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## Letters

### Vice president's plan to change method to measure GDP

Michael Evans' April 6 commentary "Misguided solution for debtors" did an excellent job of refuting Vice President Al Gore's plan to sell some of the gold reserves of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Financing Third World debt forgiveness with IMF gold sales would debase the dollar, signaling the very same monetary irresponsibility that undermined currencies in Asia.

Mr. Evans' most astute observation, however, is his abbreviated linkage of Mr. Gore's gold sales proposal to the vice president's 1992 book, "Earth in the Balance." Mr. Gore's Davos, Switzerland, proposal

is a means of implementing his grand scheme for ecological restructuring of the world economy. According to Mr. Gore's book, the Global Marshall Plan "will require the wealthy nations to allocate money for transferring environmentally helpful technologies to the Third World and to help impoverished nations achieve a new pattern of sustainable economic progress. To work, however, any such effort will also require wealthy nations to make a transition themselves that will be in some ways more wrenching than that of the Third World, simply because powerful established patterns will be disrupted."

In this context, it is not surprising that IMF gold sales would depreciate the dollar and weaken U.S. economic growth. Mr. Gore's objective is to reduce prosperity as it is currently measured and to introduce radically different standards for measuring gross domestic product (GDP) and economic productivity. Measured in this "green GDP," what we now consider economic decline would be counted as a gain for ecological sustainability.

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