

Carter Assistant Keynote: The President Is Extremely Sympathetic

Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy Stuart E. Eizenstat gave the keynote address at the "The Unfinished Environmental Agenda" symposium Feb. 2 in Washington, D.C. The symposium was sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Excerpts from the speech are printed below.

... I think it's no hyperbole to say that conservationists and environmentalists have in President Carter the most sympathetic champion of environmental and conservation interests since Teddy Roosevelt. As governor, President Carter justly earned the top rating from the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters....

Your topic today is "The Unfinished Agenda." I know it is the culmination of a long effort though compressed time-wise, and I want to compliment on behalf of the administration the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for the support that they have given this project.... By this remarkable book it's obvious that you have redefined your interests and I believe that this book will be a benchmark against which our administration and future administrations will mark their success. This book indicates, and your efforts here today indicate, that environmental issues touch us all directly and are as much a part of our national security and public health as any other issue.

I believe that we've made a good start in the environmental area. President Carter appointed (as Secretary of the Interior) Governor Andrus, a man with a proven record in the environmental area. He did so only after calling many other environmental leaders down to Plains before the announcement was made to determine whether or not Governor Andrus was an acceptable candidate and who else they might be interested in. And

that shows, I believe, the interest he has in the environment. Indeed, at that meeting the environmental leaders present asked him who the environmental person would be in the White House. He said, "Me", meaning the President. And I think that signifies a new day....

One of the areas that I know you're particularly interested in ... is nuclear proliferation. I consider the two best speeches then Governor Carter gave during the campaign were two dealing with nuclear nonproliferation — the one at the United Nations and the one in San Diego. We intend for the remarks that the then governor made to be put into action. One of the assignments that Vice President Mondale was given on his recent trip was to talk with West Germany, which he's done, and to indicate our serious concern with the whole problem of the selling of reprocessing plants and their arrangement with Brazil. We intend to make it clear to both allies and others that our interest in the area of nonproliferation is a serious and substantive one, one we will pursue vigorously every day that we are in office.

I could go on for a great deal of time, because this agenda of ours is perhaps almost as long as the agenda that you have. One hope that I would have is that at the end of our four year term we would merit your support, that your unfinished agenda, now compressed into 178 pages, would be much shorter, and that we would have had a hand in addressing many of the problems in your agenda. Then, perhaps, next time, Mr. Rockefeller, when you have a handout at the end of four years your unfinished agenda may be in pamphlet form instead of a book....

We intend to have environmental issues in the forefront of our agenda for the next four years.

What Is The Rockefeller Brothers Fund?

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) is the chief sponsor of the Environmental Agenda Task Force and its about to be published report, *The Unfinished Agenda*. RBF Chairman Laurance S. Rockefeller initiated the Task Force while RBF staff member Gerald O. Barney serves as the Task Force's Chairman.

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund was established by the six children of the late John D. Rockefeller, II in 1940 as a "vehicle through which we could share a source of advice and research and could also combine some of our gifts to better effect," according to the Fund's Annual Report. Serving as basically the family's own private think tank, the RBF played a key role in developing the environmental movement.

The RBF, which also funds the Trilateral Commission, currently funds about 30 of these organizations including: American Conservation Association; Association for the Study of Abortion; the Conservation Foundation; National Organization for Non-Parents; Natural

Resources Defense Council; New Alchemy Institute; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Population Council; Union of Concerned Scientists Fund; World-watch Institute.

The RBF's 1975 Annual Report lists Laurance S. Rockefeller as Chairman; David Rockefeller as Vice Chairman and both Felix G. Rohatyn (Municipal Assistance Corporation, New York City) and Richard N. Cooper (Carter appointee to State Department) as members of the Finance Committee. Trustees include: David Rockefeller; David Rockefeller, Jr., John D. Rockefeller 3rd; Laurance S. Rockefeller; Margaretta F. Rockefeller; Nelson A. Rockefeller; Abby Rockefeller Mauze; Hope Rockefeller Spencer; Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller University; Gerald M. Edelman, The Rockefeller University; Richard N. Cooper, formerly of Yale University now with the State Department; John W. Gardner, Common Cause.