

Who is John Sawhill?

For the past decade John Crittenden Sawhill has been one of a handful of top zero-growth policy-makers in the field of energy. He has written a half dozen major policy documents on energy crisis management, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, the Trilateral Commission and the Aspen Institute.

He has held official federal government posts in the energy field and has been advisor to OPEC and other international bodies. Sawhill has been involved in urban policy through his membership in the Financial Control Board of New York and as a trustee of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Sawhill's consistent policy perspective for U.S. energy has been one of implementing the neo-Malthusian "limited resource" policy of former DOE Secretary James Schlesinger. In 1975 Sawhill resigned as head of the Federal Energy Administration due to differences with President Ford. Sawhill, as the director of the Project Independence program, was even then lobbying for mandatory conservation, rationing, oil import limits and constraints on consumption.

Sawhill's publications include:

- Ford Foundation-sponsored, "Nuclear Power Issues and Choices"
- Trilateral Commission-sponsored, "Energy—Managing the Transition"
- Ford Foundation-sponsored, "Energy—The Next Twenty Years"

Sawhill's positions in anti-growth energy policy-making bodies include:

- chairman of the Aspen Institute Energy Committee
- governing board member of Common Cause
- trustee for the Committee for Economic Development
- trustee for the Urban Institute
- trustee for the World Peace Foundation

Sawhill is an advisor to OPEC and to Saudi oil Minister Yamani. He was also one of the invited participants at President Carter's round of meetings at Camp David this past summer as a consultant on energy policy. Sawhill himself feels he has been vindicated in his views on conservation and self-imposed austerity since the recent moves of the Carter administration to implement proposals he put forward, beginning in the 1960s.

A 'dialogue' to manage oil crisis

A plan put together in mid-1978 by the former British Energy Minister Anthony Wedgewood Benn and Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Zaki Yamani to launch a producer-consumer "dialogue" is presently being weighed in European and Middle Eastern circles as the probable global form for managing the current oil crisis.

The lead editorial in the London *Sunday Times* headlined, "Act now to avoid world slump" praises "the wise counsel" of Yamani in his efforts to find some "accomodation" to the growing conflict between the producing nations and their industrialized oil customers.

According to the Benn-Yamani scheme, the two blocs would negotiate a planned schedule of OPEC price hikes and an accompanying schedule of oil output (production-programming) based on projections of demand by the industrial world. The fact that the scheme is now being promoted is no coincidence since its success can only be ensured under the kind of international crisis environment which has been created by the recent seizure of the U.S. embassy in Teheram by the Muslim Brotherhood.

The CFR connection

The same notion of producer-consumer cooperation appears in the volume entitled "Oil Politics in the 1980s" which was part of the just released *1980s Project* released by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) under Cyrus Vance's direction. That volume concludes that the "controlled disintegration" of the world oil markets will force a series of unpleasant tradeoffs between the oil producers and consumers, the end goal of which, says the CFR, is the creation of a "multinational regime" to manage the world economy. At present, the world oil markets are in fact undergoing the kind of chaos which the report states is a precondition for a global deal on energy, which will leave the multinational oil companies in control of world energy.

At the time of the writing of the "Oil Politics in the 1980s" volume, Yamani began a series of meetings with Wedgewood Benn to establish a Long Range Planning Committee within the cartel. This committee, as the London *Petroleum Economist* noted in February of this year, would serve as the catalyst within OPEC for initiating the producer-consumer talks. In July of 1978