

'Ozone hole' hoaxsters exposed at AGU science conference

by Rogelio A. Maduro and Jim Olson

Real scientific research in the earth sciences seems to be perking up after a decade of near-total control by so-called "environmental science." This change was clear during the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) that took place on May 30-June 2 in Baltimore, Maryland. The AGU, with some 33,000 members worldwide, is the world's premier organization of geophysics professionals and includes within its purview many scientific disciplines, including geology, volcanology, seismology, atmospheric sciences, plasma physics, and space science. Nearly 2,600 people attended the conference.

While the opening press conference emphasized the panels where so-called environmental science was featured, the conference itself had dozens of panels where real scientific research was presented. During the four days, there were many good presentations, including on new satellite data and images showing the complex interplay between the solar wind and Earth's magnetosphere. There was also a presentation of the first global map of water vapor concentrations, and the change in concentration over the years and as a result of the El Niño phenomena. A Russian scientist presented intriguing evidence of close correlation and anti-correlation between the thickness of the ozone layer and gravitational and geomagnetic anomalies.

The change in the climate against environmentalist hoaxes was perhaps best evidenced by an open revolt by a large number of scientists against one of the leading promoters of the fraud behind "environmental science."

On the third day, Dr. Robert Watson, associate director for the environment for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, currently Vice President Al Gore's science adviser, and former head of NASA's Ozone Trends Panel, warned in an hour-long presentation about the increasing "attacks on environmental science." Watson, one of the leading promoters of the ozone depletion fraud, said that Congress is severely cutting funding for crucial research programs.

Watson's presentation was part of a series he is giving at scientific conferences on this theme. Apparently, he is being deployed by the White House on some sort of errand to save science from the budget-cutters. If that's the case, President Clinton could not possibly have chosen a worse messenger.

In addition to his well-known role in promoting the ozone depletion and global warming frauds, Watson is also a leading member of the Global Biodiversity Assessment, the body in charge of writing and implementing the Biodiversity Treaty, a malthusian one-worldist program to destroy Judeo-Christian civilization and to raise all other species to a higher level of importance than human beings.

Research versus fraud

The fundamental issue raised by Watson's presentation is one of scientific research versus scientific fraud. Watson's told the 300 scientists that there is a conspiracy against environmental science. A major element of this attack, he said, are plans by Congress to heavily cut funding for science research. Watson focused on how the cuts now planned would severely cripple "good science," and defined "good science" as the research that led to the ban on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) because of the "ozone depletion problem"; the "science" that led to the banning of DDT, which has condemned millions to die of mosquito-borne malaria; and the "science" behind the global warming scare.

Watson repeatedly praised Rachel Carson and her book *Silent Spring*, which fraudulently claimed there was a collapse in pelican populations as a result of the use of DDT. Watson went as far as citing her as a role model. In addition, Watson emphasized the need for funding research to develop so-called renewable energy resources such as biomass, wind-mills, and solar power.

Incredibly, Watson claimed that science should not be "political," while he himself has played a major role in promoting fraudulent science for political ends. After stating that Congress should not play politics with science, Watson told his listeners to "get political" and save his favorite programs.

To Watson's surprise, his appeal backfired. A number of scientists, as well as two representatives from *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine, denounced his promotion of environmental science.

One scientist agreed with Watson that some crucial programs in basic scientific research were being savagely cut by Congress. At the same time, he differentiated between the cuts against basic research, which would cripple real science,

versus the cuts against junk science. The scientist pointed out that the Superfund (toxic waste cleanup) program had been a disaster and had not accomplished its goals. Such programs, he noted, had to be reformed.

Falsified data

Rogelio A. Maduro, associate editor of *21st Century Science & Technology* and co-author of the book *The Holes in the Ozone Scare: The Scientific Evidence That the Sky Is Not Falling*, brought up the issue of funding for scientific research as opposed to funding for fraudulent science. Maduro mentioned the fact that leading Belgian scientists had publicly accused Watson and the Ozone Trends Panel of falsifying crucial ozone data. Maduro pointed out that these falsified data were then used to claim that CFCs had caused ozone depletion. Maduro asked if that were "good science." It was an awkward moment for Watson, who sheepishly acknowledged that there were "problems" with the data, claiming that, nevertheless, the conclusions were still correct.

During his presentation, Watson asserted that the one real success story of environmental efforts over the last 25 years has been the improvement of water quality in the United States. That statement was taken on by Jim Olson, also from *21st Century Science & Technology*, who pointed out that the reality of the situation was that urban water and sewer systems were in states of disrepair and were collapsing all across the United States.

Olson pointed out that, about two and a half years ago, a special panel of the American Society of Civil Engineers calculated that the cost to repair New York City infrastructure at \$1 trillion. "And here we're hearing these stories about the dangers of an ozone hole which may or may not exist, while our cities are collapsing from 25 years of post-industrial lunacy," he said.

Olson attacked Watson's choice of Rachel Carson as a role model, pointing out documentation that her book is "full of lies, half-truths, and speciousness."

Olson stated, "I agree with you wholeheartedly that we should develop renewable energy. That's why we should quit wasting money and scientific minds on such foolishness as biomass, solar power, and windmills, and develop truly renewable resources like plutonium, breeder reactors, and nuclear power. Let's restore real science and make America number one again."

The case of DDT

The attacks on Watson's "good science" continued. Mack Ross, from the U.S. Geological Survey, pointed out that one of Watson's prime examples of "good science," the banning of DDT, is actually a good example of bad science. Ross continued that the scientific evidence simply didn't exist to ban DDT and, as a result of the ban, yellow fever and malaria have spread out of control and led to the

unnecessary deaths of tens of millions of human beings. Ross also scored Watson on the issues of radon and asbestos, which posed little, if any danger, according to the scientific evidence.

The scientists present also ignored Watson's warning about the dire effects of congressional funding cuts for the Global Environmental Facility, which funds the operations of thousands of United Nations-franchised non-governmental organizations. There was also little interest in defending the Endangered Species Act and the National Biological Survey.

By the end of the talk, not a single scientist had risen to defend Watson's presentation, despite the fact that many congressional budget cuts will indeed severely affect basic scientific research. Following the talk, hundreds of scientists picked up copies of *21st Century Science & Technology*.

Ozone depletion theory suffers setback

Two days before Watson's talk, his pet ozone depletion theory suffered a serious blow. A series of scientific papers presented at a full-day panel, "Production and Fate of Organic Halogens in the Marine Environment," demonstrated the falsehood behind one of the pillars of the theory, which asserts that there are few, if any, "natural" sources of halogenated compounds (compounds containing chlorine, fluorine, bromine, and iodine), which supposedly are damaging the ozone layer. By asserting that there are no natural sources, the promoters of the theory can then claim that the only source is man-made CFCs.

Refuting such claims, over a dozen top scientists concentrated on emissions and sinks of bromine and methyl bromide, the next halogenated chemical on the list to be banned by the Montreal Protocol. Methyl bromide is alleged to be a super-ozone-depleting gas. It is used widely in agriculture as a fumigant to kill pests and molds. All food shipments arriving in the United States and Europe must be fumigated with methyl bromide. Banning it would have devastating consequences for world agriculture, and would lead to the worldwide spread of deadly pests and diseases.

Jim Butler, from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who presided over the panel, stated that the signatories of the Montreal Protocol must not act to ban methyl bromide, because there is ample evidence that natural sources of that chemical are as important as, and perhaps more important in stratospheric chemistry than man-made methyl bromide molecules.

The scientists presented detailed evidence showing the role of kelp, algae, phytoplankton, and other marine organisms in producing methyl bromide and other brominated compounds. Their estimates showed that these natural sources far outclass the production and use of methyl bromide by man. The evidence presented vindicated the arguments in *21st Century's* book *The Holes in the Ozone Scare* (available from 21st Century Associates, P.O. Box 16285, Washington, D.C. 20041, for \$15).