

How EIR blew out the hot air hoax

by Rogelio Maduro

The 1988 drought, punctuated by testimony before the U.S. Congress by climatologist James Hansen to the effect that he was 99% certain the disaster was the result of the “greenhouse effect,” plus followup news on the sudden “discovery” of an “ozone hole” over Antarctica, created the conditions for the spread of two of the most patent scientific hoaxes ever perpetrated: the greenhouse effect hoax, and the ozone layer depletion scare.

A case study of media hype

The news media spread one story of catastrophe after another. In January 1989, *Time* magazine published an issue with a cover story dedicated to Mother Earth as its “Man of the Year”; and so it went. Virtually every other popular science or news magazine, including *Scientific American*, rushed to proclaim that man, through his technological development and industrialization, was in danger of dooming his own future through the release of industrial pollution into the atmosphere.

At the end of November 1989, however, the major media started a turnaround, releasing the scientific evidence that these dire predictions may just be quite fraudulent. *Newsweek* suddenly printed an article titled, “Is It All Hot Air?” And on Dec. 13, the leading story of the *New York Times* was titled, “Skeptics Are Challenging Dire ‘Greenhouse’ Views.” The Dec. 25 issue of *Forbes* magazine ran its cover story on “The Global Warming Panic.”

What were these new findings? Clearly, the proposed tax of hundreds of billions of dollars on the economies of the world appeared to be too high a price to pay to certain quarters, for whom the dual realities of the deepening U.S. depression and the Soviet crisis were beginning to sink in.

The agitation around the so-called greenhouse effect was a political device, whose stated purpose was to increase pressure upon the United States and other Western nations to disarm and deindustrialize. The hysterical effort to counteract the greenhouse effect would divert investment from defense budgets and from investment in the productive economy.

The hoax exposed

While many scientists were on record challenging the false scientific assumptions underlying the scare propagand-

da, only *EIR* documented this aspect of the scandal, first in January 1989, and in a series of reports that followed. In the same week that *Time* magazine released its super-doomsday cover story on the dying planet, *EIR* published a cover story titled “‘Greenhouse Effect’ hoaxsters seek world dictatorship.” That story, and followup coverage in our Jan. 20 issue, featured the scientific evidence debunking the fraud that has suddenly now been “discovered” by other leading publications. *EIR* featured interviews with Patrick Michaels from the University of Virginia, Jerome Namias from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Kevin Trenberth from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Fred Wood from the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

This coverage documented statements by environmentalist spokesmen such as Stephen Schneider, explaining how, without scientific evidence, they had been able to achieve a shift in public policy in the environmentalist direction. Such spokesmen bragged that, thanks to their efforts, Western policy was being brought into line with policy pronouncements by Mikhail Gorbachov and other Soviet leaders, who at that very moment were urging that a supranational global enforcement capability—an environmentalist police force—be put into position to force adherence to stringent environmentalist standards, limiting the emission of various effluents into the environment.

Three months later, *EIR* published a devastating 170-page Special Report titled “The ‘greenhouse effect’ hoax: a world federalist plot.” The report warned that the leaders of the American Eastern Establishment and President George Bush had decided to rule the world with the Soviets through a one-worldist eco-fascist regime, as proposed by Mikhail Gorbachov in his Dec. 7, 1988 address to the United Nations. That warning has been fully vindicated by the events of the last three months of 1989, whereby “ecology” has suddenly become the leading international issue through which the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are dictating policy to Third World countries.

In September, syndicated columnist Warren Brookes started a series of columns exposing the greenhouse warming fraud. Brookes is the author of the above-mentioned cover story in *Forbes* magazine. Leading scientists such as Michaels, Namias, Hugh Ellsaesser, Kenneth Watt, Reid Bryson, Lee Anderson Smith and Richard Lindzen testified before Congress, and challenged the greenhouse hoaxsters in scientific forums and debates.

The cumulative impact of these efforts to get out the truth, is now seen in the reversal of the media in this country, whose lies are now exposed for all to see. The next issue that will have to receive the same scrutiny is the “ozone depletion” hoax, which *EIR* likewise exposed in a series of three articles. And most important, the role of the Soviets in pushing all these environmental hoaxes as part of their war preparations against the West.