

Carbon Controls' Aim: Back to the Dark Ages

by Marcia Merry Baker

The financiers behind the “United States Climate Action Partnership” (USCAP) are leading the charge to impose mandatory caps on carbon emissions, while pushing lucrative “carbon credit” speculation scams, and further destroying productive economic activity. The group, which announced itself Jan. 22 at a Washington press conference, includes 10 major companies: Lehman Brothers, Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, Florida Power & Light, General Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric, and PNM Resources. It also includes environmental groups: Natural Resources Defense Council, World Resources Institute, Environmental Defense, and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

These are not businessmen and “greenies” who have suddenly seen the light on climate change, and want to do some good. Just the opposite. All the while the Gorey “Inconvenient Truth” film aims for a mind-muddling pop-culture effect, the Climate Action Partnership crowd is demanding government action to put in place mandatory rules in the name of the scientific fraud, to cause chaos and destruction in the economy. Look at the USCAP’s “Call for Action” which, in terms of the current global-warming jargon, “lays out a blueprint for a mandatory economy-wide, market-driven approach to climate protection.” (See www.us-cap.org.)

USCAP’s Synarchist Roots

In January, DuPont hosted President Bush at its cellulosic ethanol R&D center in Delaware, expressing concern for the climate. Caterpillar hosted Bush in Illinois, to view the great demand for heavy equipment because of the bio-fuels rush.

Throughout February, USCAP CEOs were featured as witnesses all over Capitol Hill, in the bipartisan mania for pushing legislation to reduce greenhouse gases. On their heels came a phalanx of British figures demanding carbon controls and reduction (regulation, caps and trading, and taxation) including Sir Nicholas Stern, advisor to the Blair government on economic response to climate change, likewise lecturing Congress on what mandatory economic measures to enact.

Felix Rohatyn, with Lehman Brothers since 2006, is a senior advisor to Lehman CEO Richard Fuld, who himself has become a business figurehead demanding action against global warming. Rohatyn’s own decades-long role is legendary, at Lazard, and at large, in looting government assets—for example, the 1975 Big Mac swindle of New York City—and degrading physical productivity of companies.



“The U.S. Climate Action Partnership: A Business and NGO Partnership” for de-industrialization wants to impose a limit on the amount of carbon that can be emitted, while allowing financiers to make killings, speculating on “carbon credits.”

This new USCAP group—played up as signifying a turn toward environmentalism by “big international business”—is in reality just the latest part of a years-long drive by certain financial networks opposed to nation-serving economic and scientific development. The corporate pedigree of people such as Rohatyn, and cohort individuals and circles, goes directly back through the financial interests in the early 20th Century known as “synarchist,” whose operations backed fascist regimes in Europe. So today, Rohatyn is part of sweeping takeovers of economic activity—auto manufacturing capacity, infrastructure, power generation, and all manner of “PPP” [public-private participation] deals and cartel control, à la corporatism under Mussolini.

Look at another active figure in this same crowd, William K. Reilly, and see the indicative pattern. First, the Nazi economics pedigree. In the 1970s, Reilly became president of the Conservation Foundation, based in Washington, D.C. This outfit was set up in the United States in 1948, by those who had to shut down their Conservation Society in Europe, because, after Hitler, their eugenics goals got a bad reputation. The leading figures within this transatlantic eugenics circle included Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who founded the World Wildlife Fund in 1961. In 1985, the World Wildlife Fund and the Conservation Foundation were merged. Reilly was president until 1989, and then again in 1992. In the interim, he headed the Environmental Protection Agency under George H.W. Bush. (Reilly’s preparation for this included serving in 1970 as a staff member for the President’s Council on Environmental Quality, under Russell Train, the anti-economic-development environmentalist who himself became the second EPA administrator in 1972.)

In the 1990s, Reilly’s activities took off, on behalf of suppressing economic growth under the eco-fraud of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, set up in 1988, was in full gear. In 1992, Reilly headed the U.S. delegation to the Rio Earth Summit, and developed new programs for control of carbon emissions. In 1993, he went on

the board of DuPont, as it expanded its cartel grip into agrochemicals and seed stocks. Also in 1993, he founded Aqua International Partners, a private investment division for water ventures, of the private Texas Pacific Group, a multi-billion dollar acquisition operation.

In 2002, Reilly became one of 20 members of the newly formed National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP), along with, among others, James Woolsey, former CIA Director and leading promoter of the propaganda line that bio-fuels are essential for “national security.” (See separate article on the Woolsey neo-con “Set America Free” networks, going back to Albert Wohlstetter’s original campaign against nuclear technology, in *EIR*, Feb. 9, 2007, “Bio-Cons Fools With Ethanol: Just Another Word for War,” by Creighton C. Jones, LYM.)

American Association for Advancement of Science Fraud

In December 2004, the NCEP released its report advocating mandatory regulations and trading of carbon emissions, titled, “Ending the Energy Stalemate: A Bipartisan Strategy to Meet America’s Energy Challenge.” Besides Reilly, the report’s other co-chairmen were John Rowe, chairman of Exelon, a privatized mega-power company, formed from the post-energy deregulation merger of Pennsylvania and Illinois utilities, which gave Exelon control of close to 30% of all U.S. nuclear plants; and John Holdren, now president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who has a long record of go-slow on nuclear, and backing of environmental and anti-population scare stories. Holdren said in a 1997 interview, “I think that global climate change caused by human activity and above all by fossil fuel combustion is both the most dangerous and the most intractable environmental problem that civilization faces. . . .”

Reilly described the NCEP report in a 2005 speech to the Brookings Institution: “We propose mandatory [carbon] intensity-based limits. . . . We propose to achieve reductions [in carbon emissions] by limiting the carbon intensity of the U.S. economy.” The report proposes a system of “compliance credits” for how much carbon you can emit, auctions of the credits, and other gambits. It praises Sen. John McCain and Joe Lieberman for their support for this.

To see what these words mean in action, look at the terms of the private equity company buy-out offer made in February for the TXU electric power company, by Reilly’s Texas Pacific Group and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, for the sum of a cool \$44 billion (of loan money), and the condition that there must be cancellation of TXU’s planned construction of eight new coal-fired plants, and no way to meet a projected need for 9,000 megawatts of new electric output. This precedent-setting “offer”—whether rejected or not—casts doubt on another 100 other coal-fired electricity plants now planned for construction across the country.

This is the economic reality behind the scientific fraud in “An Inconvenient Truth.”