

Northern Flank by Michael Ericson

Politically correct science panics

Oligarchy's "experts" are trotted out to refute Rogelio Maduro on Sweden's top national radio program on science.

The eco-backlash has not reached Sweden yet. Not in public debate. That has not kept the most prestigious Swedish national radio program on science, "The World of Science," which is broadcast 20 minutes every weekday, from opening fire against the "eco-backlash" coming in from the United States.

Already in January they had Mr. Ozone Scare himself, Sherwood Rowland, on the show. Then in March Erik Arrhenius, the leading expert on the greenhouse effect at the World Bank in Washington, was interviewed along the same lines. The main target of both programs was not so surprising: *EIR* columnist Rogelio Maduro, his book *The Holes in the Ozone Scare*, the magazine *21st Century Science & Technology*, and the LaRouche movement.

The March 23 show set the tone by presenting *21st Century* as a "very ambitious"-looking magazine with lengthy articles on the ozone problem, AIDS, and the greenhouse effect; however, "with sometimes scientific arguments, sometimes outright vulgar arguments rejecting practically the whole scientific establishment," the speaker emphasized. He went on, "A closer look, however, shows, that the magazine is published by ultraconservative forces in the U.S. connected to the right-wing leader Lyndon LaRouche, the man behind the [Swedish] European Labor Party!"

According to the first program, "two-thirds of the protective ozone layer has been destroyed" by now over the Antarctic. After 20 years of research, scientists have "developed and continuously refined the theory of

how the thinning out of the ozone layer is working." But although scientists nowadays "agree about the causes of the disappearing of the ozone," the radio program continued, "there are other voices which call both the explanations of the scientists and their motives into question."

In the United States, books have been circulated "in millions," and the radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, "known for his extreme opinions," has also picked up on these ideas. Maduro, co-author of the book, accuses the environmentalists of having political motives, "i.e., a desire to earn money and to conspire against the whole world and especially the developing countries" in order to reach their real aim: to "decrease world population."

What then follows is very revealing of how these eco-yuppies flip their wigs when confronted with some facts from real life on earth. Proudly they explain that the DuPont and ICI companies today, after they "at last" turned green and started "to produce alternatives to the CFCs," are much stronger and have a "bigger monopoly position" in the field. But here, they speculate, perhaps you "can trace their [the LaRouchites'] resistance in the sense that one of their members is named Lewis du Pont Smith and the du Pont family has lost its power over the company." Hinting at the possibility that Lewis du Pont Smith "is not happy over that" and hence "the family fortune is in the background here," the program goes on to quote from a one-year-old leaflet from the European Labor Party on the attempted kidnap of Lewis du Pont Smith set up by his father. The leaflet was issued when

Lewis and Andrea Smith came to Sweden on their tour of Europe in spring 1993. No one could make much sense out of the tale broadcast by "The World of Science," but that was probably not the intention either.

Sherwood Rowland, the "father" of the ozone scare, was then called in to answer arguments taken from Maduro's book. But both Maduro's argument that the natural chlorine sources for the stratosphere are 100,000 greater than mankind's production of CFCs, and his pointing to the volcanoes' big deposits of chlorine in the stratosphere, make the point that the man-made ozone hole theories are not beyond question. So Rowland fell back on the sheer arrogance of power: "Maduro has done an admirable piece of work in pulling together all the scrap that has been published around ozone that the scientific community then has rejected." Rowland accused Maduro of ignoring the way the scientific community works, where lots of people want to be first and publish things which are not going to pass scientific review.

The defense of the "scientific review" process—which often amounts to "politically correct" censorship of scientific research—was also the main issue on the second program, which discussed "how science can be used and abused." World Bank expert Erik Arrhenius admitted that an individual scientist can show that the whole science community is wrong; "that has happened." But when it comes to "such complex systems as the greenhouse effect," another standard must be used, he argued. This is the idea behind a "consensus" replacing "truth" in science. Arrhenius says "you have to sum up different scientists' results to get a picture of the totality and then make up probabilities for varying events." Further away from real science than that, one probably cannot get.