

The Week That Was: 2019-02-16 (February 16, 2019)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better”* – attributed to Albert Einstein.

Number of the Week: \$425 billion plus back-up

THIS WEEK:

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

A Note on Outgoing Longwave Radiation (Infrared Radiation): TWTW is trying to prepare a clear explanation of the effects of greenhouse gases and how the effects can be measured. They cannot be measured from the surface. The theory involves specialized fields such as theoretical molecular physics and mathematics such as integral equations. The physicists who review TWTW requested that TWTW explanations be reviewed by specialists to ensure there are no significant errors. This is being done, but the discussion of outgoing Infrared Radiation has been delayed.

The Green New Deal: There has been a great deal written about the Green New Deal over the past week. Many criticisms are linked below to include absurd claims by the promoters. Among the more outrageous claims of the proponents not discussed are analogies to the Marshall Plan and to the mobilization for World War II. It is apparent that proponents do not understand either.

The Marshall Plan, the European Recovery Program (ERP), was a great improvement in the attitudes of the victors following World War II, over the attitude of the victors following World War I, with the Treaty of Versailles. The Treaty of Versailles was designed to punish the vanquished and their citizens, the Marshall Plan set out to rebuild the economies of Europe providing prosperity for the citizens. President Truman was a Democrat and Congress was controlled by the Republicans. Much to the credit of the leaders of both groups, they set aside political differences to pass legislation benefiting European recovery from the devastating war.

However, scarcely discussed, the results were very uneven in Western Europe. (The Soviet Union came out with its own plan and implemented it in Eastern Europe.) A student familiar with economic statistics traveling in Western Europe in the early 1970s could note the difference in prosperity between West Germany and the UK. West Germany was thriving, the UK was stagnating, with its citizens facing increasing costs for necessary items. Yet, the UK received more funding from the Marshall Plan than West Germany.

One can attribute part of the difference in prosperity to the way in which the governments treated the funds from the Marshall Plan. The German government distributed the funds to local leaders, with proper accounting controls, as loans, to be repaid. The localities invested the funds accordingly. The UK government used the funds to strengthen control over private industries. It appears the Green New Deal is more along the lines of establishing greater federal control of private industries than promoting prosperity.

The second analogy of mobilizing for WWII is more disturbing. Contrary to what many believe, the original New Deal did not solve unemployment. World War II did. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1939 as the draft was starting, the total labor force was 55,600,000 with 370,000 in the armed services, which was increasing. Unemployment was 9,480,000 and the civilian unemployment rate was about 17%. In 1933, at the depth of the depression, the unemployment rate was 33%. By contrast today's unemployment rate is about 4%. Further, BLS surveys show the number of job openings exceeds the number of people unemployed by about one million. The nation does not need to mobilize for war.

If there is an analogy to war for the New Green Deal, it is in Vietnam – when the national leaders did not understand the enemy or how to confront the enemy. Many young men and women believed that the Johnson Administration and the “Whiz Kids” in the Pentagon under Robert McNamara would not send hundreds of thousands of combat troops to Southeast Asia without a well-thought-out strategic plan. They were wrong.

As the Pentagon Papers partially show, the planning for Vietnam was inept. The advice of many experienced military leaders was ignored in favor of a “can-do” attitude. That attitude can be important, but needs proper direction, which the Johnson Administration did not give. Why President Nixon tried to suppress the Pentagon Papers containing severe criticism of his political opponents remains a mystery.

The proponents of the Green New Deal do not understand the difference between natural climate change and human-caused climate change. As John Christy has frequently demonstrated, the climate models used by proponents of dire global warming / climate change, greatly overestimate atmospheric temperature trends, where the greenhouse gas effect occurs. This is similar to proponents of the commitment of ground troops into Vietnam greatly overestimating the threat to the United States, particularly since we had the naval and mining capacity to block the key port used to supply North Vietnam.

The Green New Deal ignores the simple fact that wind and solar do not, and cannot, produce consistent, reliable electricity. Thus, these are a completely inadequate replacement for electricity generated by fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydro – unfit for modern civilization. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, Questioning Green Elsewhere,

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1948/article/pdf/labor-force-employment-and-unemployment-1929-39-estimating-methods.pdf>, and <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

Tale of Two States: Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Manhattan Institute senior fellow Robert Bryce brings out the dramatic difference in the political treatment of natural gas drilling between Pennsylvania and New York. Both states sit on the rich Marcellus Shale formation. Pennsylvania is exporting natural gas, via pipeline, then converted to Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and shipped to Asia or Europe. New York State has virtually banned hydraulic fracturing, needed to extract natural gas from Marcellus Shale.

Consolidated Edison, an energy utility in New York has announced a moratorium on new natural gas connections in its area. Such moratoria were common in the 1970s when it was commonly accepted the country was about to “run-out” of natural gas.

As Bryce states, what make the moratorium even more interesting is that, due to political pressure, New York's Indian Point Energy Center, a nuclear facility, is scheduled to be shut down

in 2021, taking 2,069-megawatts off line. The only current alternative are three gas-fired generators, two of which are in New York State.

The article prompted TWTW to do some further digging into natural gas production in Pennsylvania and New York. In 2006, before the shale revolution, Pennsylvania produced 175,950 mcf of natural gas, in 2017 it produced 5,463,888 mcf, an increase of 3100%. In 2006, New York produced 55,980 mcf, in 2017 it produced 11,395 mcf, a decline of 80%. Many New York politicians are promoters of the Green New Deal, this must be what they have in mind. See Article # 2 and https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_prod_sum_a_EPG0_VGM_mmcf_a.htm

California Rail: Last week's TWTW discussed the escalating costs of former Governor Brown's high-speed rail linking San Francisco to Los Angeles. The Green New Deal has visions of replacing air travel with high speed rail. This week, the new California Governor, Gavin Newsom, put the brakes on the train. He is proposing to finish the initial planned route from Merced to Bakersfield, with the goal of revitalizing the rural areas harmed by the cut-off of irrigation water. Mr. Newsom stated: "there simply isn't a path to get from Sacramento to San Diego, let alone from San Francisco to LA." Perhaps someone showed him a map of the populated areas. See link under California Dreaming.

Additions and Corrections: TWTW reader Christopher Game writes: "In my opinion, your argument, that the earth's surface is heating faster than the lower atmosphere and that consequently the heating is not due to added CO2, is an important, very good, and valid argument. I think it is one of the few very simple, reliable, and decisive arguments against the IPCC and its acolytes. I would like to see it used widely."

"I presented it to one local expert here, a man very much on our side, against the IPCC and its acolytes. He wanted not just a comparison of global average temperature rates of increase. He wanted to know that the comparison between surface and lower atmosphere temperature rates of increase is favorable for all, or at least most latitudes or localities.

"Can you offer some help to verify that the comparison between surface and lower atmosphere temperature rates of increase is favorable for all, or at least most latitudes or localities? This would make it much easier to promulgate your excellent argument more widely."

The request is realistic, but we simply do not have the data. Atmospheric temperature trends are taken by measuring large volumes of air. The closest to any regional data are in the global maps, produced by the University of Alabama in Huntsville, which show 40-year trends covering regions, not locations. Surface measurements are basically pin-pricks.

Carbon dioxide-caused global warming proponents, such as NASA-GISS, try to generalize these pin-pricks. But these generalizations are highly questionable. For example, as mentioned in the Feb 9 TWTW under Measurement Issues – Surface, NOAA does not show surface temperatures for the polar regions where there are no thermometers, NASA-GISS does. NOAA states: "Please Note: Gray areas represent missing data." In most of these areas NASA-GISS generally shows warming. Also, NASA-GISS shows surface cooling of the Antarctic, where satellite atmospheric trends show warming.

What is particularly disturbing about Antarctica is that the only warming shown in atmospheric data is about 0 to 80 degrees east longitude, yet NASA-GISS shows cooling there and warming over most of the continent and the surrounding seas.

Number of the Week: \$425 billion plus back-up: *Wall Street Journal* reader wrote a letter estimating that to replace the approximately 850 gigawatts of uranium and fossil-fuel installed electricity capacity in the U.S. as of 2016 would require about \$425 billion, without back-up. His calculations assume significant reductions in costs ranging from one-third to one-sixth of current costs. (Highly unlikely in a mature industry.)

Using rough calculations by the late Roger Andrews for California, alone; the cost of battery back-up would be about 20 times that number bringing the total cost to the country to about \$9 Trillion. According to the White House Budget Office, the total federal government outlays in 2019 will be \$4.4 Trillion with a deficit of \$984 Billion. New Deals are not cheap. Perhaps we will have a technological break-through in extracting sun-beams from cucumbers as described by Jonathan Swift in Gulliver's Travels.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

New Findings From German Scientists Show Changes in Precipitation Over Europe Linked To Solar Activity

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 15, 2019

<http://notrickszone.com/2019/02/15/new-findings-from-german-scientists-show-changes-in-precipitation-over-europe-linked-to-solar-activity/>

Link to paper: Influence of solar activity changes on European rainfall

By Ludger Laurenz, Horst-Joachim Lüdecke and Sebastian Lüning, Journal of atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, April 2019

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364682618305273?via%3Dihub>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2014

<http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2b/pdf/Full-Report.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, Draft Summary for Policymakers, NIPCC, 2019

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Reconsidered-II-Fossil-Fuels-FULL-Volume-with-covers.pdf>

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, NIPCC, Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Old Warmth in the Sea and New Cold in the Living Room

By Prof Fritz Vahrenholt, Achse des Guten, Via GWPF, Feb 12, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/old-warmth-in-the-sea-and-new-cold-in-the-living-room/>

“In other words, the sensitivity of the climate to CO₂ is much smaller than previously assumed.”

“The IPCC report will therefore have to be fundamentally revised. There is much to be said that if CO₂ is doubled, the temperature increase will not be 1.85°C (IPCC) but 1.3°C at most. Thus, there is no reason to fear that the 1.5°/2°C targets will be exceeded in this century.”

Global climate change is political not scientific

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Feb 14, 2019

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

[blog/global-climate-change-is-a-political-not-scientific-movement/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/global-climate-change-is-a-political-not-scientific-movement/)

‘Insect Collapse’: “Hyper-Alarming” Study Was Hype

Press Release, GWPF, Feb 11, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/insect-collapse-hyper-alarming-study-was-hype/>

[SEPP Comment: Showing the problems in the one set of surface temperature data leading to the alarm. Perhaps another set of data could show how the planet will be overwhelmed by insects.]

What’s Natural? Changing Sea Levels – Part 1

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Feb 13, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/02/13/whats-natural-changing-sea-levels-part-1/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Bill McKibben: Climate Change Is Scary—Not the Green New Deal

It’s very clear that conservatives have one plan for dealing with the popularity of the Green New Deal: scaring the hell out of people.

By Bill McKibben, Yes, Feb 14, 2019 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/bill-mcKibben-climate-change-is-scary-not-the-green-new-Deal-aoc-20190214>

“A return to the Dark Ages is what happened in California last fall, when old people burned to death in their cars while stuck in traffic jams trying to flee deadly wildfires.”

[SEPP Comment: After government placed a “road diet” on a key road out?]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Gates on renewables: How would Tokyo survive a 3 day typhoon with unreliable energy?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 14, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/02/gates-on-renewables-how-would-tokyo-survive-a-3-day-typhoon-with-unreliable-energy/>

It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, World. Guest opinion: Dr. Tim Ball

By Tim Ball, Digital Management, Feb 14, 2019

<http://drtimball.ca/2019/its-a-mad-mad-mad-mad-world-guest-opinion-dr-tim-ball/>

“What McLuhan didn't allow was that in a village the most destructive person is the gossip. Before the Internet, the mainstream media were the gossips in the global village.”

Terence Corcoran: Whether Earth's population booms or busts, the future still looks promising

Two vital new books from Canadian writers on the alleged population crisis suggest we can all relax

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Can, Feb 13, 2019

<https://business.financialpost.com/opinion/terence-corcoran-whether-earths-population-booms-or-busts-the-future-still-looks-promising>

The GWPF 2019 Temperature Prediction Competition

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Feb 8, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/2019-temperature-prediction-competition/>

Social Benefits of Carbon Dioxide

China and India Lead the Way in Greening

By Abby Tabor, NASA Ames Research Center Earth Observatory, 2019 [H/t GWPF]

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/144540/china-and-india-lead-the-way-in-greening>

Link to paper: China and India lead in greening of the world through land-use management, By Chi Chen, et al. Nature Sustainability, Feb 11, 2019

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-019-0220-7>

“Once people realize there is a problem, they tend to fix it,” he said. “In the 1970s and 80s in India and China, the situation around vegetation loss was not good. In the 1990s, people realized it, and today things have improved. Humans are incredibly resilient. That's what we see in the satellite data.”

Seeking a Common Ground

Not so independent IEA

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 15, 2019

<http://ddears.com/2019/02/15/not-so-independent-iea/>

Dear EERE: Past Time to Debate “Deep Decarbonization” (Obama program inconsistent with America First energy policy)

By Mark Krebs and Tom Tanton, Master Resource, Feb 14, 2019

<https://www.masterresource.org/energy-efficiency/eere-debate-deep-decarbonization/>

[SEPP Comment: Far less costly than the Green New Deal?]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Atoll Island Stability in the Face of Climate Change

Duvat, V.K.E. 2019. A global assessment of atoll island platform changes over the past decades.

WIRES Climate Change 10: e557. Feb 15, 2019

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V22/feb/a9.php>

“In concluding her review, Duvat writes that her work ‘confirms that over the past decades to century, atoll islands exhibited no widespread sign of physical destabilization by sea-level rise,’

adding that, ‘importantly, islands located in ocean regions affected by rapid sea-level rise showed neither contraction nor marked shoreline retreat.’”

The Impact of Elevated CO₂ on a Red Macroalgae Under Low Light Conditions

Bao, M., Wang, J., Xu, T., Wu, H., Li, X. and Xu, J. 2019. Rising CO₂ levels alter the response of the red macroalga *Pyropia yezoensis* under light stress. *Aquaculture* 501: 325-330. Feb 14, 2019
<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V22/feb/a8.php>

“The results of their analysis revealed, not surprisingly, that the growth rates of *P. yezoensis* declined as light intensity decreased. However, they also observed that in the lowest light intensity treatment, elevated CO₂ significantly *enhanced* the growth of this macroalgae.”

The Interaction Between Elevated CO₂ and Drought on Sweet Potato

Saminathan, T., Alvarado, A., Lopez, C., Shinde, S., Gajanayake, B., Abburi, V.L., Vajja, V.G., Jagadeeswaran, G., Reddy, K.R., Nimmakayala, P. and Reddy, U.K. 2019. Elevated carbon dioxide and drought modulate physiology and storage-root development in sweet potato by regulating microRNAs. *Functional & Integrative Genomics* 19: 171-190. Feb 13, 2019
<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V22/feb/a7.php>

“In the *combined* elevated CO₂ and drought treatment, however, the positive effects of elevated CO₂ more than sufficiently offset the negative effects of drought...”

Future Forest Response to Rising Atmospheric CO₂ and Climate Change in Northwest China

Peng, S., Zhao, C., Chen, Y. and Xu, Z. 2017. Simulating the productivity of a subalpine forest at high elevations under representative concentration pathway scenarios in the Qilian Mountains of northwest China. *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research* 32: 166-173. Feb 11, 2019
<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V22/feb/a6.php>

Measurement Issues -- Surface

History keeps getting colder — ACORN2 raises Australia’s warming rate by over 20%

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 16, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/02/history-keeps-getting-colder-acorn2-raises-australias-warming-rate-by-over-20/>

Australia’s new hottest day just “discovered”, not Albany or Oodnadatta, but Carnarvon (51 degrees in 1953!)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 13, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/02/australias-new-hottest-day-just-discovered-not-albany-or-oodnadatta-but-carnarvon-51-degrees-in-1953/>

Met Office Decadal Forecasts Running Hot

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 11, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/02/11/met-office-decadal-forecasts-running-hot/>

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

New intensity scale ranks California’s ‘atmospheric river’ storm events just like hurricanes

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 12, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/02/12/new-intensity-scale-ranks-californias-atmospheric-river-storm-events-just-like-hurricanes/>

Link to article: New Western Storms Scale to Describe Intensity, Potential Impacts of Atmospheric Rivers

By Staff Writers, Ametsoc.org, Feb 4, 2019

<http://blog.ametsoc.org/uncategorized/new-western-storms-scale-to-describe-intensity-potential-impacts-of-atmospheric-rivers/>

Changing Weather

Japan's Northern Island Of Hokkaido Shock-Freezes..."Coldest Air Mass Ever Recorded"!

Record cold temperatures, transportation disrupted, fire extinguishers freeze as "coldest air mass ever" sweeps over Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

By Kirye, No Tricks Zone, Feb 10, 2019

<http://notrickszone.com/2019/02/10/japans-northern-island-of-hokkaido-shock-freezes-coldest-air-mass-ever-recorded/>

"The agency said a cold air mass with a temperature of minus 24.4, the lowest seen since it began compiling such data in 1957,..."

No, Guardian, Wildfires Are Not Caused By Climate Change

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 11, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/02/11/no-guardian-wildfires-are-not-caused-by-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Have the California fires shifted to Australia and Tasmania?]

Changing Seas

Study Pours Cold Water on Sea-Rise Apocalypse

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Feb 8, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/study-pours-cold-water-on-sea-rise-apocalypse/>

"The revised prediction challenges a study in 2016 by Penn State University claiming that Antarctic melting alone could contribute more than a metre to the rise in sea level."

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

A Plane That Landed On Greenland's Surface In 1942 Was Found In 2018...Buried Under 104 Meters Of Ice

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Feb 11, 2019

<http://notrickszone.com/2019/02/11/a-plane-that-landed-on-greenlands-surface-in-1942-has-been-found-buried-under-103-6-meters-of-ice/>

[SEPP Comment: The amount of ice added since WWII, seems to contradict those claim significant ice loss in Greenland.]

Comprehensive Study: Glacier Melt Estimates In Tropics Of South America OVERSTATED BY 10 TIMES!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 12, 2019

<http://notrickszone.com/2019/02/12/comprehensive-study-glacier-melt-estimates-in-tropics-of-south-america-overstated-by-10-times/>

Polar bears have been terrorizing a Russian town on the Barents Sea since December

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Feb 9, 2019

<https://polarbearscience.com/2019/02/09/polar-bears-have-been-terrorizing-a-russian-town-on-the-barents-sea-since-december/>

Polar bears walking the streets on Novaya Zemlya are habituated garbage bears, not victims of climate change

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Feb 14, 2019

<https://polarbearscience.com/2019/02/14/polar-bears-walking-the-streets-on-novaya-zemlya-are-habituated-garbage-bears-not-victims-of-climate-change/#more-119695>

Acidic Waters

Analysis Finds Oceans Have Become LESS ‘Acidic’ With Rising CO2, Challenging The ‘Acidification’ Narrative

By Kenneth Richard, No tricks Zone, Feb 14, 2019

<http://notrickszone.com/2019/02/14/analysis-finds-oceans-have-become-less-acidic-with-rising-co2-challenging-the-acidification-narrative/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

IPPR Disaster Story

By Andrew Montford, GWPF, Feb 12, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/disaster-story/>

“There has been much huffing and puffing in the media today about a new report from the Institute of Public Policy Research, which claims that the environment is facing multiple disasters, all at once.”

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

RICHARD LITTLEJOHN: It's anarchy in the UK classrooms as middle-class 'green' militants encourage children as young as nine to play truant

By Richard Littlejohn, Daily Mail, Feb 11, 2019 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-6693793/RICHARD-LITTLEJOHN-Anarchy-UK-classrooms-green-militants-encourage-children-play-truant.html>

Kids protesting to change weather are “heroic” but grownups in yellow vests are unnewsworthy

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 15, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/02/kids-weather-protest-is-heroic-but-grownups-in-yellow-vests-and-the-media-ignore-them/>

Start-up used teen climate activist to raise millions: Swedish paper

By Staff Writers, The Local, Sweden, Feb 9, 2019 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.thelocal.se/20190209/start-up-used-child-climate-activist-to-raise-millions>

“We want to build a platform with modern technology. This is not free, a lot of money is needed. We have so far received just over SEK 20 million from 500 investors through two new issues, of which 10 million was from the last one in December.” [According to company founder Svante Thunberg.]

Questioning European Green

Sir Jim Radcliffe: Open Letter to the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker Via GWPF, Feb 13, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/sir-jim-ratcliff-open-letter-to-the-european-commission-president-jean-claude-juncker/>

“The USA is fully in the process of renewal. Immense building programmes are installing the world’s finest chemical technology which has a fraction of the emissions we saw a generation

ago. Old units are being shut down. The USA doesn't have green taxes but it does insist on the very highest environmental standards before it issues permits for new builds.”

Green Costs Partly Responsible For Increased Energy Price Cap

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 14, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/02/14/green-costs-partly-responsible-for-increased-energy-price-cap/>

“While higher wholesale costs explain £74 of the increase, network, policy and operating costs, all affected by govt climate policies, are responsible for an extra £32.”

Questioning Green Elsewhere

The Green New Deal

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Feb 14, 2019

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/02/the_green_new_deal.html

“The Green New Deal mostly has nothing to do with climate change. The program has a strong resemblance to the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens found in the 1936 Constitution of the Soviet Union (the “Stalin” constitution).”

[SEPP Comment: At the time, the Soviet Union was lauded as the most democratic country on earth. The Constitution included economic rights and abolished unemployment!]

<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/1936toc.html>

Five Reasons the Green New Deal Is Worse Than You Thought

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal isn't even serious about environmentalism, let alone economics.

By Steven Hayward, The Bulwark, Feb 12, 2018

<https://thebulwark.com/five-reasons-the-green-new-deal-is-worse-than-you-thought/>

Green New Deal Would Kill Almost Everyone, Warns Greenpeace Co-Founder

By Alex Newman, New American, Feb 11, 2019 [H/t ICECAP]

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/31465-green-new-deal-would-kill-almost-everyone-warns-greenpeace-co-founder>

“By the time I left Greenpeace, it had drifted into a situation in which all they had left was the green. They kind of dropped the peace, which was the human side of the situation. And now they were characterizing people as the enemies of the Earth — the human species as the enemies of nature, as if we were the only evil species.”

[SEPP Comment: Interviews with Patrick Moore and Craig Rucker.]

The Laughable Fantasy Of 100% Renewable Energy

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Feb 12, 2019

<https://www.manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2019-2-12-the-laughable-fantasy-of-100-renewable-energy>

The Green New Deal's toughest transition will be returning its supporters to reality

Opinion: Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is virtually impossible. Pivoting even by 2090 is optimistic

By Robert Lyman, Financial Post, Feb 14, 2019

<https://business.financialpost.com/opinion/the-green-new-deals-toughest-transition-will-be-returning-its-supporters-to-reality>

The Green New Deal Is Make Believe

By Robert J. Samuelson, IBD, Feb 15, 2019

<https://www.investors.com/politics/columnists/green-new-deal-make-believe-robert-samuelson/>

Green New Deal: "Air Travel Stops Becoming Necessary"

By Michael Palicz, Americans for Tax Reform, Feb 7, 2019

<https://www.atr.org/green-new-deal-air-travel-stops-becoming-necessary>

“But as Ocasio-Cortez says, ‘the question isn’t how will we pay for it, but what will we do with our new shared prosperity’”.

The Green New Deal Is Communist Manifesto, 21st Century

By Jason Pye, Real Clear Markets, Feb 9, 2019

https://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2019/02/09/the_green_new_deal_is_communist_manifesto_21st_century_103617.html

CON: Green New Deal will be all pain and no gain

By Myron Ebell, LA Times, Feb 14, 2019

<https://www.latimes.com/sns-tns-bc-green-newdeal-con-20190214-story.html>

About the Green New Deal, dreams given form

By Larry Kummer. From the Fabius Maximus website, Via WUWT, Feb 11, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/02/11/about-the-green-new-deal-dreams-given-form/>

Rex Murphy: Social-justice Democrats' 'Green New Deal' will turn America into Venezuela

The Green New Deal uses environmentalism as a lever to pursue a far-larger, more sinister, agenda, a mad leap to a socialist nightworld

By Rex Murphy, National Post, Feb 11, 2019

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/murphy-beware-the-green-new-trojan-horse-of-the-progressive-social-justice-warriors>

The Green New Deal's Disastrous First Week

By Kyle Smith, National Review, Feb 13, 2019

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2019/02/green-new-deal-disastrous-first-week-for-democrats/>

Non-Green Jobs

Labor unions fear Democrats' Green New Deal poses job threat

By Valerie Volcovici, Reuters, Feb 12, 2019

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-greennewdeal-coal/labor-unions-fear-democrats-green-new-deal-poses-job-threat-idUSKCN1Q11D2>

Litigation Issues

Miss. sues federal government over flooding

By Staff Writers, E & E, Feb 12, 2019

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/02/12/stories/1060120335>

[SEPP Comment: Not certain if readers can open the link. Strange litigation considering controlling the Mississippi became a major task for the federal government after the Great Flood of 1927 that left thousands homeless in Mississippi for months. Of course, the flood was not caused by “climate change” then.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Ineos founder Sir Jim Ratcliffe blasts EU over ‘stupid’ taxes

By Staff Writer, Energy Voice, Feb 13, 2019 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.energyvoice.com/other-news/192627/ineos-founder-sir-jim-ratcliffe-blasts-eu-over-stupid-taxes/>

“He added the EU is ‘scaring away investment with heavy green taxes’, with Europe’s share of the world chemical market having halved to just 15% in the last 10 years.

“Europe reminds me somewhat of the Charge of the Light Brigade immortalised in Tennyson’s wonderful poem, full of valour and good intention but the outcome will not be pretty.”

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Offshore Wind Costs–Facts v Propaganda

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 14, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/02/14/offshore-wind-costs-facts-v-propaganda/>

“Based on 39% loading, output from these projects, both operational and planned, amounts to 47 TWh, meaning the annual subsidy will total £3478m.” [Or 3.5 billion pounds.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

SHAKING WITH FEAR Government accused of killing fracking by forcing drilling firms to suspend work over tiny tremors

A group of 49 scientists urged ministers to urgently review the tremor limit which is comparable to bouncing a football

By Greg Willford, The Sun, UK, Feb 11, 2019

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8399422/government-killing-fracking-tremors-suspend-drilling/>

“Tony Bosworth, **fossil-free campaigner** at Friends of the Earth, said: ‘It was expert advice that led to the government and fracking companies agreeing these safety regulations.’” [Boldface added]

Theresa May has been urged to back fracking as company says it has found ‘30 years worth of gas’ in East Midlands

Chemical giant Ineos claims the gas field in Nottinghamshire is the richest in UK history

By Steve Hakes, The Sun, Feb 15, 2019

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8432323/theresa-may-fracking-30-years-gas/>

The Times View on Shale Gas: Franck On!

Editorial, The Times, Via GWPF, Feb 9, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/the-times-view-on-fracking-frack-on/>

B.C. government putting alternative energy sector on ice

By Randy Shore, WUWT, Feb 14, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/02/15/b-c-government-putting-alternative-energy-sector-on-ice/>

Energy Issues – Australia

Australians: destroying their grid faster than any country on Earth

Australians are the Renewable crash Test Dummies

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 12, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/02/australians-destroying-their-grid-faster-than-any-country-on-earth/>

Energy Issues -- US

Grid Energy Storage

By Staff Writers, U.S. Department of Energy, December 2013

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/09/f18/Grid%20Energy%20Storage%20December%202013.pdf>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Report: Texas crude oil production breaks 1970s record

By Sergio Chapa, Houston Chronicle, Feb 11, 2019

<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Report-Texas-crude-oil-production-breaks-1970s-13606658.php>

EIA adds new play production data to shale gas and tight oil reports

By Jack Perrin, Emily Geary, EIA, Feb 15, 2019 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=38372>

Easing the logjam in pipeline infrastructure

By Craig Rucker, Washington Times, Feb 14, 2019

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/feb/14/easing-the-logjam-in-pipeline-infrastructure/>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Biggest offshore windfarm to start UK supply this week

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 12, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/02/12/biggest-offshore-windfarm-to-start-uk-supply-this-week/>

“My eyes are obviously failing me! Nowhere in this Guardian piece can I find a mention of how much we will all be paying for Hornsea.

“So, just for those who also have poor eyesight, here is the confirmation that the price is £155.53/MWh, triple the market price:”

Energy & Environmental Newsletter: February 11, 2019

By John Droz, Jr. Master Resource, Feb 11, 2019

<https://www.masterresource.org/alliance-for-wise-energy-decisions/energy-environmental-newsletter-2-11-2019/>

California Dreaming

This Train Won't Leave the Station

If high-speed rail can't make it in California, it can't make it anywhere.

By Joel Kotkin and Wendell Cox, City Journal, Feb 13, 2019

<https://www.city-journal.org/high-speed-rail-projects>

Oh Mann!

Michael Mann's quantum climate pseudoscience

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Feb 9, 2019

<https://motls.blogspot.com/2019/02/michael-manns-quantum-climate.html>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Lords sleaze watchdog launches probe into claims Tory peer and climate change chief John Gummer failed to declare more than £600,000 of payments made to his family firm from 'green' businesses

Five MPs lodged complaint with Standards Commissioner Lucy Scott-Moncrieff

She later announced inquiry into allegations Gummer breached code of conduct

It follows last week's Mail on Sunday revelations about the business interests of the Tory peer

By David Rose, Sunday Mail, UK, Feb 9, 2019

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6686539/Lords-sleaze-watchdog-launches-probe-Tory-peer-John-Gummer.html>

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

If blind lead the blind, both fall in the ...

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Feb 15, 2019

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/7874>

“As temperatures rise due to global warming the UK will have to be prepared for ‘monsoon style’ storms by building open drainage ditches beside urban roads, porous pavements and storing water in reservoirs under car parks.

“Lord Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency, said Britain is experiencing a “new kind of rain” in the summer that is putting cities at increasing risk, especially London.” The Telegraph (UK), 14/10/09 “Monsoon style floods to hit Britain

Tipping point passed

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Feb 10, 2019

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/5829>

“Today I testified to Congress about global warming, 20 years after my June 23, 1988 testimony, which alerted the public that global warming was underway. There are striking similarities between then and now, but one big difference. The difference is that now we have used up all slack in the schedule for actions needed to defuse the global warming time bomb.

“The next president and Congress must define a course next year in which the United States exerts leadership commensurate with our responsibility for the present dangerous situation.

“Otherwise it will become impractical to constrain atmospheric carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas produced in burning fossil fuels, to a level that prevents the climate system from passing tipping points that lead to disastrous climate changes that spiral dynamically out of humanity’s control.” Dr James Hansen, Twenty Years Later: Tipping Points Near on Global Warming, Huffington Post, 07/01/2008 , Updated May 25, 2011

ARTICLES:

1. Green New Deal Encounters Red Sea of Debt

To replace 850 gigawatts (850,000,000 kilowatts) of installed fossil fuel and nuclear capacity would cost around \$425 billion.

Letters, WSJ, Feb 13, 2019

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/green-new-deal-encounters-red-sea-of-debt-11550091094>

“Regarding Kimberley Strassel’s “The Socialist That Could” (Potomac Watch, Feb. 8): There are two primary concerns I have with the Green New Deal. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), there was approximately 850 gigawatts of uranium and fossil-fuel installed electricity capacity in the U.S. as of 2016. Also, according to the EIA, as of January 2019, total capital costs per kilowatt for onshore wind range from \$1,455 a kilowatt to \$2,773 a kilowatt. Solar is \$1,759-\$3,212 a kilowatt. Let’s assume there is amazing innovation and costs decline to \$500 a kilowatt for both of them. To replace 850 gigawatts (850,000,000 kilowatts) of capacity would cost \$425 billion, give or take a few dozen billion. That’s my first concern. My second concern is what happens to my frequent-flier miles if there are no more airplanes?”

Darin Milmeister

New York

2. Gas Shortages Give New York an Early Taste of the Green New Deal

The state is dependent on imports even though it sits atop the abundant Marcellus Shale.

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, Feb 15, 2019

https://www.wsj.com/articles/gas-shortages-give-new-york-an-early-taste-of-the-green-new-deal-11550272395?mod=hp_opin_pos3

SUMMARY: The Manhattan Institute senior fellow writers:

“The combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling—sometimes known as the ‘shale revolution’—has enabled Texas, Pennsylvania and other states to produce record quantities of natural gas, some of which is being frozen [sic, liquified], loaded onto giant ships, and transported to customers in places like Chile, China and India. Thanks to the environmental policies of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York has missed out on this windfall.

“Now, in a preview of what life might be like under the Democrats’ proposed Green New Deal, some New Yorkers are about to face a natural-gas shortage. Consolidated Edison, an energy utility that provides gas and power to the New York City area, announced last month that beginning in mid-March it would ‘no longer be accepting applications for natural gas connections from new customers in most of our Westchester County service area.’ The reason for the shortage is obvious: The Cuomo administration has repeatedly blocked or delayed new pipeline projects. As a Con Ed spokesman put it, there is a ‘lot of natural gas around the country, but getting it to New York has been the strain.’

“New York policy makers have also killed the state’s natural-gas-drilling business. In 2008 New York drillers produced about 150 million cubic feet of natural gas a day—not enough to meet all the state’s needs, but still a substantial amount. That same year legislators in Albany passed a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, the process used to wring oil and gas out of underground rock formations. In 2015 the Cuomo administration made the moratorium permanent. By 2018 New York’s gas production had declined so much that the Energy Information Administration quit publishing numbers on it.

“New York now imports nearly all of its gas even though part of the Marcellus Shale, one of the biggest and most prolific sources of natural gas in the country, extends into the state’s Southern Tier region. To get an idea of how much gas the state might have been able to produce from the Marcellus, New Yorkers can look across the state line to Pennsylvania, which now supplies about two-thirds of the gas consumed in New York. At the end of 2018, Pennsylvania drillers were producing about 18 billion cubic feet of gas a day. That’s more gas than Canada now produces.

“By keeping its natural gas in the ground, New York has lost out on jobs and tax revenue. By 2015, some 106,000 people were directly employed by Pennsylvania’s oil and gas industry, making it a bigger employer than the state’s famous steel sector. This year Pennsylvania’s state government is expected to take in some \$247 million in gas-related fees.”

After a discussion of the closing of Indian Point power plant and no viable back-up other than natural gas, Bryce continues:

“The gas shortage means more bad news for Westchester County, which is already wobbling at the prospect of losing about 1,000 jobs when Indian Point closes. Last month Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, a Democrat from Scarsdale, told a local newspaper that the moratorium on new gas connections would ‘devastate’ development in her district. She said the gas shortage would pose a particular problem for the development of affordable housing units.

“‘This probably represents a billion dollars of development that will just stop,’ said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano in an interview with the local CBS affiliate. ‘These big-pocketed developers are just going to move their developments to other communities.’

“Less than two weeks after Con Ed announced the moratorium on new gas connections, the utility announced it would seek an 11% hike in residential natural-gas rates and a nearly 6% increase in residential electricity rates.

“Policies have consequences. The moratorium on gas connections in Westchester is one of the knock-on effects of the anti-hydrocarbon policies of the Cuomo administration, and consumers will be forced to pay the bill.”

3. All You Need Is a Congress and a Dream

Green New Dealer Edward Markey vows: ‘We will save all of creation by engaging in massive job creation.’

By Barton Swaim, WSJ, Feb 10, 2019

https://www.wsj.com/articles/all-you-need-is-a-congress-and-a-dream-11549829073?mod=hp_opin_pos1

SUMMARY: The reviewer of political books for the Wall Street Journal writes:

“It’s hard to know what to make of the ‘Green New Deal’ put forward last week by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D., N.Y.) and Sen. Edward Markey (D., Mass.). The pair’s nonbinding resolution calls for, among many other things, a 10-year plan to meet ‘100 percent of the power demand of the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources,’ and to upgrade ‘all existing buildings in the United States . . . to achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability.’ It also aims to ‘promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities and youth.’

“Good thing it’s nonbinding.

“Is President Trump’s attack on socialism a preview of his 2020 campaign strategy? And how did the Democratic Party, which has just unveiled outlines for a Green New Deal, move so far to the left so quickly?”

“Maybe the resolution is a starting point in a negotiation, but its sponsors don’t seem in a mood to bargain. Their aims are total. They seem to believe that the Trump presidency’s illegitimacy and all-around awfulness (as they see it) have radicalized the public and made possible the fulfillment of progressive longings.

“The Green New Deal is an expression of dreams, but that doesn’t make it pointless or merely comical. Take it seriously, not literally. Much of it reads like a leftist manifesto from half a century ago—I thought of the Port Huron Statement, issued by the founders of Students for a Democratic Society in 1962, which crammed scores of hopelessly vague and muddled objectives into a single document for the purpose of movement cohesion: ‘The economy itself is of such social importance that its major resources and means of production should be open to democratic participation and subject to democratic social regulation,’ and so on.

After a brief discussion of the cap-and-trade bill, on which Nancy Pelosi spent significant political capital, the journalist continues:

“The imperturbable Ms. Ocasio-Cortez wasn’t offended by the word ‘dream.’ ‘I don’t consider that to be a dismissive term,’ she said. ‘I think it’s a great term.’ It’s certainly an apt one, and makes sense of the resolution’s weirdly vatic language. Mr. Markey, sounding a little like the prophet Isaiah, said: ‘We will save all of creation by engaging in massive job creation.’

“The word ‘dream’ almost always has a happy connotation in American politics. To dream is to desire worthy and noble ends. Sometimes the ends really are worthy and noble, as in the most famous dream in American politics, Martin Luther King’s. But mostly they are not. Communism was always a dream, always a future state toward which its adherents had to struggle. Recall the haunting line of the political philosopher Michael Oakeshott: ‘The conjunction of dreaming and ruling generates tyranny.’

“The political dream, Oakeshott wrote, ‘is a vision of a condition of human circumstance from which the occasion of conflict has been removed, a vision of human activity coordinated and set going in a single direction and of every resource being used to the full.’ That is just about a perfect description of the progressive outlook. What else could inspire two members of Congress, one a neophyte and one with more than 40 years’ experience, to write a bill mandating—all at once, as if they could bring about paradise through legislation—clean water and air, affordable housing, access to healthy food, and ‘millions of high-wage jobs’?

“American progressives are fond of the word ‘democracy,’ but it is not democracy they want, because democracy is messy. What they want—and it is Mr. Trump’s strange genius to make them say it—is the noumenal perfection of a dream.”