

## On the Green Front by Rogelio A. Maduro

### Westerners react to green assault

*Will the anti-green movement back American System policies or the feudalist Conservative Revolution?*

**M**ore than 600 people met on Jan. 6-7 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to draft a strategy to defend the western United States from the relentless attempts by the environmentalist international to destroy the physical and economic infrastructure of the region.

The Western States Coalition, which organized the conference, is a loose grouping of individuals, from state legislators to county commissioners, leaders of trade associations, and grassroots organizations, that have come together to fight back against what has become known as "The War on the West." This is a systematic war being waged on the western states by the environmentalist movement and its co-thinkers in federal agencies and multinational corporations, to shut down infrastructure and economic activity, and to depopulate the entire region.

How effective that movement will be will depend on whether it falls under the sway of the Conservative Revolution, which fuels an anti-big government, states' rights populist rage, or adopts an American System outlook which tackles the physical-economic problems blocking economic development.

For example, one major topic of discussion was water rights. At present, attempts are under way to halt the agricultural and industrial uses of the water supplies of the West, a move that would destroy farming, ranching, and many communities across the region. However, the defensive reaction of the movement to environmentalists, reflects its weaknesses.

As this author pointed out in his

speech to the conference, even if the West were to succeed in retaining control of the water supply, it would still lose in the long term.

The fundamental problem is that the West is going to run out of water in 10 to 20 years. What is required is a positive approach, taking the initiative in promoting great infrastructure projects, including irrigation, water works, transportation, rail lines, and electrical power generation and delivery. The proposed North American Water and Power Alliance (Nawapa), for example, developed in the 1960s by the Ralph M. Parsons Co., would divert enough unused water now flowing north to the Arctic, southward through the Rocky Mountain Trench, to bring a new supply of 135 billion gallons of water a day to the Canadian and U.S. plains, the Great Lakes, and Mexico.

The political shortcomings of the movement are also apparent in its attempts to understand who the enemy is. For example, more than 50% of western lands are still under the control of the federal government (over 80% in Nevada), and the controllers of the environmentalist movement have been busy over the past years turning enormous areas of the West into "wilderness areas," in which the presence of human beings is outlawed, or "national parks," in which all economic activity is prohibited. The situation has become unbearable.

Most of the conference speakers consider the federal government to be the enemy. In fact, while it is true that hundreds of federal bureaucrats are dedicated to waging war on the West,

the command and control apparatus is in Europe, centered among the oligarchical families in the Club of the Isles led by Prince Philip of the British monarchy. This assessment was brought to the attention of conference participants by the circulation of hundreds of copies of *EIR*'s Oct. 28, 1994 *Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor."

Speakers represented a broad spectrum of viewpoints, and some were even internally inconsistent. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), for example, detailed the destructive effects of environmental legislation, but then completely changed subjects and pleaded with legislators to support the balanced budget amendment and a three-fifths majority to pass tax increases, measures which would virtually ensure that major development projects could never be gotten off the ground.

Many Democrats pointed out that the real Democratic Party is not one of environmentalist zealots intent on destroying the West. But an aide to Rep. Billy Tauzin (D-La.) said in his speech that the congressman is pulling together a bipartisan coalition to support all aspects of House Speaker Newt Gingrich's (R-Ga.) Contract with America.

The outlook of the Conservative Revolution, Gingrich's cyberspace version of environmentalism, was most prominently represented by Richard Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Leshner hailed the wonderful world of British System free trade—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the proposed balanced budget amendment, and the Conservative Revolution agenda generally. If the western states support these policies, instead of promoting the development of basic economic infrastructure, they will lose "The War on the West."