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Anti-environmentalist 'backlash' grows

The LaRouche movement in Sweden is exposing the environmentalist hoaxes, and some are worried.

In January and March, Swedish national radio broadcast two slanderous "science" programs against the international LaRouche movement. They claimed that the "right-wing extremist party, the European Labor Party, and Lyndon LaRouche" are spreading "disinformation" about the ozone hole, the greenhouse effect, and other environmental issues, in order to gain political influence. This, they said, is dangerous because it could create a "backlash" against the "environmental cause."

The programs marked a change in the debate about environmental issues in Sweden. Soon after, articles began to appear in the usually politically correct Swedish press over whether the ozone hole and greenhouse effect are natural phenomena, or caused by man, as the radical ecologists claim. A debate on the greenhouse effect began in the largest daily newspaper, the liberal *Dagens Nyheter*. Wibjörn Carlen, a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Science, attacked the International Panel on Climatic Change, part of the U.N. apparatus and chaired by the Swede Bert Bolin.

In the March 10 issue of the British magazine *Nature*, Bolin responded to this backlash and stated that "a number of semipopular articles about climatic change" had been published by "special interest groups" and scientists who often are "well-known in other areas" but not experts on computer-based models. This, he stated, is of great danger, because policymakers have begun to listen to criticisms from such groups.

LaRouche's friends in Sweden had by then successfully initiated a

campaign to sell the book *The Holes in the Ozone Scare*, published by 21st Century Science Associates, to libraries, scientists, magazines, and entrepreneurs. This fueled the backlash that the science mafia so fears. At the end of May, the Swedish Schiller Institute released a special report, detailing the international fight against the ecological hoaxsters.

At the beginning of June, the press was filled with articles indicating a dramatic change in the way so-called ecological issues are viewed. As the debate on the greenhouse effect continued, voices were raised demanding that Sweden keep its nuclear power plants beyond the year 2010. (In 1980, the government decided that all 12 nuclear reactors had to be shut down by that date.)

At the same time, entrepreneurs manufacturing plastics, encouraged by the Schiller Institute, attacked the greenies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their stupidity in wanting to abolish the use of PVC pipes.

The scientific and environmental media began to discuss the arguments against banning of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—a direct result of the Schiller Institute's campaign. In June, the magazines *Ny Teknik* (the major scientific magazine in Sweden), *MiljöAktuellt* (the magazine of the EPA), and *Kyla* (the magazine of the refrigeration industry of Sweden) reviewed *The Holes in the Ozone Scare*. The media coverage of the book was surprisingly objective. In all three cases, science professor Lars-Olof Glas wrote in defense of the book. *MiljöAktuellt* reported that "several municipi-

palities, entrepreneurs in the cooling industry, and others have turned to the EPA for advice after having run across this conflicting information. . . . In a memorandum directed to county boards and municipalities, the EPA is reporting about the considerations which are behind the decisions to phase out" CFCs.

In *Kyla*, Glas wrote that the book had some overstatements, but that it accurately describes the role of natural emissions of chlorine and the scientific evidence that ultraviolet (UV) radiation has not increased. He pointed out that Mt. Erebus lies just 10 kilometers from the main ozone research station in the Antarctic, that this volcano must affect measurements from that station, and therefore the measurements on which the ozone-hole theory is based are useless. He described his own calculations that probably 50% of the chlorine from volcanos reaches the ozone layer and the stratosphere.

"After detailed studies of *The Holes in the Ozone Scare* and the above-mentioned article countering it [from *Science*], I find it extremely important that this book can be diligently and publicly studied for a debate with those people who are arguing that CFCs are risking natural disaster," Glas concluded.

The EPA "experts" claimed that the book is "unscientific and untrustworthy." Then they lied about atmospheric conditions in the Antarctic. They claimed that the stratosphere is situated 10 km up in the atmosphere and that the volcanic plume, therefore, could not reach the stratosphere, when in fact it lies 5 km above ground-level at both poles. (Mt. Erebus is almost 3,800 m high, so the emission certainly reaches the stratosphere.) The EPA experts concluded that the forests are damaged because of the increase of UV radiation.