

How Ruckelshaus plans to undercut U.S. industrial corporations

by Lonnie Wolfe

Newly appointed Environmental Protection Agency director William Ruckelshaus has prepared a secret agenda whose new environmental regulations will shut factories in the depression-ravaged U.S. industrial heartland. Having reportedly been given a hit list of U.S. industrial companies by certain London and continental European financial interests, Ruckelshaus is to use his position to wreck these targeted companies financially through a campaign of environmental harassment, so that they can be bought up cheaply abroad.

According to sources in the U.S. intelligence community, Ruckelshaus, who has yet to be confirmed by the Senate, has briefed leading environmentalists on a proposed campaign against alleged major polluters, stating that he will invoke regulations and laws that will cost these companies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Attack on the chemical industry

High on the Ruckelshaus hit list is the U.S. chemical and pharmaceutical industry, which produces much of the fertilizer and crop control agents needed to expand world food production, as well as life-protecting medical drugs. Ruckelshaus is planning a new push to cut off exports of chemicals and pharmaceuticals to the developing sector for "environmental reasons." Such a ban was put in place during the Carter administration, but removed as scientifically groundless when Reagan came into office. Beyond its financial impact on various U.S. companies, scientists estimate that the ban would lead to the deaths of tens of millions in the developing sector from starvation, pestilence, and disease (see article, page 57).

Among Ruckelshaus's first targets is said to be the multibillion-dollar Dow Chemical Corporation. The attack on Dow is already well underway, with the *New York Times* leak the week of March 14 charging that Dow officials had altered an EPA report on toxic wastes with the knowledge of high-level EPA officials.

He has also indicated plans to re-impose the Carter administration's worldwide ban on the export of U.S. chemical fertilizer and pesticides. Agricultural specialists estimate that this would lead to the death of hundreds of millions in

the developing sector from famine and pestilence.

Ruckelshaus, who has demanded a blank check from the White House to run the Environmental Protection Agency as he sees fit, has no loyalty to President Reagan nor to the United States. He is a member of a semi-secret elite group, the Year 2000 Committee, controlled by Britain's Prince Philip in his capacity as chairman of the World Wildlife Fund.

Members of the Year 2000 Committee, which include former Carter secretary of state and Global 2000 initiator Cyrus Vance and prominent GOP establishment environmentalists like World Wildlife Fund/USA president Russell Train, place the goals of this group over and above any personal or national interest goals.

Over a year ago, a spokesman for the Year 2000 Committee stated that the group's policy was to paralyze the Reagan administration and then seize control of its policies. The Committee, through its networks in the media and the Congress, including Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), has orchestrated the attacks on the EPA and its Reagan-appointed director, with the goal of installing Ruckelshaus or a like-minded associate to head the EPA (see *EIR*, March 29).

William Ruckelshaus was the first EPA chief, appointed by then-President Richard Nixon to head the agency in 1969. In this capacity, he worked with National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger and Russell Train to set up the U.S. global environmental apparatus, the same grouping that later produced the *Global 2000 Report*. That document calls for the elimination of 2 billion human beings by the year 2000, through a policy that denies the developing sector the means of survival.

Banning DDT

Ruckelshaus's career as EPA director is highlighted by one single act that has caused more deaths than Hitler's final solution. In 1972, Ruckelshaus unilaterally and arbitrarily banned the pesticide DDT, leading to its eventual prohibition worldwide. His action followed nearly a year of hearings and some 9,000 pages of hearing transcript. On April 26, 1972, at the end of these hearings, Edward Sweeney, the EPA case

officer for DDT ruled: "DDT is not a carcinogenic hazard to man. DDT is not a mutagenic or tetragenic hazard to man. The uses of DDT under the regulations involved do not have a deleterious effect on freshwater fish, estuarine organisms, wild birds, or other wildlife. . . . The evidence in this proceeding supports the conclusion that there is a present need for the essential uses of DDT."

Ruckelshaus overruled the voluminous scientific findings and banned DDT. He did not read the transcript.

In later testimony before Congress, Ruckelshaus cited as his justification a secret memorandum on DDT—a memorandum classified to this day. The memorandum is said to be a scientific fraud, containing lying and fallacious arguments put forward by discredited individuals associated with such groups as the Audubon Society, whom Ruckelshaus met with frequently at the time and continues to associate with.

Writing about his "big decision," Ruckelshaus dismissed science as the principal basis for making decisions about toxic substances. "The ultimate judgement," he said, "remains political."

GOP environmentalists

Sources close to the White House report that the President's trusted advisers, like White House counselor Edwin Meese III, do not trust Ruckelshaus or his colleagues like Russell Train. However, according to sources close to Reagan loyalists like Meese, the White House was brought under unspecified but intense blackmail pressure from GOP Eastern Establishment environmentalists to accede to Ruckelshaus's demands. The White House has been warned to stay out of potential conflicts between the EPA director and Interior Secretary James Watt.

Meese and the President have been told by closet environmentalist George Bush and chief of staff James Baker III that Ruckelshaus's appointment will breeze through the Senate and gain instant credibility for administration environmental policy. These are the same "insiders" who forced former EPA chief Anne Gorsuch Burford from office without a shred of proof against her. Their claims of quick Senate approval have been reaffirmed by Vermont Republican and Global 2000 backer Sen. Thomas Stafford, the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, whose aides are preparing new environmental legislation.

Ruckelshaus is supported by a mobilization of "greenie" groups both inside and outside the United States. Secret meetings have taken place among the leadership of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and the leaders of the ecological movement in Europe on an international campaign to block the export of U.S. chemicals and drugs to the developing sector. More than 500,000 letters have been sent out in the United States by the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, with clip-out post cards to be sent to Congress urging the U.S. export ban.

Documentation

Ruckelshaus's ban on DDT: the giant toll

Dr. J. Gordon Edwards, professor of entomology at San José State University in California, is one of the leading experts on DDT and other pesticides in the United States. Dr. Edwards is a long-time member of the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and the Explorer's Club. He has written a book for the Sierra Club, A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park, and many articles on birds and environmental subjects. His article, "Pesticides and People: How Environmentalist Politics and Bad Journalism Banned DDT," will appear in the Sept.-Oct. 1983 Fusion magazine. Excerpts from Dr. Edwards's speech to the Club of Life conference held in Los Angeles on Feb. 18 follow.

My name is J. Gordon Edwards. I am professor of entomology at San José State University, where I have taught entomology and biology for 33 years; however, I am speaking today only for myself and not for the University.

Let us look at the numbers of people who have needlessly died of insect-transmitted diseases, of starvation, of malnutrition, and associated maladies. In other words, let us consider those humans who would have, and should have, lived longer had they not been unnecessarily deprived of the benefits of chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, rodenticides, and bacteriacides.

Let us first ponder the insect-borne diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, typhus, plague (black death), sleeping sickness, and encephalitis, ignoring the disfigurement and suffering caused by elephantiasis, leishmaniasis, and onchocerciasis (river blindness). A leading British scientist once said that, "If the various pressure groups had succeeded, if there *had* been a world ban on DDT as many sought, then Rachel Carson and her book *Silent Spring* would now be killing more people in every single year than Hitler killed in his whole holocaust." There is no denying that assessment, but the most frightening thing about it is that the pressure is even greater now than ever before to actually bring about a worldwide ban on the use of not just DDT, but every other chemical pesticide!

The worst disease of mankind has been malaria, even though at various times in the past typhus killed millions of people (before DDT put a halt to it) and the plague eradicated half the population of Europe and nearly two-thirds the people in the British Isles. Malaria was, and is, the number one killer of people, and it threatens to be even more lethal in the future as the capricious anti-pesticide propaganda of the pseudo-environmentalists continues to accelerate.

Malaria: man's worst disease

Things were going well in the 1950s, and there was justifiable hope that malaria could be almost eradicated in large areas of the world. By 1970, of 2,000 million (2 billion) people living in formerly malarious regions, 79 percent were safe because the disease had either been eradicated from their homeland or was under effective control there. By 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had overruled the scientists and health experts, and banned most uses of DDT in the United States. The great anti-DDT campaign and the subsequent political action by the EPA led to worldwide concerns about DDT, even in countries where malaria was prevalent. Six years later, there were 800 million cases annually; and at least 8.2 million deaths every year. Leaders in many other countries, seeing the EPA's concern about DDT, concluded that they should no longer use it either.

Unfortunately, when "poor" countries stop using essential life-saving chemicals, their ancient pestilences quickly return. In Central Africa, more than a million children under two years of age are now dying of malaria every year. In Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the DDT program had reduced the number of malaria cases from nearly 3 million down to just 17 cases in the entire country after 10 years, and the number of deaths from the disease dropped from over 12,000 a year down to zero. Concern over Rachel Carson's remarks about DDT, aided by political and financial difficulties, halted the effective malaria program at that critical time, and there resulted a resurgence of malaria. A few years later there were again more than 2 million cases of malaria in Sri Lanka. Fortunately, many countries did not halt their programs, so malaria actually was eradicated in great areas of the world!

In many parts of the world, drug-resistant forms of *falciparum* malaria developed shortly after the irresponsible environmentalists prevented rapid eradication of the parasites. Unlike the rather mild *vivax* type of malaria that predominated in Sri Lanka, this "resistant *falciparum* malaria" may kill up to 40 percent of its victims who suffer relapses. The hazard is no longer limited to the blacks and Asians in those countries where Global 2000 advocates seek to drastically reduce human populations by the year 2000. The deadly form of malaria now threatens many world travelers and may well become established in North America and Europe in the future. The industrialized nations may yet pay a very high future.

The industrial nations may yet pay a very high price for their submission to the environmental extremists.

It is not only the insect-borne diseases that decimate human populations. The bans and restrictions on essential agricultural chemicals have contributed greatly to the daily toll of humans dying of starvation, malnutrition, and numerous other effects of dietary inadequacies. In many countries, the people have been so weakened that they cannot work effectively in the fields. They are also much more susceptible to illnesses that would not kill vigorous, healthy people. More than 40,000 children starve to death every day, according to the Agency for International Development, and that adds up to 15 million horrible deaths a year! Furthermore, malnourished children will never develop their full brain capacity, which promises great difficulties in future years for the nations with persistent food shortages. It is now known that protein deficiency in the diet leads to marasmus and kwashiorkor, and that milder levels of protein-calorie malnutrition affect about half of all children under 20 years of age in the underdeveloped countries. The resultant weakness leads to great increases in infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, dysentery, amebic liver abscesses, schistosomiasis, typhoid fever, and so forth. Antibody synthesis is also impaired in those children, resulting in a great many deaths that would not occur if their diet was adequate. Because of the poor condition of the workers, India produced less than 25 million tons of wheat per year in the 1940s. Twenty years later, after DDT had been widely used for public health purposes there, the people were living much longer and doing much more work. Their wheat production quadrupled to more than 100 million tons annually, and other crops showed equally impressive increases. Meanwhile, the number of cases of malaria had dropped from 100,000,000 per year in the 1940s, with about 2,500,000 deaths annually, to only 300,000 cases a year and only about 1,500 deaths. Obviously, a population that is able to work hard and produce abundant food can reduce the levels of malnutrition and starvation, and can live much more pleasantly, with increased resistance to contagious diseases.

'Alternatives' too expensive

"But why use any pesticides at all?" ask the environmentalists from their plush offices. After all, they say, there are surely *alternative* measures that can effectively control most pests. Well, while it is true that many kinds of scales and aphids have been controlled by biological control agents or integrated pest management, a successful program of that sort requires great numbers of trained entomologists, modern rearing facilities for the parasites, and a great many other essentials that no underdeveloped nation could possibly afford. Also, such programs have yet to be truly effective in the control of most other kinds of pests.

We need not look very hard to find refutation for such irresponsible suggestions as those by the organic farming groups. China has used those alternative measures for a great many centuries, starving most of the time, and 80 percent of their people must still work all day in the fields to eke out a

bare subsistence. Similar conditions prevail in many Third World nations, except where chemical tools have been introduced by representatives of the so-called industrialized nations. The miracle of modern agriculture can only be appreciated by comparing it with the alternative programs! Thanks to that sort of agriculture, each modern farmer in the United States now provides enough food for himself and 70 other persons (including 20 persons overseas).

That would not be possible without the use of essential agricultural chemicals, yet some Americans continue their campaign to make pesticides unavailable to American farmers *and* to prevent them from being exported to those starving Third World countries. The Audubon Society and Natural Resources Defense Council filed suit in 1977 seeking to force the Export-Import Bank to file environmental impact statements for all overseas projects they finance. That was intended to halt the purchase of life-saving pesticides for use in those underdeveloped countries. More funds were involved than one might expect, since from 1974 through 1976 over \$20 billion of financial assistance was provided to those countries by the Ex-Im Bank, of which more than \$3 billion was for pesticides. The suit was opposed by the Mid-America Legal Foundation. After four years they won a federal court ruling against the pseudo-environmentalists, and as the president of the foundation phrased it, "The federal court order means that American exports will not be curtailed and our nation will not be practicing environmental imperialism."

In 1978, a White House Executive Order was drafted by President Carter's assistant for consumer affairs. The order proposed a ban on "hazardous substances" which would otherwise be shipped overseas. Despite opposition by the Department of State, Department of Treasury, Department of Commerce, and Department of Defense, the EPA and CEQ activists persisted in their efforts to require all federal agencies to prepare environmental impact assessments on their international activities. When President Reagan took office he set aside that order which Carter had put into effect during his final days in the White House. The clamor was immediately deafening, and many activists claimed that Mr. Reagan was releasing tons of deadly insecticides which would poison members of the Third World countries. As a matter of fact, President Carter's order barely mentioned pesticides. The "hazardous substances" that were specified in that order were defined as "pesticides, chemicals, non-nuclear hazardous wastes, food (including meat and poultry), food additives, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, and electronic products." Exempted from the order were "alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, nuclear fuels, and firearms."

What motivates environmentalists?

When one considers all the commotion caused by American "environmentalists" and notices that many of their positions are very *destructive* to the environment, rather than preserving it, one wonders just what *is* their motivation. Why would they fight against the use of insecticides that could

prevent the destruction of millions of acres of forest by gypsy moths? Why insist on the burning of tremendous amounts of coal to create electricity, when the burning ruins the atmosphere over four states? Why oppose the export of insecticides to countries that need them to grow their crops, and why oppose the importation of food grown in those countries because it might have traces of insecticides on it?

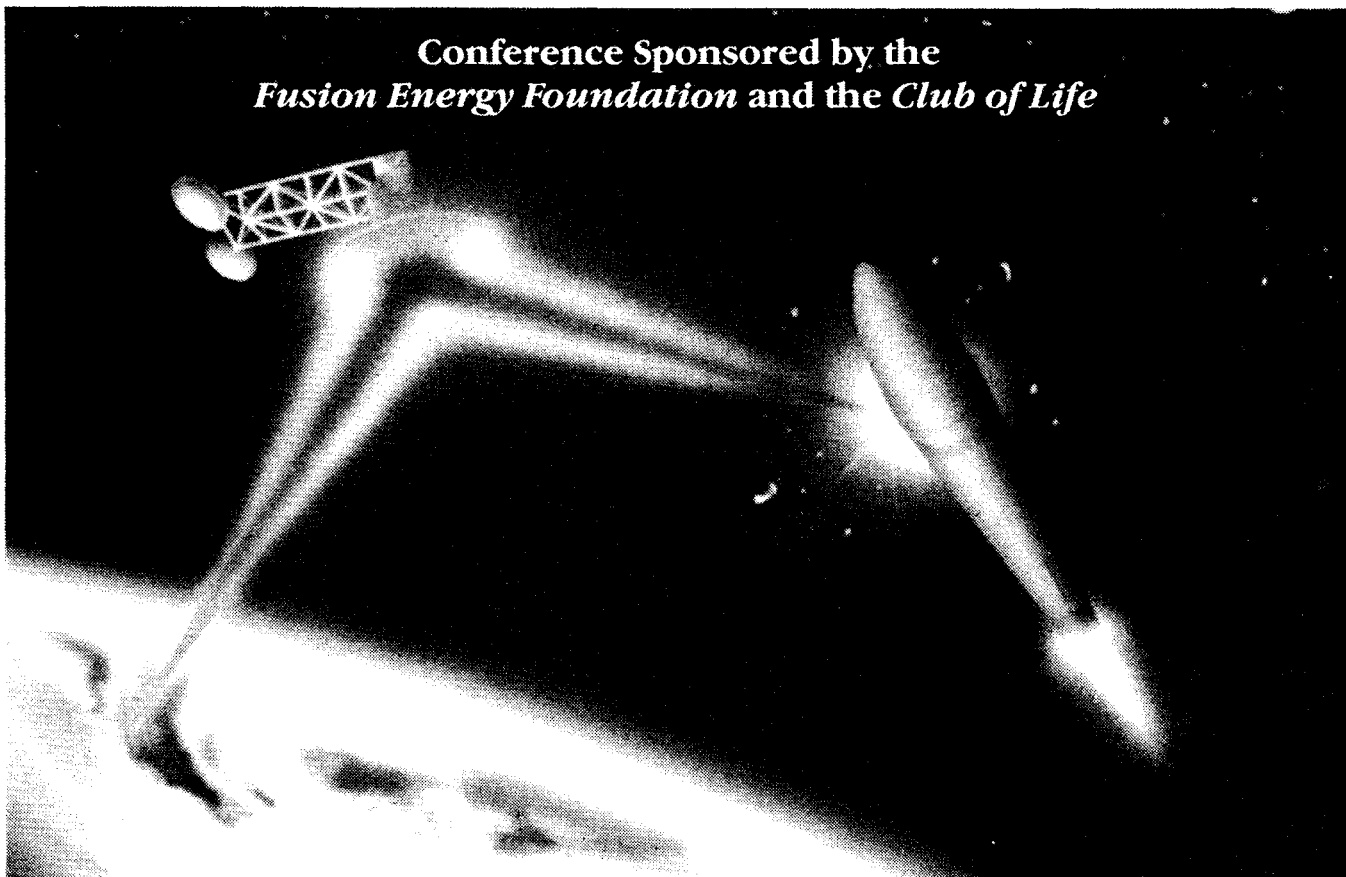
Do they really think the birds they enjoy counting may decline as a result? (How many people is a tanager worth?) Are they really afraid to eat food with traces of the insecticides that were once so abundant, *but harmless*, on food produced in United States? What motivation drives those wealthy activists to prevent the starving masses of humanity elsewhere from obtaining the chemicals that would reduce their misery and save millions of lives? Do they simply want to attract larger donations from the people on their huge mailing lists by terrorizing them with false claims and outlandish implications? Or do they simply desire to wield greater power in the United States and around the world? Or are they deliberately intent upon crippling American agriculture and ruining the industries that now employ so many American workers? Or is their long-range goal the worldwide decimation of human populations that they think are reproducing too rapidly? *Or* are most of those anti-pesticide activists simply naïve, uninformed, or misinformed "groupies" who have never really given serious thought to the effects of their irresponsible actions on other human beings? I submit that the reasons are not as important as the results, and that greater efforts must be made to educate those individuals who are in the latter category and to thwart those whose true goal is widespread genocide.

Death toll from pesticide reduction

What is the death toll resulting from pesticide restrictions here in the United States and around the world? It is impossible to calculate with any great accuracy. Right now, 15 to 20 million people are dying of direct starvation each year, while at least that many more are succumbing to the indirect effects associated with malnutrition and protein-calorie deficiency. The knowledge and ability is available now to reduce those figures, but *not* without pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, and with stronger, healthier workers in the fields. When we consider all the insect-borne diseases and realize that at least 10 million people die annually from malaria alone, millions more perish from the side-effects of malaria and other diseases, and additional millions are killed by various other preventable and treatable maladies, it would appear reasonable to conclude that, directly or indirectly, between 60 and 100 million people are dying every year as a result of the anti-pesticide activities which have caused restrictions or bans on the pesticides that could prevent such deaths.

How many more human lives must be sacrificed on the altar of pseudo-environmentalist extremism? Only time can tell.

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