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There will be no climatic catastrophe

Ralf Schauerhammer, a "Patriots for Germany" candidate in Nuremberg and director of the Fusion Energy Forum, disposes of the arguments for the supposed "greenhouse effect."

As was to be expected, the debate on the climatic catastrophe has heated up during the last few weeks. The reason for that is not in the atmosphere, but rather in the media, which relished reporting the most dramatic events of the recent United Nations Conference on Global Climate that took place in Geneva on Oct. 29. At this conference, measures proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for "protection of the atmosphere" were discussed. The primary attempt was to get representatives from the developing nations to sign off on these measures.

With all the hot air in the media, however, cool heads should prevail, and we should not forget that, in the Earth's atmosphere, the danger from climatic catastrophe is significantly less than in the ether of the electronic media.

The debate on the climate is anti-scientific

There is no scientific proof for a "climatic catastrophe" caused by human beings. There can't be any such proof, since the theory of "greenhouse warming" has nothing to do with science. Rather, it is a matter of pseudoscientific arguments for an ideological justification of an international zero-growth policy. That is obvious, primarily because of three facts:

- In the argumentation, the concept of scientific truth is replaced by "consensus," a concept derived from politics.

- The concept of "precaution" is used in so general a form that it has nothing to do with protecting ourselves against scientifically recognizable dangers but rather the prevention of every conceivable or merely alleged danger. The principle of action based on knowledge is thereby negated.

- It is asserted that, of course, the causal connections are not known, or will not be identified in time, or are generally not identifiable, but that we are "nevertheless doing the right thing" if we impose on the population the "sacrifices" demanded by zero-growth policy.

The way the debate on the greenhouse effect has gone so far, would be suitable in a society in which "scientists" function as a caste of high priests, and, "in consensus," seek to reconcile the destiny of common men with the imponderable powers of evil. This caste of high priests provides "precautions" against every possible danger and fear by determining which sacrifices will bring the evil powers into a merciful mood. The direction in which this debate threatens to go is observable in the increasing "scientific acceptance" of the mystical "Gaia hypothesis," which pits humanity against the vengeful goddess Mother Earth, and in the repeatedly made demands for an "eco-dictatorship" based on "New Age" religion.

The causal principle of the increase of carbon dioxide is unexplained

The carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere has measurably increased during the last decades. The value is not, however, shocking from a geological point of view. In the past, there was much more CO₂ present in the atmosphere, even up to 20 times the present value. On the other hand, most plants could no longer exist if the present value were to be reduced by one-half. We can liberate carbon as CO₂ today by burning fossil fuels only because plants previously obtained it from the atmosphere and "stored" it in the earth. The CO₂ is merely returning to the atmosphere again.

Also, the argument, "Humans burn fossil fuels and the CO₂ content increases, *therefore* humans are responsible for the increase in the CO₂ content," demonstrates ignorance about the true dimensions of the carbon cycle of the biosphere. In that cycle, human beings have played only a very subordinate role up to this point. Termites alone, because of their cellulose-based metabolism, continually release twice as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as all of humanity. Even the most radical CO₂ reductions, of 20% up to the year 2005, could be nullified if during this same period the termite populations grew by only a tiny 0.6634%. Why, then, is it asserted that human beings alone determine the CO₂ content of the Earth's atmosphere through their actions?

Even if human beings were solely responsible for the increase of CO₂, the conclusions of the greenhouse thesis are not tenable.

The physical justification of the climatic catastrophe is simplistic

In the arguments for climatic catastrophe, the assertion that the increase of trace gases (CO₂, methane, etc.) must necessarily lead to a warming of the lower atmosphere is derived from the laws of radiation physics. This assertion is so simplistic that it can only be characterized as false. It is comparable to the simplistic argument that the impossibility of flying can be derived from the general validity of gravity.

The equation, "more CO₂=increased greenhouse effect," is not true of the Earth's atmosphere. The greenhouse thesis seeks to create the impression that the atmosphere is like a glass greenhouse which becomes warmer if thicker glass is put on the roof. But that is not even the case with greenhouses, especially if the cover is not uniform. For example, if there is a hole in one place or a mirror is installed rather than glass, then the greenhouse covered with "thicker" glass can actually become cooler rather than warmer. That must be considered in the case of the Earth's atmosphere, since the "greenhouse cover" of the Earth is quite non-uniform.

The greenhouse effect is primarily dependent on the water vapor in the atmosphere (clouds!). Clouds, however, can increase the reflection of incident light, which corresponds to a "hole" or "mirror" in the greenhouse roof mentioned above. Thus, the question is, will the increased CO₂ content globally so change the Earth's atmosphere that this becomes "thicker"? It is probably the case that an increase of CO₂ content will produce a redistribution of the water vapor that does not increase the greenhouse effect for the largest portion of the Earth's atmosphere north and south of the equator that received most radiation from the Sun.

The climatic catastrophe is not demonstrated by the data

The assertion that the increase of the greenhouse effect is demonstrated by measurements at weather stations is false. Although it is simple to measure air temperature at a certain

place at a certain time, it is extremely difficult to determine exactly the global development of temperature over time to a tenth of one degree from a large number of such measurements. In particular, the assertion that in recent years an extreme warming has taken place, is in contradiction to measurements by satellites that continually provide exact global data to one-hundredth of a degree and that show a slight cooling of the Earth's atmosphere during this period.

The assertion made by proponents of the greenhouse effect, that a "trend" in the measurement will be detectable in a decade at the earliest, but that we must act today, is, in light of the many incongruities of the greenhouse effect, not rational. In this connection it is important to consider that the supposedly necessary emergency measures are very drastic.

Climate computer models are a myth

The assertion that, despite limited confirmation from the data of measurement, we could prove the greenhouse effect merely on the basis of climate computer models, is false. The climatic computer models are a very rough, inexact tool. In particular, those who produce these expensive computer models have to confess that, along with many other phenomena, it is precisely the important factors of "evaporation, cloud formation, and precipitation" that are "insufficiently understood." Given a realistic evaluation of the program structure of these models and the future development of computer technology, nothing fundamental will change with respect to this shortcoming within the next decades.

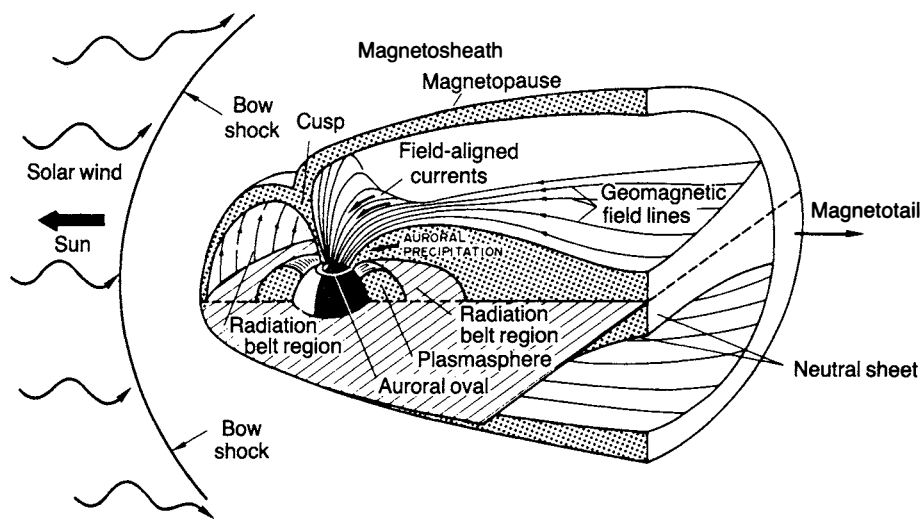
To calculate quick and dramatic, i.e., "politically relevant" climatic changes, computer models must exponentially build up small disturbances by means of positive feedback mechanisms. Minimal changes in the assumptions that are the foundation of this feedback, led to enormous changes in the output. These models are therefore very fragile for "catastrophic forecasts." Studies on the limits to growth by the Club of Rome and the TTAPS Study on the nuclear winter show the politically manipulative character of such computer models. The scientific untenability of these studies has even been conceded by the authors themselves.

Additionally, the prevailing gullibility about computers ascribes a false precision to the climatic studies. The existing climate models, despite impressive printouts of world maps in the most wonderful variations and colors, are not able to make coherent statements with regard to the calculated climatic effects for particular regions. Overall, computer models have harmed climatic research, since they simulate results where exact research work and hypothesis formation would be necessary.

The effects of climate changes on the biosphere are largely unknown

Typical of the political motives that underlie the discussions of climatic catastrophe, is the fact that all predicted effects are negative. Quite in contrast to that, the Soviet

Model of the magnetosphere showing major particle populations



Source: Air Force Geophysics Laboratory, "Report on Research for the Period January 1985-December 1986," p. 16.

climatologist M.I. Budyko stated at a climate congress in Hamburg in 1988 that the indicated climatic changes and the increase of CO₂ globally will lead to a 50% increase in agriculture production, which will be welcome for the nourishment of a growing world population. He asserted in this connection that it may possibly be better to intensify the increase of CO₂ rather than to attempt to slow it down.

Carbon dioxide is not an "environmental poison." On the contrary, plants need it to live just as we need oxygen. Additionally, the plant world is genetically programmed for a much higher CO₂ atmospheric content than presently available. It is hardly obvious why the plant world cannot flexibly adapt to conditions advantageous to them. Even if that were to involve "displacements" of vegetation, it is not obvious why, given the perspective indicated by Budyko, all the changes should be catastrophic.

The surface of the ocean is not rising

The rising of the surface of the ocean, which is supposed to have taken place a bit during the last decade, is continually presented as a particularly dangerous aspect of the climatic catastrophe. As a matter of fact, there are regions in which the ocean's surface is rising; in others, however, it is falling. In measuring the global oceanic surface, it must be considered that the land masses on the Earth themselves rise and fall in certain places. A *global* rising of the ocean's surface as a result of the greenhouse effect has not to this point been demonstrated.

Two years ago, it was still asserted that the climatic catastrophe would cause the surface of the oceans to rise by 3 to 5 meters. In the meantime, the calculations were redone, and

have decreased this catastrophic increase to a few centimeters. Even if this increase were to occur, it could be dealt with more safely and, most importantly, more inexpensively, by construction of dams than by the radical transformation of overall industrial technology demanded by the proponents of the climatic catastrophe.

Conclusion: science in the service of human beings

The challenges that science must accept arise from the tasks of feeding a growing humanity and developing the creative power of every individual human being to the maximum. Research work that does not in any way, not even indirectly, serve this purpose is, from the standpoint of human development, irrelevant.

Since man today influences the local climate in many places, and since it is to be anticipated that, in the long run, he will even influence the global climate, meteorology gains in importance. Good science, however, does not merely give the right answers; rather, most importantly, it raises the right questions.

Thus seen, climatology as a science is in a miserable condition. If it is asserted in a research area with obtrusive monotony that the "cause" of "catastrophic problems" is the "population explosion," as is done today in climatic research, then even the most brilliant academic careers of those involved cannot obscure the fact that we are not dealing with science here. The questions of science that are to be answered will be defined precisely through the development of mankind that is here denigrated as a "population explosion"—by what else could they be defined?