

The Week That Was: 2014-18-11 (October 18, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“Entities are not to be multiplied beyond necessity.”* William of Ockham
[H/t Tim Ball]

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Number of the Week: 50% by 2020

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THIS WEEK:

By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

A Modest Proposal: The 2013 Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contained an estimate of the sensitivity of the earth to a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is called climate sensitivity. The estimate was 1.5 – 4.5°C. This is the same estimate as given in a 1979 report to the US National Academy of Science by a special group under MIT meteorologist Jule Charney. The inability to narrow this estimate demonstrates a lack of progress in the climate science embodied by the IPCC and its adherents such as the US National Climate Assessment produced by the US Global Change Research Program.

Since the publication of AR5, we have seen a number of papers published in various journals questioning the upper end of the range of climate sensitivity and suggesting it may be far too high. Indeed, the laboratory results on testing of the warming impact of a doubling of CO₂ indicate that the climate sensitivity would be about 1.1°C., about 2°F. However, these tests were done using dry air, no water vapor. Except for the Polar Regions and the arid bands north and south of the tropics (equator) water vapor is prevalent, and it is the dominant greenhouse gas.

Writing in American Thinker, SEPP Chairman S. Fred Singer is developing the concept that the low end of the estimate may be far too high. Among other issues, he is advocating that climate sensitivity should be determined empirically by using satellite temperature data, which is far more comprehensive than surface temperature data and not prone to adjustments such as by moving measuring stations and by the Urban Heat Island Effect. Indeed, there has been no effort by the IPCC to perform basic hypothesis testing to establish that the climate sensitivity is statistically significantly greater than zero using satellite data.

No doubt, this effort will create great controversy not only among global warming alarmists, but also among many global warming skeptics – those skeptical that CO₂ is causing dangerous global warming, extreme weather events, etc. But, such a controversy is both healthy and necessary due to the failure of government-supported climate scientists to advance scientific knowledge. As Singer concludes in his essay:

“I should note that I am somewhat out of step here with my fellow skeptics. Few of them would agree with me that the climate sensitivity (CS) is indeed close to zero. I will have to publish the analyses to prove my point and try to convince them. Of course, nothing, no set of facts, will ever convince the confirmed climate alarmists.”

See Article # 1.

CRU: Climate scientist Tim Ball studied under climate change pioneer HH Lamb. Lamb founded the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia, which subsequently gained notoriety during the Climategate exposure of email correspondence among various climate researchers. Lamb strongly advocated that we must have an understanding of natural climate change in order to prepare for the future. In a brief essay, Ball explains how Lamb's successor changed the thrust of empirically driven climate research to theoretically driven research based on sophisticated computer models. The models may appear to be elegant, but they greatly exceed any capability to measure important components of the climate system. As a consequence, the lack of empirical observations opens the door for sophisticated speculation in place of hard data. As Ball writes:

Conversely, people trying to determine what is wrong with the IPCC climate models consider a multitude of factors, when the failure is completely explained by one thing, insufficient data to construct a model.

Only 1000 stations have records of 100 years and almost all of them are in heavily populated areas of northeastern US or Western Europe and subject to urban heat island effect (UHIE)

A CRU produced map for the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) report. It is a polar projection for the period from 1954 to 2003 shows "No Data" for the Arctic Ocean (14 million km²), almost the size of Russia.

Ockham's Razor indicates that any discussion about the complexities of climate models including methods, processes and procedures are irrelevant. They cannot work because the simple truth is the data, the basic building blocks of the model, are completely inadequate.

The fascination the IPCC and its adherents have for climate models is unfounded. Further, Ball demonstrates that the surface data is significantly lacking. For these, and other reasons, TWTW discounts any pronouncements of "hottest month ever" by various government entities such as NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), which focuses on surface temperatures, not measurements from space. Very simply, GISS does not have the data to backup any grand pronouncements. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

UK Climate Change Act: In giving the annual address to the Global Warming Policy Foundation, Owen Paterson, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from 2012 to 2014, called for a fundamental change in energy policy and explicitly called for the abolition of the Climate Change Act, on which energy policy is based in the United Kingdom. He is the most visible politician to speak against the Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2008, with an overwhelming majority. The future costs of electricity appears to be getting some politicians nervous. Peter Atherton writes in *Liberum*:

We have long argued that current EU/UK energy policy is deeply flawed and that utility companies and public market investors should be wary of committing further capital to support and deliver it. Advice which has been increasingly accepted in recent times. After all, an energy policy that has the Hinkley Point C contract [nuclear power plant] and off-shore wind as its two flagship achievements must eventually collapse under the weight of its own idiocy.

See links under Questioning European Green.

Keeping the Lights On: To its credit, the House of Lords Science and Technology committee published written evidence it received on its inquiry into the resilience of the UK electricity infrastructure. The future may be grim, with the ability of the electricity infrastructure to keep up with consumption during a cold winter questionable. Yet, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) claims that its renewable energy policy will actually save consumers money. Often the wind does not blow on a cold still night. Will the public have DECC white papers to burn?

The Scientific Alliance published its submission. The sections in the report on electricity storage, interconnectivity, and management of demand should give pause to all but the most ardent supporters of intermittent, unreliable electricity generation. See links under Questioning European Green.

Still Wind Power: Mid-morning on October 14, this author was driving along US Interstate # 10, near Palm Springs, in the desert east of Los Angeles, California. We passed miles of wind turbines at various elevations – unknown hundreds, if not thousands. Few blades were turning, less than 5%. One must be careful not to overgeneralize from such an experience. But wind farms have high capital costs and are being heavily subsidized by the Federal and California governments. The costs of backup is provided by others, but ultimately by the consumers.

Pretense of Knowledge: Economist Donald Boudreaux and his co-author Todd Zywicki had interesting comments in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Forty years ago the Nobel Prize in Economic Science was awarded to a scholar who believed the prize perhaps should not exist. As he graciously accepted the distinction in 1974, Austrian-British economist Friedrich A. Hayek worried aloud that thinking of economics as a science might fuel what he called “the pretense of knowledge”—the idea that anyone could know enough to engineer society successfully. He was right to fret.

Perhaps the same applies to what is called climate science and the IPCC received the Nobel Peace Prize too soon. See Article # 2

Department of Defense: Since the 1970s the US Department of Defense has received a great deal of bitter criticism, some of it earned, much of it not. The pentagon has unveiled its plan to “fight” climate change, which it claims to be a threat to national security. From the foreword of its roadmap:

Among the future trends that will impact our national security is climate change. Rising global temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, climbing sea levels, and more extreme weather events will intensify the challenges of global instability, hunger, poverty, and conflict. They will likely lead to food and water shortages, pandemic disease, disputes over refugees and resources, and destruction by natural disasters in regions across the globe. In our defense strategy, we refer to climate change as a “threat multiplier” because it has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today – from infectious disease to terrorism. We are already beginning to see some of these impacts.

A long standing criticism of the Pentagon is that it prepares for the last war. Perhaps no one in the Pentagon recognizes that global warming has stopped and that the models used greatly

overestimate 21st century warming. The statement reveals that the Department *already participates in nationwide efforts such as the U.S. Global Change Research Program and the National Climate Assessment sustained assessment process*. Of course, the Assessment is a version of the IPCC report tailored for the US, consequently likely to be even less accurate. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Ebola: Generally, TWTW does not comment on health or public health issues unless there are clear scientific problems with the stated public policy, such as the EPA's finding that CO2 endangers human health. However, the Administration's pronouncements about Ebola seem to show a total disinterest in public health. As if to confirm this, the President just appointed a person to coordinate a strategy on Ebola. According to reports, the major qualifications of Ron Klain are political. He was chief of staff for former Vice President Al Gore and Vice President Joe Biden. He has no experience in medicine, public health, infectious diseases, etc. There will be further discussion in the next TWTW. See Articles # 4 and # 5 and links under Other Scientific News

Race to the Bottom: Several colleagues have been speculating on which US government agency will be the first to claim a link between Ebola and global warming/climate change. The apparent winner is the US Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior. See links under Below the Bottom Line.

No Regulations on Shale: A report by the director of the Department of Mineral Resources of the North Dakota Industrial Commission contained an interesting statement:

BLM revised final regulations for hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands were sent to the White House Office of Management and Budget for interagency review on August 26 and Department of Interior announced a continuing commitment to their goal of issuing a final rule by year end of 2014.

In almost six years the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other government agencies have failed to fully address the permitting of hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands. Yet federal agencies are considering listing the Dakota Skipper, Rufa Red Knot, Sprague's Pippit, Greater Sage Grouse, Monarch, Sturgeon Chub, and Sicklefin Chub under the Endangered Species Act. See links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Additions and Corrections: Last week TWTW carried an article from Fred Singer that omitted as a sub-title the following paragraph:

Compared to a carbon tax, a tax on all forms of energy represents a lesser evil; neither tax will "save the climate." Excessive regulation and the quest for non-CO2-emitting energy have added extra costs -- mimicking an energy tax without adding revenues to the US Treasury.

Last week TWTW quoted from a post by Luboš Motl on paper by Lewis and Curry on climate sensitivity that contained an error some readers found confusing. TWTW did not contain a suggested correction that makes the sentence legible.

However, while I ~~this~~ think [sic] that the paper seems to display lots of expertise and calm heads, there is one aspect of this paper – and lots of other papers – that I find totally inconceivable. It is the asymmetry of the 5%-95% ranges of the climate sensitivity. In particular, the huge values of

the "still plausible" long-term climate sensitivity – the upper bound goes up to 4 °C – isn't really possible.

The comments about climate sensitivity and the central limit theorem still apply.
See link <http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/10/paper-tcr-ecs-climate-sensitivity-13-16.html>

TWTW appreciates all additions and corrections.

Number of the Week: 50% by 2020. According to an editorial in the Wall Street Journal on Oct 14:

The Navy has a plan to generate 50% of its energy from alternative sources by 2020, including buying \$3.5 billion in biofuels, and it has also awarded contracts to build so-called biorefineries.

Apparently, the Navy is blissfully unaware about what is happening in North Dakota and elsewhere in the US, where oil is being obtained from dense shale, and that the US is now the world's largest producer petroleum products and natural gas. See Article # 6 and links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below, please see this week's TWTW at: **www.sepp.org**. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. The Climate Sensitivity Controversy

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Oct 15, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/10/the_climate_sensitivity_controversy.html

2. A Nobel Economist's Caution About Government

Friedrich Hayek warned that intervening can make things worse. ObamaCare and Dodd-Frank, anyone?

By Donald Boudreaux and Todd Zywicki, WSJ, Oct 12, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/donald-boudreaux-and-todd-zywicki-a-nobel-economists-caution-about-government-1413150678>

3. How to Stop Winning Nobel Prizes in Science

Washington's vacillating commitment to basic research makes scientific breakthroughs less likely.

By Thomas Cech and Steven Chu, WSJ, Oct 15, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/thomas-r-cech-and-steven-chu-how-to-stop-winning-nobel-prizes-in-science-1413415299?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

4. The Ebola Twilight of Public Institutions

The WHO and CDC are failing in their core health mission.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 16, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-ebola-twilight-of-public-institutions-1413415407>

5. Who Do They Think We Are?

The administration's Ebola evasions reveal its disdain for the American people.

By Peggy Noonan, WSJ, Oct 16, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/who-do-they-think-we-are-1413502475>

6. The Pentagon Goes to Climate War

Hagel wants to retool the military to stop glaciers from melting.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-pentagon-goes-to-climate-war-1413329782>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Climate Dialogue about the sun

By Marcel Crok, WUWT, Oct 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/17/climate-dialogue-about-the-sun/>

The Sun says

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Oct 16, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/10/16/the-sun-says.html>

Link to posts: What will happen during a new Maunder Minimum?

By Staff Writers, Climate Dialogue, Oct 15, 2014

<http://www.climatedialogue.org/what-will-happen-during-a-new-maunder-minimum/>

Climategate Continued

Millennial Quebec Tree Rings

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Oct 13, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/10/13/millennial-quebec-tree-rings/#more-20107>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

A Simple Truth; Computer Climate Models Cannot Work

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Oct 16, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/16/a-simple-truth-computer-climate-models-cannot-work/>

The climate crunch

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Oct 12, 2014

http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014_october.htm#crunch

The first thing to understand is that it is nothing to do with climate. It has everything to do with the **Climate Change Act**, which also has nothing to do with climate. It was Ed Milliband's *magnum opus*, and a monumental exemplar of the triumph of fantastical scaremongering over calm reason. Nothing is more illustrative of the state of decay of our political class than that this disastrous act was passed by the House of Commons virtually unopposed. It was an economic suicide note writ large. The great irony of the last decade and a half of our history has been that the climate crunch has been delayed by a politically generated recession.

Climate Change: A Meaningless Artifact of Technology?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/10/climate-change-a-meaningless-artifact-of-technology/>

Soapbox: CO2 increase is not nemesis as it's portrayed

By William Gray, Coloradoan, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t Real Science]

<http://www.coloradoan.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/10/17/soapbox-co-increase-nemesis-portrayed/17382189/>

The Green Delusion

By Vincent Gray, NZClimate Truth Newsletter No 336, Oct 15, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/10/the-green-delusion.html>

50,000 dot com

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Oct 10, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/blog/2014/10/50000_dot_com.html

[SEPP Comment: The absurdity of the Federal courts and the EPA declaring CO2 is a pollutant.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Carney raises the heat on climate: you can't burn all the oil

A public call by Bank of England governor Mark Carney that the vast majority of oil reserves should be considered “unburnable” if the world wants to avoid catastrophic climate change makes him stand out among mainstream figures.

By Jon Hay, Emerging Markets, Oct 12, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.emergingmarkets.org/Article/3389530/Economics-and-Policy/Carney-hammers-the-point-you-cant-burn-all-the-oil.html>

[SEPP Comment: What logic! Stranded assets would still be valued by investors? Would Mr. Carney desire his assets become stranded?]

State Dept. climate envoy talks global accord, US expectations

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Oct 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220759-state-climate-envoy-talks-global-accord-us-expectations>

The Race to Replace Pachauri Heats Up

Veteran climateer Jean-Pascal van Ypersele has announced his candidacy to replace the retiring IPCC chief, who stands down next year. Expect the result to be determined more by politics and the Third World than a reverence for scientific competence

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Oct 9, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/tony-thomas/2014/10/race-replace-pachauri-heats/>

[SEPP Comment: Some years ago, van Ypersele used his position with IPCC to force a change in venue for a lecture by Fred Singer. Apparently, he is intolerant of those who dare question his views]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Global Warming Scare Declared Over

By Bob Unrah, WND, Oct 12, 2014 [H/t SPPI]

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/10/global-warming-scare-declared-over/#EDFWHzsbBmc1ih5k.99>

The Cherry-Picking Climate Change Committee

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Oct 16, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/cherry-picking-climate-committee/>

Link to statement: Owen Paterson's speech to the GWPF - the CCC's response

By Staff Writers, Committee on Climate Change, Oct 15, 2014

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Owen-Patersons-speech-to-the-GWPF-the-CCCs-response1.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: The CCC slogan is: “Independent advice to Government on building a **low-carbon** economy” [Boldface in the original] Imagine how the greens would attack an Exxon-Mobil slogan such as “Independent advice to Government on building a **high-carbon** economy.”]

Yet another significant paper finds low climate sensitivity to CO₂, suggesting there is no global warming crisis at hand

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 14, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/14/yet-another-significant-paper-finds-low-climate-sensitivity-to-co2-suggesting-there-is-no-global-warming-crisis-at-hand/>

The ABC’s Stacked Audit Deck

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Oct 15, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/10/abcs-stacked-audit-deck/>

Catalyst – raising public awareness of science, or promoting big-government science instead?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 17, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/10/catalyst-raising-public-awareness-of-science-or-promoting-big-government-science-instead/>

UK Energy Policy – Debate Opens Up (a bit)

Owen Paterson GWPF Speech

By Peter Atherton, Liberum, Oct 16, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.liberum.com/pdf/8fvMpRSj.pdf>

Life as You Know It Will End if John Kerry is Wrong...OR Right

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/10/life-as-you-know-it-will-end-if-john-kerry-is-wrong-or-right/>

Global warming: Can Owen Paterson save us from an unimaginable energy disaster?

There is no way of meeting the Climate Change Act's targets, except by closing down Britain's entire economy

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Oct 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11155315/Global-warming-Can-Owen-Paterson-save-us-from-an-unimaginable-energy-disaster.html>

Climate change forecasts 'exaggerated', ex-environment secretary Owen Paterson claims

Sacked Tory Cabinet member says there is "considerable uncertainty" over how much global warming will be caused by greenhouse gas emissions

BY Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Oct 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/11163094/Climate-change-forecasts-exaggerated-ex-environment-secretary-Owen-Paterson-claims.html>

How Safe is the Air You Breathe in Planes?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 15, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/10/how-safe-is-the-air-you-breathe-on-planes/>

[SEPP Comment: EPA declares that CO2 emissions endanger human health. Yet, the CO2 concentration Spencer measured in the airplane is over 4 times the concentration of ambient air. How many lives were endangered?]

Quote of the Day

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Oct 12, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/10/quote-of-the-day-10.php>

Where have all the walrus gone?

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Oct 12, 2014

<http://polarbearsience.com/2014/10/12/where-have-all-the-walrus-gone/>

At a snail's pace: Species rediscovered, but paper on its disappearance remains

By Staff Writer, Retraction Watch, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://retractionwatch.com/2014/10/17/at-a-snails-pace-species-rediscovered-but-paper-on-its-disappearance-remains/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Carbon cycle: better than we thought

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Oct 14, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/10/14/carbon-cycle-better-than-we-thought.html>

Link to paper: Impact of mesophyll diffusion on estimated global land CO2 fertilization

By Ying Sunk et al, PNAS, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/10/10/1418075111>

Climate change Doubt: Study shows carbon dioxide levels in atmosphere are Overstated

CLIMATE change forecasts may be overestimates due to a failure to take into account how plants absorb carbon dioxide, scientists warned today.

By John Ingham, Express, UK, Oct 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/522307/Climate-Change-Doubts-Study-Shows-Overestimate-Forecast-Weather>

Backyard Birds Spreading as Climate Changes

Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Oct 17, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/backyard-birds-spreading-climate-changes>

[SEPP Comment: A more robust environment from increased CO2.]

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Poland leads charge against EU climate package

Poland's Economy Minister and Deputy PM Janusz Piechocinski has said that the EU's proposal on CO2 emissions reduction would "destroy European industry"

By Staff Writers, Polskie Radio, Oct 16, 2014

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/6/Artykul/184466,Poland-leads-charge-against-EU-climate-package>

Opposition [to the Polish Government] would support EU CO2 cuts veto

Poland's largest opposition party Law and Justice (PiS) says it would support a veto by Prime Minister Kopacz on climate change in Brussels next week if the move harmed the Polish economy.

By Staff Writers, Polskie Radio, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/184537,Opposition-would-support-EU-CO2-cuts-veto>

EU struggles to agree 2030 climate targets for October summit

By Staff writers, AFP, Oct 10, 2014

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/eu-struggles-agree-2030-climate-targets-october-summit-140235286.html#xasJvqb>

The green blob speaks

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Oct 13, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/10/13/the-green-blob-speaks.html>

ANALYSIS: Global Warming Hysteria Is Tearing The World Apart

By Michael, Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 11, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/10/11/analysis-global-warming-hysteria-is-tearing-the-world-apart/>
[SEPP Comment: The headline is overstated.]

Adapt to climate and cut emissions, say Brazil, South Africa, India and China

By Urmi Goswami, Economic Times of India, Oct 13, 2014

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-13/news/54970882_1_green-climate-fund-climate-finance-industrialised-countries

Climate Change Dying As An Issue In German Media...Empty Seats Pack Hamburg “9th Extreme Weather Congress”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 11, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/10/11/climate-change-dying-as-an-issue-in-german-media-empty-seats-pack-hamburg-9th-extreme-weather-congress/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Global warming facts must give us all pause to think

Editorial, The Australian, Oct 18, 2014 [H/t Des Moore]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/global-warming-facts-must-give-us-all-pause-to-think/story-e6frg71x-1227094264289>

Sophistry about the past decade being the warmest also ducks the point; it is not about a decline but whether warming is continuing or pausing at the present high level. The gatekeepers of scientific, media and political debate should not be afraid of a discussion about the facts and their ramifications.

Climate Science: Separating Mistakes From Malfeasance

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Oct 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/12/climate-science-separating-mistakes-from-malfeasance/>

Words of wisdom from Charles Lyell

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Oct 14, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/10/14/words-of-wisdom-from-charles-lyell/#more-17047>

Eco-Authoritarian Catastrophism: The Dismal and Deluded Vision of Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway

By Martin Lewis, GeoCurrents, Oct 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.geocurrents.info/physical-geography/eco-authoritarian-catastrophism-dismal-deluded-vision-naomi-oreskes-erik-m-conway>

Climate change not responsible for altering forest tree composition

By Staff Writers, University Park PA (SPX), Oct 17, 2014

[http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Climate change not responsible for altering forest tree composition_999.html](http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Climate%20change%20not%20responsible%20for%20altering%20forest%20tree%20composition_999.html)

Models v. Observations

Another IPCC modeling failure – so THAT’s where the atmospheric methane went

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/15/another-ipcc-modeling-failure-so-thats-where-the-atmospheric-methane-went/>

Model Issues

I have a computer model

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Oct 13, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/10/13/i-have-a-computer-model.html>

Accuracy of Macroeconomic Forecasts

By Chris Edwards, CATO, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cato.org/blog/accuracy-macroeconomic-forecasts>

Measurement Issues

Hottest Year Ever?

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 14, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/10/14/hottest-year-ever/>

GISS Targeted Data Truncation And Tricks Alone Produce Half Of The Warming Trend Since 1880

It Is Even Worse Than I Thought!

By Ed Caryl, No Tricks Zone, Oct 15, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/10/15/giss-targeted-data-truncation-and-tricks-alone-produce-half-of-the-warming-trend-since-1880/>

Using 1999 GISS Data, Global Warming Trend Since 1866 Only 0.5°C Per Century!

How Much Global Warming?

By Ed Caryl, No Tricks Zone, Oct 12, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/10/12/using-1999-giss-data-global-warming-trend-since-1866-only-0-5c-per-century/>

With ARGO, There is a Wide Range Warming (and Cooling) Rates of the Oceans to Depths of 2000 Meters

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Oct 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/17/with-argo-there-is-a-wide-range-warming-and-cooling-rates-of-the-oceans-to-depths-of-2000-meters/>

Changing Weather

Target, Bermuda: Will Hurricane Gonzalo Rival Fabian?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 16, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/10/target-bermuda-will-hurricane-gonzalo-rival-fabian/>

Severe weather alert: U.S. study finds tornadoes coming in swarms

By Will Dunham, Reuters, Oct 16, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/severe-weather-alert-u-study-finds-tornadoes-coming-180212987.html>

[SEPP Comment: Prior to the May 2011 outbreak, on March 5, 2011, TWTW linked to an article by Joe D'Aleo of ICECAP (and WeatherBell) discussing the possibility of tornado swarms. D'Aleo stated that tornadoes tend to be more frequent in the south and Ohio Valley during a cool, La Niña phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and tend to stay on the ground longer as compared with a warm El Niño phase, when the tornadoes tend to be in the lesser populated Great Plains. Also such La Niña conditions tend to produce "tornado swarms."

Polar vortex will likely make a return this winter, says Accuweather

By Angela Fritz, Capital Weather Gang, Oct 15, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/10/15/polar-vortex-will-likely-make-a-return-this-winter-says-accuweather/?hpid=z5>

Changing Climate

NASA Study Finds 1934 Had Worst Drought of Last Thousand Years

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 14, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/14/nasa-study-finds-1934-had-worst-drought-of-last-thousand-years/>

Weather, Climate, Arctic Ice And The Franklin Expedition

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Oct 17, 2014

<http://drtimball.com/2014/weather-climate-arctic-ice-and-the-franklin-expedition/>

Plant communities in Holy Land can cope with climate change of 'biblical' dimensions

By Staff Writers, Newark NJ (SPX), Oct 15, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Plant_communities_in_Holy_Land_can_cope_with_climate_change_of_biblical_dimensions_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Were plants tougher then than now?]

Changing Seas

Expert Blasts Alfred Wegener Institute Ocean Acidification Claim: "Clear Falsification Of Scientific Facts"

Ocean acidification: The terrible little brother of global warming

By D. E. Koelle, Trans. P Gosselin, Oct 16, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/10/16/expert-blasts-alfred-wegener-institute-ocean-acidification-claim-clear-falsification-of-scientific-facts/>

Microbes in deep-sea rocks eat methane, lots of it

By Brooks Hays, Pasadena, Calif. (UPI), Oct 16, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Microbes_in_deep-sea_rocks_eat_methane_lots_of_it_999.html

New paper claims after 6,000 year 'pause', sea levels began rising 150 years ago

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Shtick, Oct 14, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/10/new-paper-claims-after-6000-year-pause.html>

[SEPP Comment: Question the suggestion that sea levels were stable for about 6,000 years.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Arctic Ice Trends Since 1864

By Paul Homewood, Not A Lot of People Know That, Oct 14, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/10/14/arctic-ice-trends-since-1864/>

Both studies bear out HH Lamb's findings concerning the longer term trends in the Arctic, and show clearly why monitoring trends only since 1979 can be highly misleading.

Antarctic ice at ALL TIME RECORD HIGH: We have more to learn, says boffin

Four-deviations-above-average figs bust climate models

By Lewis Page, The Register, Oct 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/10/09/we_have_more_to_learn_says_scientist_antarctic_sea_ice_at_all_time_record/

Austrian Daily Reports: “Huge Ice Growth Surprises Climate Scientists” ... “Like One Not Seen In Decades”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 15, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/10/15/austrian-daily-reports-huge-ice-growth-surprises-climate-scientists-like-one-not-seen-in-decades/>

Churchill problem bears and early breakup dates in WHB: The 1983 & 2004 anomalies

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Oct 15, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/10/15/churchill-problem-bears-and-early-breakup-dates-in-whb-the-1983-2004-anomalies/#more-6094>

New paper finds West Antarctic glacier likely melting from geothermal heat below

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Oct 11, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com.au/2014/10/new-paper-finds-west-antarctic-glacier.html>

Link to paper: Variable crustal thickness beneath Thwaites Glacier revealed from airborne gravimetry, possible implications for geothermal heat flux in West Antarctica

By Theresa M. Damania, et al. Earth and Planetary Science Letters, Dec 1, 2014

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012821X14005780>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Owen Paterson says 'wicked' green blob protests against GM research kill thousands every day

Greenpeace reacts angrily after the former Environment Secretary says opposition toward research on genetically modified food has caused 'enormous suffering'

By Ben Riley-Smith, Telegraph, UK, Oct 16, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/11166232/Wicked-green-blob-kills-thousands-a-day-through-exploitative-protests-Owen-Paterson-says.html>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Icebergs once drifted to Florida, new climate model suggests

By Staff Writers, Amherst MA (SPX), Oct 15, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Icebergs_once_drifted_to_Florida_new_climate_model_suggests_999.html

September sets new temperature record

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Sep 13, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220539-september-sets-new-temperature-record>

Weather History Time Machine

By Staff Writers, San Diego CA (SPX), Oct 17, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Weather_History_Time_Machine_999.html

The high degree of difficulty and expertise required means that relatively few climate scientists have been able to base their research on accurate models of historical precipitation. Now, a new software program developed by a research team including San Diego State University Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Samuel Shen will democratize this ability, allowing far more researchers access to these models.

"In the past, only a couple dozen scientists could do these reconstructions," Shen said. "Now, anybody can play with this user-friendly software, use it to inform their research, and develop new models and hypotheses. This new tool brings historical precipitation reconstruction from a 'rocket science' to a 'toy science.'"

[SEPP Comment: The term 'toy science' may be appropriate.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Climate change: it's only human to exaggerate, but science itself does not

By Rob MacKenzie, The Conversation, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://theconversation.com/climate-change-its-only-human-to-exaggerate-but-science-itself-does-not-33150>

[SEPP Comment: The great overestimates of 21st century warming in the models are not an exaggeration? Defending the Stephen Schneider syndrome?]

Renewables to spur power generation in Africa, IEA says

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Oct 13, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220547-renewables-to-spur-power-generation-in-africa-iea-says>

Bloomberg reports energy demand will increase 80 percent south of the Sahara Desert, and renewable energy and hydropower are expected to supply nearly half of that growth.

[SEPP Comment: Unable to find link to report.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

GAO: Feds should do more to stop ocean acidification

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Oct 15, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220807-gao-feds-should-do-more-to-stop-ocean-acidification>

Rising sea levels of 1.8 meters in worst-case scenario

By Staff Writers, Copenhagen, Denmark (SPX), Oct 17, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Rising_sea_levels_of_1_8_meters_in_worst_case_scenario_999.html

UCS Forget To Mention Subsidence [sec]

By Paul Homewood, No A Lot of People Know That, Oct 14, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/10/14/ucs-forget-to-mention-subsidence/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Pentagon: Climate change a national security threat

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Oct 13, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220575-pentagon-unveils-plan-to-fight-climate-change>

Link to report: 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap

By Chuck Hagel and Staff, DOD, Oct 13, 2014

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/242845848/Read-DoD-report-2014-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Roadmap>

Pentagon unveils plan for military's response to climate change

By W.J. Hennigan, LA Times, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-hagel-climate-change-20141013-story.html>

Boots Finally on the Ground...to Fight Global Warming

By Lauri B. Regan, American Thinker, Oct 15, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/10/boots_finally_on_the_groundto_fight_global_warming.html

Climate wars: The Pentagon doesn't need more global hotspots

Editorial, Pittsburg Post-Gazette, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2014/10/17/Climate-wars-The-Pentagon-doesn-t-need-more-global-hotspots/stories/201410310018>

Hey, Defense Department: Focus on ISIS, not Climate Change

By Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Oct 14, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/10/14/hey-defense-department-focus-isis-climate-change/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mk_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokuq7IZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4CTMRqI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFQrLBMaIozrgOWxU%3D

Warring against Warming

The Obama administration marshals its military might against climate change.

By Ian Tuttle, National Review, Oct 14, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/390224/warring-against-warming-ian-tuttle>

Will Obama Only Fight Carbon-Neutral Wars?

Editorial, IBD, Oct 14, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/101414-721778-pentagon-labels-global-warming-an-immediate-threat.htm>

Questioning European Green

UK Energy Policy – Debate Opens Up (a bit)

Owen Paterson GWPF Speech

By Peter Atherton, Liberum, Oct 16, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.liberum.com/pdf/8fvMpRSj.pdf>

Keeping the lights on

By Martian Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Oct 17, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/keeping-lights>

Link to submission: Inquiry on Resilience of Electricity Infrastructure

By Miller, Gibson, & Laughton, Scientific Alliance, No Date

<http://www.scientific->

[alliance.org/sites/default/files/Scientific%20Alliance%20submission%20electricity%20infrastructure%200914%20final.pdf](http://www.scientific-alliance.org/sites/default/files/Scientific%20Alliance%20submission%20electricity%20infrastructure%200914%20final.pdf)

[SEPP Comment: The following statement may be incorrect. "This turns out to be far from the truth; as the contribution of wind energy rises, then so does the degree to which it displaces other generation methods, because of the need for conventional backup." A more correct version may be: As the contribution of wind energy rises, so does the need for reliable backup.]

UK's wind farm 'folly': Electric bills to soar by £1000 thanks to reliance on wind power

HOUSEHOLDERS are facing soaring energy bills and winter power cuts thanks to the "folly" of relying on wind power, experts said last night.

By John Ingham, Express, UK, Oct 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/522800/Wind-farms-blamed-for-winter-power-cut-and-rise-energy-bills>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

An energy policy that makes little sense

If action is not taken now, the next government will have to explain why it let Britain's lights go out

Editorial, Telegraph, UK, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/11157454/An-energy-policy-that-makes-little-sense.html>

Bill Carmichael: Welcome voice of sense on 'green blob'

By Bill Carmichael, Yorkshire Post, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/debate/columnists/bill-carmichael-welcome-voice-of-sense-on-green-blob-1-6901013>

Bees and pesticides

A precautionary ban has made things worse for bees

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/bees-and-pesticides.aspx>

Green Jobs

Offshore wind projects 'grinding to a halt'

RenewableUK issues warning to government as RWE shelves investment for Suffolk wind farm

By Staff Writers, PE, Oct 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.imeche.org/news/engineering/offshore-wind-projects-'grinding-to-a-halt'13101402>

[SEPP Comment: At what point will green jobs no longer require subsidies?]

Non-Green Jobs

Fracking boom has been a jobs boon for North Dakota

By JC Reindl, Detroit Free Press, Oct 12, 2014

<http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/michigan/2014/10/12/north-dakota-energy-boom-michigan-jobs/17044837/>

Study: Marcellus shale created 45,000 construction jobs

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Oct 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220673-study-marcellus-shale-created-45000-construction-jobs>

Link to study, Domestic Energy Exploration Creates 45,000 Construction Jobs

By Robert Bruno and Michael Cornfield, for The Oil and Natural Gas Industry Labor-Management Committee, Oct 14, 2014

<http://www.ongil-mc.org/get-informed/news/domestic-energy-exploration-creates-45000-construction-jobs/>

Funding Issues

How to Stop Wasting Money on Science

By Patrick Michaels, CATO, Oct 17, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/how-stop-wasting-money-science>

Dirty Development Money

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Oct 14, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/illicit-financial-flows-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda-by-bj-rn-lomborg-2014-10>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Stones Into Bread: False Claims of CO2 Taxation

By Robert Murphy, Master Resource, Oct 6, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-policy/fallacy-fee-dividend/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA ignores its own economic analyses, small business agency says

By Sean Higgins, Washington Examiner, Oct 16, 2014

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-ignores-its-own-economic-analyses-small-business-agency-says/article/2554859?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%202010/16/14&utm_medium=email

Evidence Of EPA-Environmentalist Collusion Continues To Pile Up

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 14, 2014 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/10/14/evidence-of-epa-environmentalist-collusion-continues-to-pile-up/>

Did The Most Expensive Regulation Ever Just Arrive At The White House?

By Chris Prandoni, Forbes, Oct 14, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/chrisprandoni/2014/10/14/did-the-most-expensive-regulation-ever-just-arrive-at-the-white-house/>

The EPA Chief's Text Messages Go Missing

Gina McCarthy deleted thousands of texts from her agency cellphone; the EPA says they were personal.

By Jillian Kay Melchior, National Review, Oct 9, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/389914/epa-chiefs-text-messages-go-missing-jillian-kay-melchior>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Oil: What Are the Saudis Up To?

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Oct 13, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/10/oil-what-are-the-saudis-up-to.php>

The Saudi Death Knell For Petrotyrants

Editorial, IBD, Oct 14, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/101414-721779-the-saudis-sound-the-death-knell-for-petrotyrants.htm?p=full>

Energy: the blackout that cometh

By Richard North, EU Referendum, Oct 15, 2014

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=85250>

Instead, the government should be asked what the evidence is that the lights will stay on. On current form, it has none.

Failure to deny

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Oct 16, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/10/16/failure-to-deny.html>

[SEPP Comment: The Committee on Climate Change fails to address the major issues.]

Energy Issues -- US

“The State of Energy: Strong and Transformative” (Exxon Mobil’s Tillerson Right On)

By Robert Bradley, Jr. Master Resource, Oct 15, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/exxon-mobil/energy-strong-transformative-tillerson/>

Trouble Ahead...Administration has Its Head in the Sand

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Oct 16, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog>

[SEPP Comment: The consumers in the Northeast will soon be paying dearly for the energy policies favored by the politicians.]

Energy Efficiency Is Second-Largest Power Resource in Pacific Northwest

By Aaron Larson, Power, Oct 15, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/energy-efficiency-is-second-largest-power-resource-in-pacific-northwest/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2963732&hq_l=17&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Labeling a temporary reduction in consumption as a resource is too much.]

Washington’s Control of Energy

The Keystone Pipeline -- Will It Ever Be Built?

By William Tucker, Real Clear Politics, Oct 15, 2014

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/10/15/the_keystone_pipeline_will_it_ever_be_built_124306.html

No Keystone XL Pipeline? No Problem, Says Canadian Firm Planning To Send Crude East Instead Of South

By Angelo Young, International Business Times, Oct 8, 2014

<http://www.ibtimes.com/no-keystone-xl-pipeline-no-problem-says-canadian-firm-planning-send-crude-east-instead-1701211>

[SEPP Comment: Given the geological problems, building a pipeline from Alberta south is far less expensive than building one east or west. Only Washington blocks the way.]

The Final Word on Yucca

By Jack Spencer and Katie Tubb, Daily Signal, Oct 19, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/10/16/final-word-yucca/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

ND oil formations produce 1 billion barrels

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Oct 15, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220842-nd-oil-formations-produce-1-billion-barrels>

Link to report: Director's Cut

By Lynn Helms, NDIC Department of Mineral Resources, Oct 15, 2014

<https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/directorscut/directorscut-2014-10-15.pdf>

The increasing precision and efficiency of revolutionary drilling technologies have made US world's largest producer [of petroleum products and natural gas, combined.]

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Oct 16, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2014/10/the-increasing-precision-and-efficiency-of-revolutionary-drilling-technologies-boosts-us-oil-and-gas-production/>

Could the shale oil boom be ending? It all depends on oil prices

By Michael Casey, Fortune, Oct 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://fortune.com/2014/10/10/could-the-shale-oil-boom-be-ending-it-all-depends-on-oil-prices/>

Return of King Coal?

Australian PM: 'Coal is good for humanity'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, Oct 13, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220609-australian-pm-coal-is-good-for-humanity>

Faltering economy hits China's coal sector

By Philip Wen, Sydney Morning Herald, Oct 14, 2014 [H/t Quadrant]

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/china/faltering-economy-hits-chinas-coal-sector-20141014-115kzw.html#ixzz3G9pr5cDc>

[SEPP Comment: Import duties to protect the domestic coal-mining industry, which has over-capacity.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Global Nuclear Industry Optimistic

By Gail Reitenbach, Power, Oct 14, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/global-nuclear-industry-optimistic/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2963732&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Skunk Works Reveals Compact Fusion Reactor Details

Lockheed Martin aims to develop compact reactor prototype in five years, production unit in 10

By Guy Norris, Aviation Week, Oct 15, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://aviationweek.com/technology/skunk-works-reveals-compact-fusion-reactor-details>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Desertec Desert Solar Project Comes Unraveled

By Staff Writers, AP, Oct 14, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1017661-desertec-desert-solar-project-comes-unraveled/>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Impact of Electric Vehicles on Grid

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Oct 17, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/10/17/impact-of-electric-vehicles-on-grid/>

[SEPP Comment: Addressing the hidden costs.]

Electric Vehicle Update

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Oct 14, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/10/14/electric-vehicle-update-4/>

California Dreaming

Wyoming-to-L.A. ‘Stored’ Windpower? Think Twice the Cost

By Wayne Lusvardi, Master Resource, Oct 8, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/tanton-tom/wyoming-la-wind-windfall/>

[SEPP Comment: Questioning the costs of Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Life expectancy in the US continues to climb

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Oct 15, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/10/life-expectancy-us-continues-climb/>

Link to report: Mortality in the United States, 2012

By Jiaquan Xu, M.D.; Kenneth D. Kochanek, M.A.; Sherry L. Murphy, B.S.; Elizabeth Arias, Ph.D., NCHS, Oct 2014

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db168.htm>

[SEPP Comment: As global warming (?), carbon dioxide concentrations) and fossil fuel use increase? Don't tell the EPA.]

Environmental Industry

Coal and Corruption

By Marina Lou, a legal adviser at Greenpeace International, specializing in financial-market regulation, Project Syndicate, Oct 16, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/coal-industry-corruption-by-marina-lou-2014-10>

[SEPP Comment: Political corruption would not exist without fossil fuels?]

Spanish Firm Under Federal Investigation Wins \$230 Million in DOE Subsidies

Former employees describe pervasive illegality at company under investigation by DOL and USCIS

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Oct 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/spanish-firm-under-federal-investigation-wins-230-million-in-doe-subsidies/>

[SEPP Comment: See link from Greenpeace immediately above.]

Other Scientific News

Doctors Chief: CDC Curbs Secondhand Smoke More Than Ebola

By Bill Hoffmann and Todd Beamon, Newsmax, Oct 16, 2014

http://www.newsmax.com/Newsmax-Tv/cdc-chief-thomas-freiden-evaded/2014/10/16/id/601244/?ns_mail_uid=33788306&ns_mail_job=1590903_10172014&s=al&dkt_nbr=hlhzypsh

Halting the spread of Ebola: Case of Nigeria a model for quick action, scientists find

Rapid control measures critical to stopping the virus in its tracks

By Cheryl Dybas, NSF, Oct 16, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133050&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Terence Corcoran: WHO battles climate and sugar, misses Ebola

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Oct 14, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://business.financialpost.com/2014/10/14/terence-corcoran-who-and-world-bank-fail-ebola-crisis/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

When Racism Was a Science,

‘Haunted Files: The Eugenics Record Office’ Recreates a Dark Time in a Laboratory’s Past

By Joshua Krich, NYT, Oct 13, 2014

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/14/science/haunted-files-the-eugenics-record-office-recreates-a-dark-time-in-a-laboratorys-past.html?emc=edit_th_20141014&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=59831859

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Ebola: ‘Consequence of Deforestation and Climate Change’

By Penny Starr, CNS News, Oct 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-ebola-consequence-deforestation-and-climate>

Link to web site: Conservation Implications of the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

By Staff Writers, US Fish and Wildlife, No date

<https://www.fws.gov/international/publications-and-media/ebola-outbreak.html>

“Ebola appears to be a direct consequence of deforestation and human disturbance, the article stated. Outbreaks are linked to long dry seasons (a consequence of deforestation and climate change), during which there is scarcity of food in the forest...”

Energy: a cure for megalomania

By Richard North, EU Referendum, Oct 14, 2014

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=85249>

Eye roller – ‘Concrete’s life span is shortened by climate change’

Tell it to the Romans, who used concrete to build The Coliseum, which is still standing.

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/15/eye-roller-concretes-life-span-is-shortened-by-climate-change/>

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ARTICLES:

1. The Climate Sensitivity Controversy

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Oct 15, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/10/the_climate_sensitivity_controversy.html

The concept of Climate Sensitivity (CS) is a useful way to describe the effects of carbon dioxide on the climate. CS can be derived either from climate models or empirically – with the hope that the two results are concordant. Let's look at models first.

Some 30 years ago, the National Academy of Sciences set up a group under MIT meteorologist Jule Charney to study this problem. Their report arrived at a CS value of 1.5 to 4.5 degC of global climate warming for a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide. One immediately notices the huge uncertainty, a factor of 3. Yet the climate forcing of CO₂ is known much more precisely.

The explanation for this wide uncertainty range of CS lies in our imperfect knowledge of (1) feedback from clouds and from water vapor (WV is the most important atmospheric greenhouse gas) and (2) the radiative effects of aerosols in changing the albedo of the Earth atmosphere and thereby the amount of sunlight reaching the surface.

This range of 1.5 – 4.5 degC has become canonical by now. In fact, the most recent report of the IPCC [2013] gives the same range for CS—even after ~~25~~ [35] years and spending billions of dollars on the development of climate models. As my colleague Kenneth Haapala points out, it's been a poor return on investment.

Of course, the models have become much more sophisticated and complex. And the number of models has increased exponentially. Every self-respecting nation nowadays wants to have its own climate model; the United States already has five major ones and is considering financing yet another. But fundamentally, not much has changed. The extent of the positive feedback from water vapor, which implicitly amplifies the forcing of CO₂ in all of the models, is still uncertain and so are the detailed influences of cloudiness and of various kinds of aerosols.

It is well to point out that we refer here to the so-called “equilibrium climate sensitivity,” which is reached after the climate system has had time to adjust to the higher CO₂ levels. One should also point out that CS refers to a doubling of pre-industrial CO₂ -- assuming a value of 280ppm. Also, CO₂ forcing increases only as the logarithm of CO₂ concentration, although this fact is seldom explicitly recognized.

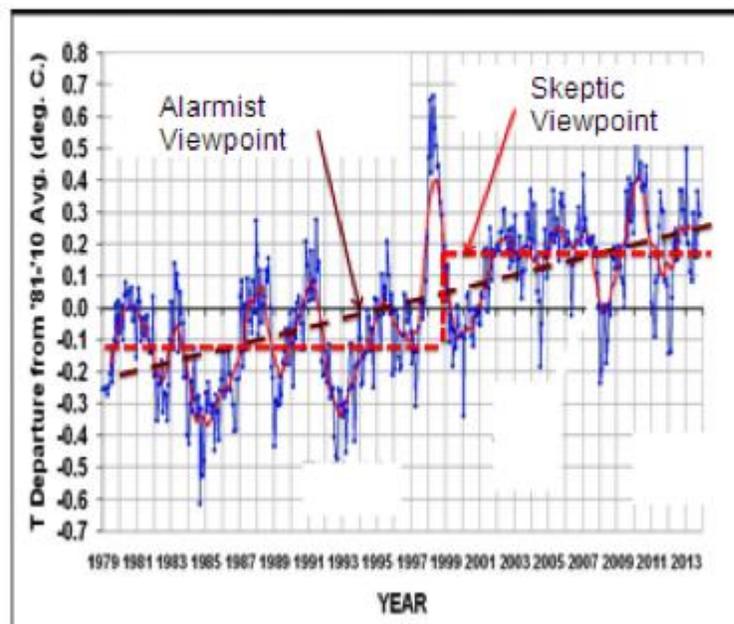
Of course, the proper way to determine Climate Sensitivity (CS) is empirically -- by using the climate data. But at this point many problems arise. First, selection of the proper time interval. It is generally recognized that there has been little if any warming in the last 18 years; so presumably, the climate sensitivity of the 21st century is effectively zero. Analysts of CS have therefore concentrated their efforts on the “reported” warming of the Earth's surface between 1975 and 2000 (which may not even be real). These analysts have published a dozen or more “best numbers” -- generally near 1.5 degC, the lower end of the CS range of the models.

A dispute among skeptics

All these analyses are based on the warming of the last part of the 20th century -- from about 1978 to 2000 -- the so called “satellite era.” But there is no reason at all to define climate sensitivity in terms of surface temperature. Since the best global data we have come from weather satellites, it makes sense to use their atmospheric temperatures as the base for determining CS.

But the satellite data do not seem to show a warming trend -- although there is a dispute on this point even among so-called "climate skeptics." One can illustrate this dispute by looking at the graph below. If one draws a best straight line through all of the satellite data from 1978 to 2013, one can discern a small positive (warming) trend. But is this really the best way to describe the situation? Another way is to draw a line of zero slope up to 1997, note a one-year spike in 1998 (caused by a Super El Nino), and then document a sudden increase ("jump") around 2001 and zero trend thereafter. Clearly, if the trend is zero between 1978 and 1997, then the climate sensitivity will be close to zero also.

Two Opposing Views



[Graph by Don Rapp, based on UAH-MSU data]

I happen to disagree with both methods described in the graph. I note that after the 1998 spike, temperature returns to its pre-1998 lower value -- between 1999 and 2000. I would therefore put the "jump", the step-like increase, at around 2001-2002. We now have zero slopes both before 2000 and after 2002 -- and therefore corresponding values of CS which are close to zero.

The moral of the story is that the best empirical data we have show very little influence on global temperatures from rising CO2 levels.

Two scientific puzzles

Now there are still two puzzles:

First, why is there so little post-2002 warming from carbon dioxide -- which after all is a greenhouse gas and is increasing in the atmosphere? The best answer I can think of is a *negative* feedback from water vapor -- not a positive feedback -- which counteracts the forcing

produced by CO₂. Similarly, one could argue for a negative feedback from increased cloudiness. However, it is necessary to demonstrate both of these feedback possibilities empirically by examining the appropriate data.

An additional possibility may exist, namely that the forcing increase of CO₂ is close to zero at just about the value that exists in the atmosphere today. Again this needs to be demonstrated by examining the appropriate data.

Finally, another puzzle: If indeed the climate sensitivity is close to zero from 1978-to 2000, and again from 2002 to present, why do surface thermometers indicate a warming trend only in the first interval, but not in the second interval? What accounts for the reported warming during the period 1978-2000?

All of this requires a good deal of work to investigate various plausible hypotheses, which we'll leave for another time. Meanwhile, to quote Nobel laureate MIT professor Robert Solow: "Maybe that's why God created graduate students."

I should note that I am somewhat out of step here with my fellow skeptics. Few of them would agree with me that the climate sensitivity (CS) is indeed close to zero. I will have to publish the analyses to prove my point and try to convince them. Of course, nothing, no set of facts, will ever convince the confirmed climate alarmists.

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2. A Nobel Economist's Caution About Government

Friedrich Hayek warned that intervening can make things worse. ObamaCare and Dodd-Frank, anyone?

By Donald Boudreaux and Todd Zywicki, WSJ, Oct 12, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/donald-boudreaux-and-todd-zywicki-a-nobel-economists-caution-about-government-1413150678>

Forty years ago the Nobel Prize in Economic Science was awarded to a scholar who believed the prize perhaps should not exist. As he graciously accepted the distinction in 1974, Austrian-British economist Friedrich A. Hayek worried aloud that thinking of economics as a science might fuel what he called "the pretense of knowledge"—the idea that anyone could know enough to engineer society successfully. He was right to fret.

Hayek's greatest contribution to economics was to show that society is far more complex than we realize, with little pieces of knowledge dispersed among millions of individuals. "The curious task of economics," he famously wrote in "The Fatal Conceit," which he published in 1988, "is to demonstrate to men how little they really know about what they imagine they can design."

Recent government interventions suggest that politicians and bureaucrats today think they can design just about anything. This ignorance has backfired, as it always does, bringing with it what economists call “unintended consequences.”

Consider the Affordable Care Act. The law’s mandates, restrictions, prohibitions, taxes and subsidies are meant to make health insurance universally available. Yet since its passage in 2010, the proportion of Americans lacking health insurance has fallen only to 13% from 16%, according to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Millions of Americans have faced higher premiums, often losing their preferred doctors, contrary to what President Obama predicted and promised.

Thanks to the hastily written law’s incentives, ObamaCare also has been a drag on employment. About 18% of employers surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in August said that the ACA caused them to reduce the number of workers they employ. Only 3% of employers credit the ACA with enabling them to hire more workers. Those who are being hired often find their workweek capped at 29 hours, not coincidentally just one hour less than the definition of “full time” under the ACA.

Or take the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, the financial reform legislation enacted after the 2008 meltdown. The law empowers the federal government to centrally manage the risks of the American financial system, as it seeks to prevent another crisis and eliminate the problem of too-big-to-fail banks. Yet large banks still reap a \$70 billion annual subsidy from the continued market perception that they will be rescued if trouble arises, according to a March report from the International Monetary Fund.

Enter the unintended consequences. Dodd-Frank has created nearly 400 new regulations, slapping the industry with more than \$20 billion in new compliance costs, according to research from the American Action Forum. Even worse, these regulations tend to fall more heavily on small banks that cannot absorb the new costs as easily as their giant rivals that were the supposed risks to the economy should they flounder.

In addition, many of Dodd-Frank’s costs are passed on to consumers in the form of higher bank fees and reduced bank services. Expensive bank fees then drive many consumers out of the mainstream financial system and into the arms of payday lenders. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. estimates that the number of “unbanked” consumers in America rose by one million from 2009 to 2011, while payday lending has boomed during the same period. That was not the plan.

Such hubris and its inevitable results would not have surprised Hayek. In the 1970s, he saw government policies create the inflation they were designed to avoid. Government has shown again and again the folly of efforts to centrally direct complex systems.

What does Hayek recommend? A little humility. “We shall not grow wiser before we learn that much that we have done was very foolish,” he wrote in his 1944 masterpiece, “The Road to Serfdom.” It was the book’s central lesson that hubris makes us not only poorer but also less free. Today’s leaders would be wise to become better students of the late Nobel laureate.

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3. How to Stop Winning Nobel Prizes in Science

Washington's vacillating commitment to basic research makes scientific breakthroughs less likely.

By Thomas Cech and Steven Chu, WSJ, Oct 15, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/thomas-r-cech-and-steven-chu-how-to-stop-winning-nobel-prizes-in-science-1413415299?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

In recent days the world learned the names of those men and women honored with the three science Nobel Prizes. The breakthroughs for which these prizes were awarded—the development of blue light-emitting diodes (LEDs), game-changing advances in light microscopes, and the discovery of an “inner GPS” in the brain—have revolutionized light sources, imaging for biomedicine, and our understanding of how our brains create spatial sense of the world around us.

One might think the process of scientific discovery is straightforward, swift and inexorable. In truth, these three words rarely apply to any research, and even less so to fundamental, curiosity-driven research that pushes the boundaries of human knowledge. The 2014 Nobel Prizes provide striking examples.

British-American scientist John O’Keefe’s 1971 discovery of “place cells,” neurons that track particular places in the environment, required a decade of dedicated research. Even then, a second major component of the brain’s navigation system, “grid cells,” were not uncovered until 2005 by the Norwegian couple May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser, who share this year’s Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The Physics prize was awarded to Japan’s Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano and Japanese-American scientist Shuji Nakamura for two decades of work, beginning with the quest to grow high-quality crystals of gallium nitride, a key ingredient in blue LEDs. Their achievement wouldn’t have been possible without work done in the 1960s on semiconductor heterostructures, invented to improve transistors and recognized much later by the 2000 Nobel Prize.

The path to dramatic improvements in fluorescence microscopy took an equally circuitous path. American William E. Moerner, recipient of this year’s chemistry prize, began his work on single molecule detection as a memory storage device in the late 1980s. American scientist Eric Betzig and German scientist Stefan W. Hell, who share in the prize, investigated several different approaches to improve the resolution of optical microscopy and their own decade-and-a-half journey was interwoven with the contributions of many others.

The discovery process isn’t simple or inevitable. Certainly it involves a creative spark, but it also demands uninterrupted and steadfast effort that builds on knowledge collected over generations. It is therefore worrying that the primary funding source for fundamental research in the U.S., the federal government, relies on systems that don’t match the need for steady, sustained support over the long term. For decades, federal funding for basic research has looked more like a roller coaster than a steady march.

This vacillation in the government's commitment to basic research makes strategic planning all but impossible for the nation's research institutions including universities, medical schools and national laboratories, and the companies they partner with.

It also has a devastating effect on researchers. Last year, roughly 16% of scientists funded the previous year by R01 grants—the National Institutes of Health's mainstay research grant—didn't have their grants renewed. This attempt at federal "cost saving" amounts to incalculable hours of potentially groundbreaking research at thousands of labs being left to languish and perhaps lost entirely. Holding scientists to high standards is essential, but investing in projects and then pulling the plug before they reach fruition is wasteful and demoralizing.

Of course, research requires more than just funding; it requires solid and secure infrastructure, cutting-edge instrumentation and outstanding people who believe a stable career in science research is possible. In short, not only must we invest, but also we must generate a framework in which that investment can thrive.

As we honor this year's Nobelists and celebrate their achievements, we should reflect on the long path to discovery and the benefits that research brings. Color LED displays have given us energy-efficient lighting, single-molecule imaging is already leading to new biomedical discoveries, and we now have an answer to the age-old question of science and philosophy of how our brains navigate the world around us.

These research projects in the U.S., Japan and Europe were fueled by steady investments in basic research, the foundation of any Nobel Prize in science. Is America in the position to do the same for the future?

Mr. Cech, a professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Mr. Chu, a professor at Stanford University and former U.S energy secretary, shared the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics.

4. The Ebola Twilight of Public Institutions

The WHO and CDC are failing in their core health mission.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 16, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-ebola-twilight-of-public-institutions-1413415407>

On Wednesday the World Health Organization warned of the threat of a global plague, which can cause "vomiting, marked hypocalcemia, metabolic acidosis, convulsions and, in rare cases, even death." Ebola? No, the WHO culprit is the overconsumption of energy drinks.

The Ebola catastrophe in West Africa has now claimed more than 4,500 lives and the disease continues to spread geometrically, while an outbreak in a major European or North American city would lead to more severe economic dislocation. But the tragedy is also ruthlessly exposing the decay of the once-eminent public institutions that were established to contain such transnational contagions—organizations both international and domestic.

The United Nations-run WHO has long been a growing irrelevance, as director-general Margaret Chan spent the week not in Monrovia but Moscow, pontificating at a WHO conference aimed at raising global tobacco taxes. More disquieting are the failures of the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention and the rest of the American public health establishment, which is supposed to be run by the government's finest.

Yet on Wednesday it emerged that a second person has been infected with Ebola on U.S. soil, another nurse who treated the Liberian national who died of the virus in Texas. The night before she came down with fever and tested positive, she returned on a flight to Dallas-Forth Worth from a weekend in Cleveland along with 132 other passengers and crew.

CDC director Thomas Frieden said that health-care workers were not under active Ebola observation like the Dallas civilians who may have been exposed, but were instead "self monitoring" for symptoms. They were not supposed to travel on public transportation or commercial flights. Nor could he explain the new cases of transmission except as an unspecified "breach of protocol," perhaps when they removed hazmat suits.

The new victim was not vomiting or bleeding in the air (how reassuring) and thus was unlikely contagious. Yet the CDC claims the Dallas Ebola burst—while still minor—is under control except when it isn't. It would be easier to trust the official appeals for calm if officials did not keep supplying reasons to believe otherwise, or behaving as if it is absurd to fear a pathogen that liquefies internal organs.

An Ebola outbreak on the Eastern seaboard or some other densely populated region could well cost billions of dollars to contain and perhaps throw the economy into recession, akin to the 2009 swine flu pandemic in Asia. The possibility is very remote, and Washington is marginally more accountable than China. Then again, the CDC said domestic cases were improbable too.

President Obama cancelled campaign events for an emergency White House meeting Wednesday and promised a "much more aggressive" U.S. response. "These protocols work," he added. But he had heralded "an all-hands-on-deck approach" earlier this month "to make sure that we are addressing this as aggressively as possible," and in September he had said that "the chances of an Ebola outbreak here in the United States are extremely low."

Mr. Obama would have done more good by condemning the WHO. Responding to microbiological disasters is supposedly why the WHO exists—and tens of thousands of people may die as a result of the U.N.'s failure of this test of its mission, priorities and competence. "Yes, Ebola is truly an issue of international concern," Dr. Chan told reporters in Russia, "but tobacco—if we put the evidence on the table—tobacco control is still the most cost-effective and efficient way of reducing unnecessary diseases and deaths arising from using such harmful products."

Since the 1990s, the WHO has gradually transformed itself from a disease fighter to what Dr. Chan calls "a normative agency" that makes international public health rules and promotes political goals like universal coverage. "That represented a very significant change over prior WHO policies," says Laurie Garrett of the Council on Foreign Relations, who calls the WHO's response to the epidemic "just shameful."

The WHO rebooted its emergency "roadmap" this summer to include assisting local hospitals, dispensing gear and (of course) "raising awareness" of Ebola. But mostly the agency thinks the emergency is due to inadequate funding of about \$2 billion a year.

The reality is that world-wide public health spending has quadrupled to \$27 billion in the last two decades, but this tide of resources has bypassed the WHO bureaucracy to flow through other institutions like the World Bank or George W. Bush 's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and especially philanthropies like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. WHO's budget is nearly twice that of Médecins Sans Frontières, which has provided far more relief to West Africa.

The World Health Organization ought to be defunded to discipline its ineptitude and frivolity. Start with the caffeine division, and hand the money to a more serious and capable institution. The problem these days is identifying which that might be.

5. Who Do They Think We Are?

The administration's Ebola evasions reveal its disdain for the American people.

By Peggy Noonan, WSJ, Oct 16, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/who-do-they-think-we-are-1413502475>

The administration's handling of the Ebola crisis continues to be marked by double talk, runaround and gobbledegook. And its logic is worse than its language. In many of its actions, especially its public pronouncements, the government is functioning not as a soother of public anxiety but the cause of it.

An example this week came in the dialogue between Megyn Kelly of Fox News and Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control.

Their conversation focused largely on the government's refusal to stop travel into the United States by citizens of plague nations. "Why not put a travel ban in place," Ms. Kelly asked, while we shore up the U.S. public-health system?

Dr. Frieden replied that we now have screening at airports, and "we've already recommended that all nonessential travel to these countries be stopped for Americans." He added: "We're always looking at ways that we can better protect Americans."

"But this is one," Ms. Kelly responded.

Dr. Frieden implied a travel ban would be harmful: "If we do things that are going to make it harder to stop the epidemic there, it's going to spread to other parts of—"

Ms. Kelly interjected, asking how keeping citizens from the affected regions out of America would make it harder to stop Ebola in Africa.

"Because you can't get people in and out."

"Why can't we have charter flights?"

"You know, charter flights don't do the same thing commercial airliners do."

"What do you mean? They fly in and fly out."

Dr. Frieden replied that limiting travel between African nations would slow relief efforts. “If we isolate these countries, what’s not going to happen is disease staying there. It’s going to spread more all over Africa and we’ll be at higher risk.”

Later in the interview, Ms. Kelly noted that we still have airplanes coming into the U.S. from Liberia, with passengers expected to self-report Ebola exposure.

Dr. Frieden responded: “Ultimately the only way—and you may not like this—but the only way we will get our risk to zero here is to stop the outbreak in Africa.”

Ms. Kelly said yes, that’s why we’re sending troops. But why can’t we do that and have a travel ban?

“If it spreads more in Africa, it’s going to be more of a risk to us here. Our only goal is protecting Americans—that’s our mission. We do that by protecting people here and by stopping threats abroad. That protects Americans.”

Dr. Frieden’s logic was a bit of a heart-stopper. In fact his responses were more non sequiturs than answers. We cannot ban people at high risk of Ebola from entering the U.S. because people in West Africa have Ebola, and we don’t want it to spread. Huh?

In testimony before Congress Thursday, Dr. Frieden was not much more straightforward. His answers often sound like filibusters: long, rolling paragraphs of benign assertion, advertising slogans—“We know how to stop Ebola,” “Our focus is protecting people”—occasionally extraneous data, and testimony to the excellence of our health-care professionals.

It is my impression that everyone who speaks for the government on this issue has been instructed to imagine his audience as anxious children. It feels like how the pediatrician talks to the child, not the parents. It’s as if they’ve been told: “Talk, talk, talk, but don’t say anything. Clarity is the enemy.”

The language of government now is word-spew.

Dr. Frieden did not explain his or the government’s thinking on the reasons for opposition to a travel ban. On the other hand, he noted that the government will consider all options in stopping the virus from spreading here, so perhaps that marks the beginning of a possible concession.

It is one thing that Dr. Frieden, and those who are presumably making the big decisions, have been so far incapable of making a believable and compelling case for not instituting a ban. A separate issue is how poor a decision it is. To call it childish would be unfair to children. In fact, if you had a group of 11-year-olds, they would surely have a superior answer to the question: “Sick people are coming through the door of the house, and we are not sure how to make them well. Meanwhile they are starting to make us sick, too. What is the first thing to do?”

The children would reply: “Close the door.” One would add: “Just for a while, while you figure out how to treat everyone getting sick.” Another might say: “And keep going outside the door in protective clothing with medical help.” Eleven-year-olds would get this one right without a lot of struggle.

If we don't momentarily close the door to citizens of the affected nations, it is certain that more cases will come into the U.S. It is hard to see how that helps anyone. Closing the door would be no guarantee of safety—nothing is guaranteed, and the world is porous. But it would reduce risk and likelihood, which itself is worthwhile.

Africa, by the way, seems to understand this. The Associated Press on Thursday reported the continent's health-care officials had limited the threat to only five countries with the help of border controls, travel restrictions, and aggressive and sophisticated tracking.

All of which returns me to my thoughts the past few weeks. Back then I'd hear the official wordage that doesn't amount to a logical thought, and the unspoken air of "We don't want to panic you savages," and I'd look at various public officials and muse: "Who do you think you are?"

Now I think, "Who do they think we are?"

Does the government think if America is made to feel safer, she will forget the needs of the Ebola nations? But Americans, more than anyone else, are the volunteers, altruists and in a few cases saints who go to the Ebola nations to help. And they were doing it long before the Western media was talking about the disease, and long before America was experiencing it.

At the Ebola hearings Thursday, Rep. Henry Waxman (D., Calif.) said, I guess to the American people: "Don't panic." No one's panicking—except perhaps the administration, which might explain its decisions.

Is it always the most frightened people who run around telling others to calm down?

This week the president canceled a fundraiser and returned to the White House to deal with the crisis. He made a statement and came across as about three days behind the story—"rapid response teams" and so forth. It reminded some people of the statement in July, during another crisis, of the president's communications director, who said that when a president rushes back to Washington, it "can have the unintended consequence of unduly alarming the American people." Yes, we're such sissies. Actually, when Mr. Obama eschews a fundraiser to go to his office to deal with a public problem we are not scared, only surprised.

But again, who do they think we are? You gather they see us as poor, panic-stricken people who want a travel ban because we're beside ourselves with fear and loathing. Instead of practical, realistic people who are way ahead of our government.

6. The Pentagon Goes to Climate War

Hagel wants to retool the military to stop glaciers from melting.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 14, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-pentagon-goes-to-climate-war-1413329782>

Army Chief of Staff Ray Odierno delivered a stark message on Monday, warning that the U.S. Army is shrinking to a dangerously small size even as the threats it faces are multiplying.

"We've seen Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, we've seen ISIS, we've seen some increased instability in other places," the general told a military conference. "So I now have a concern

whether even going below 490,000 [troops] is the right thing to do.” Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced in February that the Army would shrink to about 450,000 soldiers by 2017. General Odierno’s modest suggestion to the political class: Maybe now is a good time to rethink the cuts.

How quaint. As General Odierno was fielding questions about whether ISIS—currently 15 miles from Baghdad airport—could take the Iraqi capital, the Pentagon released its 2014 “Climate Change Adaptation Forecast,” a roadmap for how the Pentagon intends to deal with what Secretary of State John Kerry recently called “the biggest challenge of all that we face right now.”

The report contains the usual global-warming platitudes that have become standard government and industry fare. The goal is to “integrate climate change considerations across the Department and manage associated risks,” and “collaborate with internal and external stakeholders on climate change challenges.” In a foreword, Mr. Hagel explains that climate change is a “threat multiplier” that “has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today—from infectious disease to terrorism.”

The principal threats being multiplied here are hype and hysteria. Current fears about the Ebola virus notwithstanding, the last century of increasing carbon-dioxide emissions has also been the era of the conquest of infectious disease, from polio to HIV. No one has made a credible link between Ebola and climate change, though no doubt somebody will soon try.

As for terrorism, the Pentagon’s job is to defeat jihadist forces that are advancing under the flag of Islamist ideology. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan did not murder his fellow soldiers at Fort Hood because the heat got to him, and Americans who might die at the hands of the Islamic State won’t care that Mr. Hagel is mobilizing against melting glaciers.

The report doesn’t spell out particular steps beyond the usual surveys and studies, though these inevitably take their toll in expensive paperwork and bureaucratic attention. But it’s of a piece with efforts by the military to go green that are a costly drain on scarce Pentagon resources. The Navy has a plan to generate 50% of its energy from alternative sources by 2020, including buying \$3.5 billion in biofuels, and it has also awarded contracts to build so-called biorefineries. It’s partly through ideologically motivated boondoggles like these that the Navy finds itself with a mere 283 ships, down from 337 in 1999.

The military has often been used as a vehicle for social change, and sometimes—as in Harry Truman’s 1948 desegregation order—that can be a force for good. For now, what the U.S. and the world most need is credible and sufficient American military power to deter and defeat our enemies. Issuing politically correct bows against a speculative threat from climate change when ISIS is at the gates of Baghdad will only convince those enemies that we lack the will to do so.

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