kerry's failed proposal to raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The ads, featuring actor Robert Redford, claimed that Kerry's plan would give us "safer, more fuel efficient cars." Redford said this in spite of overwhelming evidence that CAFE standards increase traffic fatalities by forcing manufacturers to downsize vehicles.

Senior Policy Analyst Ben Lieberman quoted on the misguided efforts to regulate every feature in every consumer appliance, air conditioners being the most recent:

Ben Lieberman, a senior analyst with the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a free-market think-tank in Washington, D.C., backs the industry position, saying the more efficient models are already on the market for those who want them but consumers shouldn't be forced to spend the money.

"Maybe ultra-efficient might make sense down in Miami but if you're up here in Washington or Boston, where you're only using it three months out of the year, the economics are different," he said. "There shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all standard."

— *Miami Herald*, March 21

Director of Risk and Environmental Policy Angela Logomasini explains the folly of recycling mandates:

As New York City faces the possibility of painful cuts to its police and fire department budgets, environmentalists are bellyaching over garbage. Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed budget for 2003 would temporarily suspend the city's recycling of metal, glass and plastic, saving New Yorkers \$57 million.

The city's recycling program — like many others around the country — has long hemorrhaged tax dollars. Every mayor has tried to stop the waste since the program began in 1989, when local law 19 mandated the city to recycle 25% of its waste by 1994. "It is impossible to reach a mandated recycling level," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in 1996, "unless you take all the people in New York, put them in prison, and force them to recycle."

— *Wall Street Journal*, March 19

President Fred L. Smith, Jr. expresses concern over corporations that court reputations for being "socially responsible":

"Enron and its subsidiaries develop and invest in a number of renewable energy resources," said the Pew Center's Policymakers Guide. "Enron Wind Corp. is one of the world's largest operators of wind-power generation." Ironically, wind power was one of the areas where Enron lost a ton of money after failing to get regulatory rules changed to accord with the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, which Enron regarded as potentially very profitable and for which it heavily lobbied.

[...] "I think the Enron story tells us that the tendency to view the socially responsible corporation as being that corporation which most closely adheres to the conventional wisdom of the chattering class is a dangerous model," says Fred Smith, president of the free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute.

— *Insight*, March 1

Media



Mentions

General Counsel Sam Kazman responds to the Food and Drug Administration's decision to suspend its rule on pediatric testing for new drugs, just as CEI's lawsuit against the agency had sought:

Sharyl Attkisson (CBS Correspondent): For decades, children commonly used drugs only tested on adults. But three years ago, the FDA finally ended the guesswork and required drug companies to extend their studies to kids, too. Now, the FDA has told a court it will suspend that requirement. It's a major victory for the drug industry and its advocates, like the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who fought pediatric testing from the start and even sued, claiming it hurts more than it helps.

Sam Kazman: When FDA demands additional testing, even for as sensitive a population as children, it's adding additional hurdles to actually making those therapies available, which means it's denying patients access to new treatments.

— *CBS Evening News*, March 18

General Counsel Sam Kazman puts advocates of higher fuel economy standards in their place:

Whom can you trust more — an old-time tobacco salesman, or a modern proponent of higher federal fuel-economy standards?

If you ask Dr. Leonard Evans, president of the International Traffic Medicine Association and one of the world's foremost traffic safety researchers, he'll take the tobacco salesman hands down. In Evans' view, higher fuel economy standards have huge safety risks that are simply being ignored by their advocates.

— *New York Post*, March 10

Director of Global Warming & International Environmental Policy Myron Ebell lists some of the problems with the energy bill currently being considered in the U.S. Senate in an editorial from oil country:

A majority in the Senate is believed to favor oil and gas exploration in an airport-sized piece of the vast, barren coastal plain on the Arctic Ocean. But [Thomas] Daschle (D-S.D.), says an amendment that would permit drilling in the refuge will need 60 votes to pass his Senate — a strategy he has used on other measures he opposes that are favored by President Bush. Too bad. As we say, Daschle's approach is too limited to form the basis for the comprehensive energy strategy America needs. It might make things worse. "If enacted into law, Daschle's bill will lower energy supplies, raise energy prices for consumers and waste tens of billions of taxpayer dollars on payoffs to special interests," says Myron Ebell, director of global warming and international environmental policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

— *Daily Oklahoman*, March 5

The Rich Get Richer

The *New York Post* recently reported that former Met pitcher Kevin Appier has been receiving a government subsidy for his 270 acres of land in Kansas. Apparently, someone who earns a few million dollars a year is in need of aid these days and the Department of Agriculture is more than happy to oblige. The pitcher is not alone in the "Aid for the Wealthy" program — Ken Lay of Enron gets similar government funding for his farmland in Missouri.

Thai Voters Bugged Ballot

Rodents and insects have taken political matters in Thailand into their own hands. After a long delayed ballot recount in the Thai election between Wiwatchai Hotrawisaya and Chamnong Pothong, the National Election Commission returned to more than 16 ballot boxes only to find them infested by power hungry mice and termites. With thousands of ballots consumed by these hungry pests, the Commission is considering a new election altogether. Perhaps they should consider hiring an exterminator too.

Alms for Renewable Energy

Due to financial hardships, the Lincoln (Nebraska) Electric System is asking customers for charitable contributions to save its renewable energy program. Customers who make donations are now offered the following titles: "Friend of the Environment" (\$4.30-\$20 per month); "Supporter of the Environment" (\$21-\$60 per month);

**...END
NOTES**



"Conservator of the Environment" (\$61-\$125 per month); and "Protector of the Environment" (\$126 or more pre month). While better than demanding additional subsidies, one is left to wonder: Why not make energy *more* affordable instead?

Bovine Bingo

A school in Connellsville, Penn. has created a rousing game of cow bingo in order to raise money for the prom. Of course, members of People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have stepped in to voice their objections. They say that it is demeaning to use animals as a form of entertainment. The school plans

to go on with the event, in which 3,000 sections of pasture can be bought for \$10 a piece. The person whose square has the most cow waste in it wins the jackpot, \$10,000.

Ethical Cheaters

Thirty-one Canadian engineering students took the art of cheating to its logical conclusion by plagiarizing essays on ethics. Donald Russell, associate dean at Ottawa's Carleton University, said "We're disappointed this has happened in the course on ethics," noting that those involved could be suspended or even expelled. No word yet on whether the students will be offered scholarships to attend one of Al Gore's courses on "journalistic ethics," in which he claims that those who question the gospel of radical environmentalists should be ignored.



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