

the desire for good, so that it is done with pleasure, not distaste." "This is the gentleness which God gives so that our land may produce its fruit: because we perform the true good, not through fear of temporal bad, but because of the attraction which the good itself produces. Good works should be performed for love and not fear, not for fear of punishment but delight in justice. This is true and authentic freedom. . . . He who is satisfied, content and happy, acts with freedom."

The divine spark and grace

This joining of forces in which human will, invited by divine grace, participates in Creation is, as I see it, the individual's divine spark. We are the image of God by virtue of creative reason, and creative reason exists by virtue of the attraction of divine grace. Through grace, man advances from the republic of simple free will to the republic of true freedom.

And, as for our job, let me conclude by quoting Gottfried Leibniz's *Principles of Nature and Grace*, dedicated, together with the *Vindication of God*, to the defense of the conception of original sin and grace, threatened by the precursors of the Enlightenment: "That is why all minds, whether of men or of genies, entering into a kind of society with God by virtue of reason and eternal truths, are members of the City of God; that is, members of the perfect state, created and ruled by the greatest and best of monarchs. Here there is . . . as much virtue and happiness as is possible. And this is accomplished without disordering nature (as if what God prepared for souls disturbed the laws of bodies), but through the very order of natural things, in virtue of the harmony preestablished from all time between the kingdoms of nature and grace, between God as architect and God as monarch. Consequently, nature itself leads to grace and grace perfects nature by making use of it. . . .

"Since God is the most perfect and happiest, and consequently, the substance most worthy of love, and *genuinely pure true love* consists in the state that allows one to take pleasure in the perfections and felicity of the beloved, this love must give us the greatest pleasure of which we are capable whenever God is its object. . . . For the love of God fulfills our hopes, and leads us to down the road of supreme happiness, because by virtue of the perfect order established in the universe, everything is done in the best possible way, both for the general good and for the greatest individual good of those who are convinced of this, and who are content with divine government, which cannot fail to be found in those who know how to love the source of all good. It is true that supreme felicity (with whatever *beatific vision* or knowledge of God it may be accompanied), can never be complete, because since God is infinite, He can never be wholly known.

"Thus our happiness will never consist, and must never consist, in complete joy, in which nothing is left to desire and which would dull our mind; but must consist in a perpetual progress to new pleasures and new perfections."

Dixy Lee Ray battles Rio green agenda

by Geraldo Lino

Amidst all the unscientific yammering at the so-called Earth Summit, or Eco-92, conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil about how the concept of human progress is the greatest threat to the environment of this planet, there was one rare voice willing to confront head-on the "sky is falling" wailings of the environmentalists: Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, the biologist and former governor of Washington State. Her boldness led the daily *Journal do Brasil* to dub her "the big bad wolf" of Eco-92.

Though she was not an official delegate, she caused enough turbulence with her whirlwind visit to the halls of Earth Summit for the Brazilian media to feature her presence as a major event. She also furnished ammunition for the debate, just getting under way in Brazil, against the anti-development bias of the majority of the proposals from the radical environmentalists.

Dr. Ray's intervention had all the more impact because she has successfully combined careers in both science and politics. In addition to earning a Ph.D., she has been granted honorary degrees by 22 American universities, chaired the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and served as White House adviser on energy and the environment during the Nixon administration. From 1977 to 1981, she was the chief executive of the state of Washington.

In her 1990 book *Trashing the Earth* (Regnery Gateway, Washington, D.C.), Dr. Ray scientifically disproved, one-by-one, most of the alarmist myths of the environmentalists, such as "global warming," the "ozone hole," acid rain, and so forth. In September, she will follow up with another book on the same subject entitled *Environmental Overkill*.

New books released

In Rio, besides looking in on proceedings of the official conference, Dr. Ray visited the Global Forum, the "parallel conference" of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which she described as "a poorly organized, third-rate county fair." She also did some public speaking, including at a forum sponsored by *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine at Rio de Janeiro's Federal Uni-

versity. Two new books were introduced to the scientists and journalists attending the forum: *The Holes in the Ozone Hole: the Scientific Evidence that the Sky Isn't Falling*, by Rogelio A. Maduro and Ralf Schauerhammer; and *Global Warming: the Rest of the Story*, by Gerd R. Weber.

Even before arriving in Rio, Dr. Ray had attracted the attention of the Brazilian media. The magazine *IstoE* published an interview with Dr. Ray in its June 3 edition, predicting that hers "will be one of the most controversial voices at Rio-92." *IstoE* quoted her as saying that "Rio-92 will be a carnival, a big publicity stunt. And that's good, because we will have a real problem if countries do agree to adopt radical measures regarding the environment. In truth, there is no scientific evidence to prove that there have been the so-much talked-about damages to the environment, and no country, including the United States, is in the position to spend money on things that are not important."

Invoking the mantra

After she arrived in Brazil, Dr. Ray said in an interview published by *O Estado de São Paulo* on June 8: "I found exactly what I expected to find. Everything was decided beforehand: the 27 principles of the Rio Declaration and the 115 proposals on Agenda 21. Now we are being told, in very careful language, that the first step will be taken here in Rio. That the first step is to get all the countries to sign accords to eliminate poverty, to reduce the population explosion, and to generate sustained development. I have heard that often: sustain development. I think that nobody knows what it means, they just repeat it as if it were a mantra."

She added, "We have to truly ask ourselves why the world is developed in the North and underdeveloped in the South. What prevented development from occurring in the South?" For her, there is a twofold answer: economics and science, and technology.

The economic reason has to do with the foreign debt of developing countries, "and it involves the International Monetary Fund and development projects that were in fact controlled and directed by the international organizations," she said. The other reason has to do with the question of energy. "What makes a country economically developed is industrialization and energy," she said. "When I speak of energy, I mean electricity. The entirety of the high-technology world is totally dependent on electricity. The issue is this, how do we generate electricity?"

Dr. Ray summarized her answer to *IstoE*: "Nuclear energy, used responsibly, is safe, economical, and the best way to produce electricity that we know of. It is being used all over the world." In an interview in the June 5 *Jornal do Brazil*, she said: "There are 485 nuclear generators in the world today. Until now, there have only been two accidents, one at Chernobyl and the other at Three Mile Island. There

were no victims from the American one. In Chernobyl there were victims because Russian technology was absolutely inappropriate. The technological level of nuclear plants today assures complete safety."

Dr. Ray also criticized the negotiations for a treaty on the climate, which would reduce the global level of carbon dioxide emissions released into the atmosphere. "They want to reduce dioxide production by 20%. If that were achieved, we would be affecting every manufacturing process, every industry, every mode of transportation, the entire production process. Simply, the world's economy would be ruined."

She stressed that global warming is not a scientific certainty, and that there is no proof that any warming is indeed occurring. However, she told *IstoE*, if there is warming, "even if we double the amount of dioxide emissions, it would still be caused mainly by water, water vapor in the clouds. . . . If Earth is going to warm up, cutting back carbon dioxide will not make a bit of difference."

Dr. Ray attacked the fraud of the "ozone hole" and the proposals of the Montreal Protocol to ban chlorofluorocarbons, halogens, and other substances containing chloride and bromide. "The hole in the ozone layer was first described in 1956 or 1957 in Antarctica. They say that freon gas, which is used in refrigerators and air conditioners, is the villain in this case. That's nonsense; it is a totally mistaken view. This is another case in which there is absolutely no scientific evidence. It is no more than a theory."

'Modelists' cover for environmentalism

In every intervention, Dr. Ray severely criticized those scientists, whom she called "modelists," who contribute most to giving a scientific cover to alarmist theories. As she told *IstoE*: "Those who agree with the ecologists are the ones who depend on computer modeling more than on measuring what's happening in nature. I believe that what takes place in nature should be the basis for practical conclusions. Only nature, through evident phenomena, can provide us with a scientific base."

The environmentalist movement also came in for criticism. "There are persons that want to preserve nature," said Dr. Ray. "That is very positive. But, for the most part, their leaders are not scientists. They are lawyers or people who have recently become environmentalists, they are what we call activists. They are the type of person that always protests; for or against war, anything, they always want to protest."

Dr. Ray concluded on a note of optimism: "Twenty years ago, before the ecologists became so radical, so anti-business, so anti-industry, I saw positive things [coming from it]. Today I cannot, looking at the whole picture, view that movement with the same eyes. I have no doubt that industries behaved irresponsibly, that many mistakes were committed, and that there were even some deliberate acts of irresponsibility that hurt nature. But I think that we have improved, and that we will continue to improve."