

The Week That Was (January 16, 2010) Brought to you by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)

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Quote of the Week

“If you thought that science was certain - well, that is just an error on your part.” Richard Feynman

THIS WEEK:

For much of the Northern Hemisphere, the cold is abating. As climate scientists long realized, a short period does not create a trend. Even global warming advocates, who insisted that the 1998 El Nino warming was a trend, are now claiming that the cold does not contradict their warming trend. Their time spans are evidently extremely adjustable.

The week ended with real heat: Climategate hit the United States. On Thursday night January 14, 2010, in an hour-long special broadcast on KUSI-TV San Diego, John Coleman revealed new research by computer expert E. Michael Smith and Certified Consulting Meteorologist Joseph D’Aleo.

This new research demonstrates that the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) has been as intensely involved in manipulating global surface data as has the Climate Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia, which is now under investigation in Great Britain. NCDC is a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The manipulated data is also used by the third organization reporting global surface temperatures – the Goddard Institute of Space Studies, a division of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA GISS). Thus, all three organizations reporting global surface temperatures may be using similar manipulated data.

D’Aleo and Smith report that in the period of the 1960’s to the 1980’s the number of stations used for calculating global surface temperatures was about 6,000. But it dropped rapidly to about 1,500 by 1990. Further, large gaps began appearing in some of the reported data.

This loss of stations and its possible consequences have been well established. For example, it is discussed in the 2008 NIPCC report *Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate*. The stations lost appeared to be mostly in colder climates – which, if the data set is not adjusted, would lead to a false indication of warming. (D’Aleo was a contributor to the NIPCC report.)

In December, as Climategate was developing, TWTW referred to a Russian report stating the CRU was ignoring data from colder regions of Russia, even though these stations were still reporting data. Thus, the data loss was not due to just the closing of stations as earlier thought, but due to decisions by the CRU to ignore them.

Now D’Aleo and Smith report similar activities by the NCDC. Stations have been dropped, particularly in colder climates (higher elevations or closer to the Polar Regions), and now temperatures are projected for these colder stations from other stations, usually in warmer climates.

The reports of the IPCC and governmental agencies such as the EPA are based, in a large part, on these data. If the data are wrong, then the reports are wrong.

It is now clear that the global surface temperature data are unreliable and must be thoroughly investigated. If not, any government policies based upon these reports should be rigorously challenged.

Thanks to the diligent work of John Coleman, Joe D'Aleo, Michael Smith, as well as many others, the US main stream media has no excuse for ignoring Climategate as merely a problem in Britain or a problem of no significance.

For John Coleman's complete broadcast (five segments) please see:
<http://www.kusi.com/weather/colemanscorner/81583352.html>

For Joe D'Aleo's preliminary report please see:
<http://icecap.us/images/uploads/NOAAroleinclimategate.pdf>

[A brief comment: It is an impossible task to arrive at one precise number for a global surface temperature. But, one is often reported. Whatever is reported can only be approximate. However, if standard procedures are rigorously followed and stations are rigorously monitored, then trends can be established. Based on the new reports, such standard procedures were deliberately altered.. By removing stations in colder climates from the data set in recent years without doing so in past years, the CRU and NCDC exaggerate warming trends and, perhaps, even created one where there was none. A similar effect can be produced by underreporting high temperatures in early years. According to researchers such as Pat Michaels, this is apparently what NASA GISS is doing.]

SEPP SCIENCE EDITORIAL #3-2010 (Jan 16, 2010)

By S. Fred Singer, President, Science and Environmental Policy Project

[Note: This is the fifth of a series of mini-editorials on the "junk science" influencing the global warming issue. Other topics will include the UN Environmental Program, and some individuals heavily involved in these matters.]

Junk Science #5: IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report [IPCC-AR4, 2007]

In line with its policy of 'ramping up' its case for Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) and escalating climate fears, IPCC-AR4 concludes: "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* due to the observed increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations" [my emphasis]. They helpfully explain that "very likely" means "90 to 99% certain." One wonders just how IPCC arrived at this rather precise estimate – since there is nothing in the report to back it up.

By now, the IPCC has mercifully abandoned some of the 'evidence' given in their earlier reports: They no longer feature the discredited 'Hockeystick' graph (that had done away with the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age). They recognize that melting glaciers cannot illuminate the cause of warming and that shifting and often reversing CO2-temperature correlation does not support AGW. Instead, the 'evidence' now advanced is essentially circumstantial. The logic which gets the IPCC to this conclusion (as pointed out in Scientific Alliance Newsletter 160) is as follows:

1. There has been a general rise in averaged measured surface temperatures over the past century.
2. At the same time, atmospheric concentrations of so-called 'greenhouse' gases, particularly carbon dioxide, have been rising. All the evidence points to the net increase being caused largely by burning fossil fuels.
3. Computer models of the climate (General Circulation Models) cannot account for the temperature changes on the basis of known natural variability in climate.
4. Therefore, the additional 'anthropogenic' carbon dioxide must be the primary driver of this change.

Yet as Scientific Alliance states: "On this unproven argument, a whole climate change industry has been built; academic researchers, civil servants, carbon traders, environmental and development NGOs,

taxpayer-subsidised renewable energy companies and, of course, UN agencies beaver away in the shared assumption that this logic is compelling and demands concerted action.”

Can you spot the ‘hole’ in the IPCC ‘logic’? The key word is “known.” But they totally ignore the most important natural forcing: changing solar activity that modulates the intensity of galactic cosmic radiation (GCR) incident on the Earth. This fact seems known to everyone except the IPCC group dealing with the most important issue: the cause of climate change in the 20th century. See evidence in Fig 14 of NIPCC.

It gets worse: IPCC-AR4 claims they can simulate past century’s Global Mean Surface Temp (GMST) with ‘known’ natural and anthropogenic forcings (as displayed in Fig 5 of NIPCC). But the uncertainties shown there are huge, especially for the indirect effects of aerosols. Of course, the major forcings from solar activity-GCR are not even considered; nor the effects of clouds that likely produce negative feedbacks rather than reinforcing the warming of GH gases.

The upshot is that the IPCC’s claim of matching the GMST is nothing else but an exercise in curve-fitting, with several suitably chosen parameters. I would be impressed if IPCC could match mean zonal temp, not just GMST– or the atmospheric temp obtained from radiosondes and satellites – using the same chosen parameters.

ARTICLES: [For the numbered articles below please see the attached pdf.]

1. Interviews with Fred Singer

William Westmiller of the LA Public Policy Examiner did a series of three interviews with Fred Singer. The second one is below.

“Climate Change 101: Does Carbon Dioxide Cause Global Warming?”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-33398-LA-Public-Policy-Examiner~y2009m12d29-Climate-Change-101-Is-the-globe-warming>

2. BBC: forecast of mild winter ‘wasn’t actually wrong’. And they called climate skeptics ‘deniers.’

By Gerald Warner, Telegraph, UK, Jan 8, 2010 [H/t Gerald Malone]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geraldwarner/100021755/bbc-forecast-of-a-mild-winter-wasnt-actually-wrong-and-they-called-climate-sceptics-deniers/>

3. Climate change: the true price of warmists’ folly is becoming clear: From the Met Office’s mistakes to Gordon Brown’s wind farms, the cost of ‘green’ policies is growing

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Jan 9, 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6958093/Climate-change-the-true-price-of-the-warmists-folly-is-becoming-clear.html>

4. Climategate: How to Hide the Sun

By Dexter Wright, American Thinker, Jan 14, 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/climategate_how_to_hide_the_sun.html

5. The New Scientist for 12 December 2009 wrote an editorial comment supporting the Climategate emailers and saying they were not part of any kind of conspiracy.

Letter to the Editor of New Scientist

From Dr. Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen, SIPPI Blog, [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://sppiblog.org/news/letter-to-the-editor-of-new-scientist>

6. Phil Jones, head of the CRU, to Tom Wigley and Ben Santer commenting on the quality NASA GISS and NCDC data. [H/t Randy Randol]

<http://www.eastangliaemails.com/index.php>

7. Letter from Marlo Lewis of Competitive Enterprise Institute on EPA's actions to regulate carbon dioxide. [No URL]

8. Post-Copenhagen: picking up the pieces

The Scientific Alliance, Jan. 8, 2010

<http://www.gaia-technology.com/sa/newsletters/newsletters.cfm>

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Fred Singer's speech at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London is now available on YouTube. [H/t Richard Wellings]

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYIOkbnkjY>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO6nVlZIXIM&feature=related>

Brrr, the thinking on climate is frozen solid

By Dominic Lawson, Sunday Times Online, Jan 10, 2010

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/dominic_lawson/article6982310.ece

Efforts to blame China for the failure of Copenhagen continue. China should be thanked. China's leading geophysicist and vice president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences is more impressed by the correlation between carbon dioxide emissions and prosperity (high) than by the correlation between carbon dioxide and temperatures (poor). To some western minds this is a strange way of thinking.

World Watch: China's imprints all over Copenhagen talks fiasco

By John Tkacik, Jr. The Washington Times, Jan 14, 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jan/14/china-imprints-all-over-copenhagen-talks-fiasco/>

With Western Countries slowly finding that becoming the world leader in alternative energy is extremely expensive, let China lead the way. Note private firms are taking the lead.

China Tries a New Tack to Go Solar

By Keith Bradsher, NYT, Jan 8, 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/09/business/energy-environment/09solar.html?ref=science>

Interesting research on a different type of photovoltaics.

Glitter-sized solar photovoltaics produce competitive results: Adventures in microsolar supported by microelectronics and MEMS techniques

Sandia New Releases, Dec 21, 2009

http://www.sandia.gov/news/resources/news_releases/glitter-sized-solar-photovoltaics-produce-competitive-results/

A good comparison of wind power with nuclear power. Based on SEPP's examination of actual output of areas such as the Columbia River George, the 31.8 percent effective capacity used in the article – mistakenly called reliability – is probably much too high. Production may virtually cease for days. Effective baseload capacity may be in the single digits.

The Green Con Job

By Dustin Chambers and Dan Ervin, The American, Jan 13, 2010 [H/t John Droz, Jr.]

<http://american.com/archive/2010/january/the-green-con-job>

The hidden fuel costs of wind generated electricity.

By K. de Groot & C. le Pair, Former Shell & STW, the Netherlands [H/t John Droz, Jr.]

<http://www.clepair.net/windsecret.html>

“Based on the German situation with 23 GW installed wind power we show that it becomes doubtful whether wind energy results in any fuel saving and CO₂ emission reduction. What remains are the extra investments in wind energy.”

[SEPP Comment – Although CO₂ emissions are increasing atmospheric CO₂, the percentage of CO₂ that remains in the atmosphere has been roughly constant. Please see Figure 23 of the 2008 NIPCC report.]

The CO₂ Lie

Investors Business Daily, Jan 5, 2010

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=517128>

EPA regulations based on “spurious science” have consequences. As fruit and vegetable growers suffered huge losses due to the deep freeze, it is useful to note the logic of the EPA in denying farmers an ingenious means to prevent their crops from freezing. A particular bacterium promotes ice formation on crops. If a certain gene is removed from the bacterium, it will no longer promote ice formation. Though shown effective in preventing ice formation, the EPA prevented general use of the technique by declaring the ice-promoting bacterium a pest, therefore the modified bacterium a “pesticide” to be regulated by the EPA.

Feds freeze frost antidote: Crop damage costs billions a year

By Henry Miller, The Washington Times, Jan 11, 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jan/11/feds-freeze-frost-antidote/>

Last week we referred to articles on the EPA’s announcement of new smog standards, their paucity of scientific standards, and the possible economic consequences. Below are two additional articles on the subject.

Politicizing Smog

By Rich Trzupke, Front Page, Jan 13, 2010

<http://frontpagemag.com/2010/01/13/politicizing-smog-by-rich-trzupke/>

Roguish EPA’s Junk Science Risks Recovery

By Steve Milloy, Investors Business Daily, Jan 11, 2010

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=517723>

SEPP comment: " Note that EPA ambient standards apply to outdoor air and not to indoor air. Most urban people spend little time outside their home or office. Further, anyone sensitive to pollution would avoid outdoor exercise during the occasional 'bad-smog alert' day."

Previously, TWTW has referred to articles with scientists from the UN Environment Programme or the EPA making incredible predictions on the impact of warming in tropical countries. The following two articles, in part, address these claims.

Exaggerating the impact of climate change on the spread of malaria

By Chris Goodall, The Guardian. UK, Jan 13, 2010 [H/t Paul Reiter]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jan/13/climate-change>

“Socioeconomics Impacts of Global Warming are Systematically Overstated. Part II: How Large Might be the Overestimation?”

By Indur M. Goklany, Watts Up With That blog, Jan 6, 2010

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/01/06/socioeconomic-impacts-of-global-warming-are-systematically-overestimated-part-ii-how-large-might-be-the-overestimation/#more-14872>

And what about all the deaths reportedly caused by heat?

Winter kills: Excess Deaths in Winter Months: 108,500 Deaths in the US in 2008; 36,700 in England and Wales Last Winter; 5,600 in Canada (2006); 7,000 in Australia (1997-2006 Average); Thousands in Other Developed Countries

By Indur M. Goklany, Watts Up With That? Blog. Jan 6, 2010

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/01/06/winter-kills-excess-deaths-in-the-winter-months/#more-14962>

And from “Down Under”

“Climate Madness and Electricity Realities.”

The Carbon Sense Coalition today accused the Australian alarmists of pursuing the same silly energy policies that are converting once-Great Britain into Poor Little England.

The Chairman of “Carbon Sense” Mr Viv Forbes said that people need to note conditions today in Britain.

“Ice laden wind turbines sit idle in the still air; solar panels are covered in snow; gas reserves are down to 8 days; pensioners are burning books to keep warm, and a bankrupt government chants global warming mantras.”

<http://carbon-sense.com/2010/01/11/emissions-generation-lang/>

Lord Monckton and Professor of Mining Geology Ian Pilmer, author of the best seller *Heaven and Earth*, will be touring **Australia** at the end of January and the beginning of February. Please see Jo Nova’s web site for dates and venues:

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/01/monckton-pilmer-tour-australia-dates-venues/#more-5933>

I don’t have a conflict of interest because what I am doing is in my interest.

Pachauri in a spot as climategate hits TERI

By Ajmer Singh, India Today, Jan 10, 2010

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/Story/78466/Pachauri+in+a+spot+as+climategate+hits+TERI.html?complete=1>

And finally, it is time to bring in the lawyers and the various state attorney generals to demand their piece of the action.

AES Agrees To Climate Change Disclosure Protocol with NY Attorney General: Is SEC Guidance For Climate Change Disclosure Next?

By: [Jeffrey B. Gracer](#), Law firm: Sive, Paget & Riesel PC

<http://blog.sprlaw.com/2009/12/aes-agrees-to-climate-change-disclosure-protocol-with-ny-attorney-general-is-sec-guidance-for-climate-change-disclosure-next/> [may require manual entry]

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Greenpeace is demanding Universities release the emails of certain climate warming “skeptics.” Climatogaters may be getting a rougher treatment.

Agent looking for ‘Climategate’ insiders

By Colleen Boyle, The Daily Collegian, Penn State, Jan 11, 2010 [H/t Brad Veek]
http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archive/2010/01/11/agent_looking_for_climategate.aspx

US Weather Bureau Report – November 2

The Arctic ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department yesterday from Consul Ifft, at Bergen, Norway. Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers, he declared, all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met with as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes. Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared. Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds.

*I'm sorry, I neglected to mention that this report was from November 2, 1922 as reported by the AP and published in *The Washington Post*.*

[H/t Bill Gray]

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ARTICLES

1. Interviews with Fred Singer

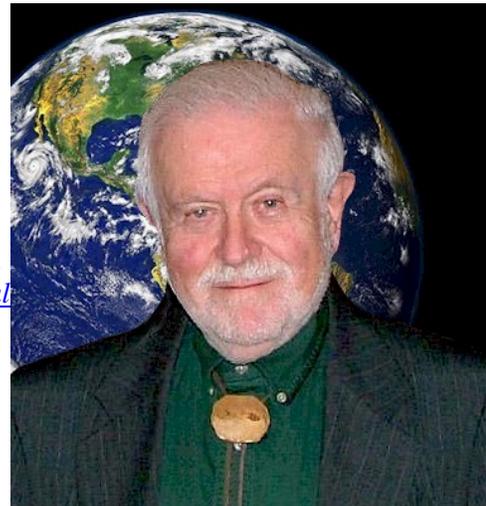
William Westmiller of the LA Public Policy Examiner did a series of three interviews with Fred Singer. The second one is below.

Climate Change 101: Does Carbon Dioxide Cause Global Warming?

<http://www.examiner.com/x-33398-LA-Public-Policy-Examiner~y2009m12d29-Climate-Change-101-Is-the-globe-warming>

Examiner Interview: Part 2

S. Fred Singer is an American atmospheric physicist, Professor Emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia, specializing in planetary science, global warming, ozone depletion, and other global environmental issues. He was a Special Advisor on space developments to President Eisenhower and the first Director of the National Weather Satellite Service Center. He is President of the non-profit [Science & Environmental Policy Project](#), author of [Hot Talk Cold Science: Global Warming's Unfinished Debate](#), [Unstoppable Global Warming](#) (NY Times Bestseller), and editor of [Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate](#).



Examiner: Does carbon dioxide cause global warming?

Singer: Carbon dioxide is a trace gas that doesn't produce any heat of its own, but it does act like a blanket. Most solar rays pass through it, warming the earth. Most heat radiated from earth is absorbed and then re-emitted by the CO2 or, more importantly, by water vapor. That's why CO2 is called a "greenhouse gas", even though it doesn't actually retain heat in exactly that same way that a sealed greenhouse does. Nevertheless, it is certainly one factor that affects the amount of retained heat on earth and therefore the dominant temperature.

In theory, any warming caused by CO₂ will be most evident in the upper troposphere, where most commercial airliners fly, particularly over the tropics. If atmospheric CO₂ were the primary cause of increased global temperatures, the increase would be even more pronounced at those altitudes. The most accurate measurements indicated that, over the last three decades, there has only been slight warming. So, it's very hard to make the case that CO₂ is a primary factor. [\[Reference\]](#) [\[Reference\]](#)

More important, the Vostok ice core studies demonstrate that increased CO₂ concentrations follow the millennial temperature increases by about a thousand years. That's been true for hundreds of thousands of years. The common sense view is that warming causes more CO₂, not that higher CO₂ causes warming. Of course, there are fudge factors. We don't know exactly how fast CO₂ is absorbed - we call it 'sequestered' - in the oceans during temperature declines, nor do we know how fast it is released when atmospheric temperatures rise. What we don't know far exceeds what we do know.

What people should know is that CO₂ is only one of a half-dozen greenhouse gases [GHG] in the atmosphere. Most of them have a stronger effect on warming than CO₂ and the overwhelming GHG is simple water vapor. Almost all of the alarming computer models have to assume some positive feedback effect, so that CO₂ increases cause more water vapor, multiplying the greenhouse effect, in order to portray CO₂ as a causative effect of warming. Those computer models have thousands of related assumptions that haven't been scientifically demonstrated by actual, confirmed testing.

So, to answer your question, yes: CO₂ concentrations certainly have some effect on global temperatures. It's just that the predicted effects aren't evident and CO₂ alone may be a relatively insignificant factor in warming.

Examiner: Isn't CO₂ a pollutant, as designated by the Environmental Protection Agency?

Singer: The EPA was given a very broad mandate by Congress, granting them control over any substance that they believed might cause harm. They simply accepted the U.N. conclusions that anthropogenic CO₂ causes warming and all warming causes harm. Neither conclusion is defensible, but the agency has accepted them as the scientific consensus, so they want to impose restrictions on CO₂ emissions. Consensus is totally irrelevant to science, but it's very important to politics. Ask Galileo.

We learned in grade school that CO₂ is absolutely essential to all life on earth. If it didn't exist, all plants would die and every animal would eventually starve to death, including every human. Calling CO₂ a pollutant is silly, or at least a very bad euphemism. If the EPA were to strictly follow its mandate, it would punish every human being that exhaled.

It is absolutely true that CO₂ can be dangerous to your health, but only if concentrations are extremely high, more than 20 times the present level. We have to get a significant amount of plain old oxygen in every breath we take. But, you don't have to worry about too much CO₂ fizz in your soda, seltzer, or champagne.

Examiner: Hasn't the burning of fossil fuels by humans produced a lot of CO₂ over the past century?

Singer: Yes, but you have to put that in context. While natural sources of CO₂ are twenty times greater than human sources, the observed rise in the past 150 years is almost all anthropogenic, mostly from burning of fossil fuels, from cement manufacture, and from land clearing. The influence of all CO₂ is guesstimated at less than 10 percent of the total greenhouse effect, with water vapor the main GHG.

Now, put those greenhouse effects into the context of all the other temperature factors, like changes in solar activity, cloud cover, and ocean circulation. The human impact on warming becomes inconsequential.

Given that the "fingerprint" of CO2 warming has not been detected, we should discount the influence of human fossil fuel combustion to practically zero.

Beyond that cursory evaluation, there are many confounding factors in the analysis of CO2 influence on warming. As global temperatures increase, some CO2 dissolved in the oceans is released into the atmosphere. At the same time, increased temperatures and CO2 encourage plant growth, which increases the absorption of CO2 from the atmosphere. Earth's climate is a complex and chaotic system. We only understand a few of the interactive components that influence temperature. There is no scientific certainty about all the causative factors, much less a consensus that humans have caused recent warming.

2. BBC: forecast of mild winter ‘wasn’t actually wrong’. And they called climate skeptics ‘deniers.’

By Gerald Warner, Telegraph, UK, Jan 8, 2010 [H/t Gerald Malone]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geraldwarner/100021755/bbc-forecast-of-a-mild-winter-wasnt-actually-wrong-and-they-called-climate-sceptics-deniers/>

Fasten your seat-belt before you read this one. It’s a corker. It is a quote from Susan Watts, BBC Science Editor, on *Newsnight*, as she attempted to explain why the abysmal failure of climate “scientists” to predict current weather conditions does not in any way reduce their credibility in predicting global warming. Watts said: “In fact that seasonal forecast predicting a mild winter wasn’t actually wrong, but it left people with the wrong impression.”

If you think I am making this up, I cannot honestly blame you. I can only invite you to go to BBC iPlayer and view *Newsnight* for 7 January, in order to hear this garbage for yourself. So, the prediction of a mild winter “wasn’t actually wrong”. Does the term “in denial” have any more graphic illustration than that? If you look out the window you might get the impression of Arctic conditions. But please remember, that is only an impression – a wrong impression. In scientific terms, it is baking hot.

In Evelyn Waugh’s *Brideshead Revisited* there is an entertaining passage in which Rex Mottram, an adventurer, is taking instruction in the Catholic faith, in order to marry an heiress. Devoid of belief, he is anxious to conform. Asked by the priest, if the Pope predicted rain would it be bound to happen, he says yes. And if it didn’t rain, persists the priest? “I suppose it would be sort of raining spiritually, only we were too sinful to see it.”

That is the territory we are now in with climate change. Global warming is all around us, only we are too sinful/sceptical/denying to see it. The total, insupportable falsity of the whole AGW scam is so blatant that its apologists’ excuses are now not so much infantile as cretinous. A week ago we had the Gulf Stream Guff, but that could hardly account for conditions in Beijing, so that has faded from the radar. Now we are urged, imperiously and superciliously, to distinguish between “weather” and “climate”.

Aha! Another ploy calculated to appeal to the “sophisticates”. “If you knew the first thing about it, you would not make the basic mistake of confusing weather with climate...” Zzzz... Coming from a bunch of clowns who have confused heat with cold, drought with snow, and fact with fiction – that is rich. If you need some light relief in these grim conditions, turn to the Met Office website.

There, under the heading “How our forecasts have improved”, you will read: “Through continual investment in research, supercomputing and observations, Met Office scientists have steadily improved the accuracy of our forecasts. All of the forecasts we produce are stored and their accuracy assessed, so

that we can learn from what went wrong with inaccurate forecasts and make sure that they keep getting better.”

Not since Soviet reports, circa 1952, of record tractor production figures for the Ukraine have the claims of any government agency, anywhere on earth, displayed such detachment from reality. The same applies to the BBC, which must be broken up and sold off by the government that replaces Dave in 2015. It is now churning out lies on a scale that would have made the commissar in charge of Radio Moscow under Stalin blench. The breathtaking words of Watts were followed by a studio debate involving two supporters of climate change orthodoxy. (What did you expect – Monckton, Delingpole, some revisionist deviationist from the party line?)

When confronted with the fact that the map published by the Met Office early last month still shows Britain in orange (the warmest category), Keith Groves, Met Office director of operations, responded: “I think you have to be very careful about how you use this information.” I’d go along with that. The Met Office predicted a “mild winter”. The definition of a mild winter is temperatures above 4.3C. While Newsnight was broadcasting this twaddle, temperatures were plunging to as low as – 22.3C.

The line being taken among climate alchemists now is: “We admit we cannot predict whether a season will be hot or cold; we are lousy at forecasting the weather over a week, a month, a quarter or a year. But when it comes to forecasting conditions in 2030, we are infallible.”

The references above to the Soviet Union are deliberate. I employ them because of the very real parallel with the present situation. The global warming frauds always had Plan A and Plan B in preparation. Plan A was to brainwash the population of Britain, America and the rest of the developed world into believing in man-made global warming. That was the preferred option; but it has failed.

Plan B, which will now come into operation, is to replicate what happened in the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Nobody believed in the economic illiteracy that was Marxism-Leninism any more; but jobs, promotion, status, even retaining one’s liberty depended on paying lip service to it. Those are the terms on which the ideology of Global Warming will now be imposed on a sceptical population: by bribery, coercion, brainwashing of children, employment and promotion blackmail.

That is the agenda. Unless, of course, we do something firm, decisive and possibly very nasty about it.

3. Climate change: the true price of warmists’ folly is becoming clear: From the Met Office’s mistakes to Gordon Brown’s wind farms, the cost of ‘green’ policies is growing

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Jan 9, 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6958093/Climate-change-the-true-price-of-the-warmists-folly-is-becoming-clear.html>

Impeccable was the timing of that announcement that directors of the Met Office were last year given pay rises of up to 33 per cent, putting its £200,000-a-year chief executive into a higher pay bracket than the Prime Minister. As Britain shivered through Arctic cold and its heaviest snowfalls for decades, our global-warming-obsessed Government machine was caught out in all directions.

For a start, we saw Met Office spokesmen trying to explain why it had got its seasonal forecasts hopelessly wrong for three cold winters and three cool summers in a row. The current cold snap, we were told with the aid of the BBC – itself facing an inquiry into its relentless obsession with “global warming” – was just a “regional” phenomenon, due to “natural” factors. No attempt was made to explain why the same freezing weather is affecting much of the northern hemisphere (with 1,200 places in the US alone last week reporting record snow and low temperatures). And this is the body on which, through its Hadley

Centre for Climate Change and the discredited Climatic Research Unit, the world's politicians rely for weather forecasting 100 years ahead.

Then, as councils across Britain ran out of salt for frozen roads, we had the Transport Minister, Lord Adonis, admitting that we entered this cold spell with only six days' supply of grit. No mention of the fact that the Highways Agency and councils had been advised that there was no need for them to stockpile any more – let alone that many councils now have more “climate change officials” than gritters.

Then, with the leasing out of sites for nine giant offshore wind farms, there was Gordon Brown's equally timely relaunch of his “£100 billion green revolution”, designed, in compliance with EU targets, to meet a third of Britain's electricity needs. This coincided with windless days when Ofgem was showing that our 2,300 existing turbines were providing barely 1/200th of our power. In fact, 80 per cent of the electricity we used last week came either from coal-fired power stations, six of which are before long to be closed under an EU anti-pollution directive, or from gas, of which we only have less than two weeks' stored supply and 80 per cent of which we will soon have to import on a fast-rising world market.

In every way, Mr Brown's boast was fantasy. There is no way we could hope to install two giant £4 million offshore turbines every day between now and 2020, let alone that they could meet more than a fraction of our electricity needs. But the cost of whatever does get built will be paid by all of us through our already soaring electricity bills – which a new study last week predicted will quadruple during this decade to an average of £5,000 a year. This would drive well over half the households in Britain into “fuel poverty”, defined as those forced to spend more than 10 per cent of their income on energy.

Finally, following Mr Brown's earlier boast that his “green revolution” will create “400,000 green jobs”, there was the revelation that more than 90 per cent of the £2 billion cost of Britain's largest offshore wind farm project to date, the Thames Array, will go to companies abroad, because Britain has virtually no manufacturing capacity.

At last, in all directions, we are beginning to see the terrifying cost of that obsession with “global warming” and “green energy” which for nearly 20 years has had all our main political parties in its grip. For years governments, including the EU, have been shovelling millions of pounds into the coffers of “green” lobby groups, such as Friends of the Earth and the WWF, allowing them in return virtually to dictate our energy policy. Not for nothing is a former head of WWF-UK now chairman of the Met Office.

The bills for such follies are coming in thick and fast. Last winter's abnormal cold pushed Britain's death rate up to 40,000 above the average, more than the 35,000 deaths across Europe that warmists love to attribute to the heatwave of 2003. Heaven knows what this winter will bring. And remember that the cost of the Climate Change Act alone has been estimated by our Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband at £18 billion every year until 2050 – a law that only three MPs in this Rotten Parliament dared oppose. Truly have they all gone off their heads.

4. Climategate: How to Hide the Sun

By Dexter Wright, American Thinker, Jan 14, 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/climategate_how_to_hide_the_sun.html

The [Climategate](#) crowd successfully worked to obscure the connection between solar activity and climate. The leaked CRU e-mails reveal how.

In 2003, two Harvard-Smithsonian Professors, Willie Soon and Sallie Baliunas, published a peer-reviewed paper in the scientific journal *Climate Research* which identified solar activity as a major influence on Earth's climate. This paper also concluded that the twentieth century was not the warmest, nor was it the century with the most extreme weather over the past thousand years. These two scientists

reviewed more than two hundred sources of data. The paper specifically examined climate variations observed to coincide with solar variations. One of the more notable correlations cited in this paper is the well-documented coincidence of the Little Ice Age and a solar quiet period, known as the Maunder Minimum, from A.D. 1300 to A.D. 1900. Soon and Baliunas asserted that the lack of solar activity resulted in cooler temperatures across the globe. The evidence they compiled also indicated that as the sun became more active global temperatures began to rise and the Little Ice Age ended.

In the past, the issue of the solar connection has always fallen down on one question; what is it about sunspots that cause a change in the climate? Soon and Baliunas identified the physical connection as [solar wind](#), which varies on an eleven-year cycle similar to sunspots'. The solar wind is made up of high-energy particulate radiation and when strong enough, it has a visible effect upon the atmosphere in the form of auroral displays in the polar regions (e.g., the Northern Lights). Some instances of solar wind were so powerful that the aurora was seen even in lower latitude, as happened during the [Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia](#) during the War Between the States (Civil War). Both armies were so distracted by the intensity of the display that the battle actually paused as the soldiers, North and South, watched in awe.

With such convincing evidence, the Soon and Baliunas paper became the target of a great deal of criticism from the gang led by the now-discredited Dr. Jones of the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at East Anglia University in Britain. The [recently uncovered e-mails](#) from him and his collaborators show an orchestrated effort to discredit the work of these two scholars.

What is also notable is that Soon's and Baliunas's references were the very same data that the Jones Gang had reviewed and suppressed. The data in question is known as proxy data. Proxy data is data compiled from tree rings, sediments, and ice cores, as well as other indirectly measured estimates of temperature. Correlating an accurate timeline for these data sets across the globe is supremely difficult, but these proxy data sources were beginning to indicate a cycle or signal which might expedite the process. This signal was thought by some in the Jones Gang to be a solar cycle.

The discussion of solar influences is brought up in an e-mail from Dr. Daly, dated 9 August 1996. Dr. Daly uncovered an eleven-year signal in the temperature data set from the island of Tasmania. He found this signal by using a mathematical signal analysis formula known as a Fourier Transform. It is clear from the tone of his e-mail that he knows this is not welcome news, but he goes on to state the following concerning the temperature data set compiled by the Jones Gang:

(I tried the same run [Fourier Transform] on the CRU global temperature set. Even though CRU must be highly smoothed by the time all the averages are worked out, the 11-year pulse is still there, albeit about half the size of Sydney's).

The [eleven-year cycle](#) corresponds exactly with the one observed on the sun. This fact was kept secret by the Jones Gang.

Correlating the timeline of these proxy data was identified as problematic by Dr. Wigley, another member of the Jones Gang, in an e-mail dated 12 Aug 1996. In his effort to correlate the data, Dr. Wigley concludes that the solar signal is strong enough to convince him that solar forcing is a major factor in [climate change](#).

(4) Causes. Here, ice cores are more valuable (CO₂, CH₄ and volcanic aerosol changes). But the main external candidate is solar, and more work is required to improve the "paleo" solar forcing record and to understand how the climate system responds both globally and regionally to solar forcing.

What is significant about this paragraph is that it identifies the main cause of climate change as "solar forcing," not [carbon dioxide](#) (CO₂). This fact was also kept secret.

Remarkably, this was exactly what Soon and Baliunas published in their *Climate Research* paper. The solar correlation became a lightning rod. More than a dozen e-mails from the Jones Gang discuss how to discredit Soon and Baliunas. Ultimately, the gang decide to compile a new paper to counter the conclusion made by Soon and Baliunas, as detailed in an e-mail from Dr. Scott Rutherford dated the 12 March 2003. Dr. Rutherford does not go head-to-head with the data presented in the *Climate Research* paper, but he seemingly wishes to "cook" other data to counter the honest work of Soon and Baliunas, as stated by the following:

First, I'd be willing to handle the data and the plotting/mapping. Second, regarding Mike's suggestions, if we use different reference periods for the reconstructions and the models we need to be extremely careful about the differences. Not having seen what this will look like, I suggest that we start with the same instrumental reference period for both (1xxx xxxx xxxx). If you are willing to send me your series please send the raw (i.e. unfiltered) series. That way I can treat them all the same. We can then decide how we want to display the results.

Dr. Rutherford goes on to suggest that Soon and Baliunas should be dealt with severely:

... there is nothing we can do about them aside from continuing to publish quality work in quality journals (or calling in a Mafia hit).

It seems clear that the Jones Gang felt threatened by the *Climate Research* paper. By all appearances, they saw the threat as significant enough to consider the scientific equivalent of evidence-tampering in order to hide the sun. Is this the kind of reaction we would expect from scientists interested in the truth? Or is it what we would expect from the infamous [Mafioso John Gotti](#)?

Perhaps [William Shakespeare](#) said it best in his famous play of conspiracy and intrigue, *Hamlet*: "The lady doth protest too much, methinks."

5. *The New Scientist* for 12 December 2009 wrote an editorial comment supporting the Climategate emailers and saying they were not part of any kind of conspiracy. Letter to the Editor of New Scientist

From Dr. Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen, SIPPI Blog, [H/t Francois Guillaumat]
<http://sppiblog.org/news/letter-to-the-editor-of-new-scientist>

Dear Editor

Your piece *Insight: Why there is no sign of a climate conspiracy in hacked emails* (12 December, p. 16) was disappointing. A conspiracy was never alleged by the better informed commentators. Rather, CRU and its collaborators were condemned for the 'massaging' of data to suit a cause – the hypothesis of dangerous, anthropogenic global warming – and also for discouraging the publication of material doubting this hypothesis. I am writing as an interested party: The journal *Energy & Environment* which I now edit, was much maligned in the published emails because it published a number of the papers offensive to the 'warmers' and was at one stage threatened with libel.

In my opinion, what we observe is not an unusual event in the short history of environmental science and policy, my research area. The purpose of the efforts of this small group of mainly UK and US/Australian researchers – rather than academics – was to remove the Medieval Warm Period from the recent historical temperature record by using the persuasive power of the infamous 'hockey stick'. Without this curve of

rapidly rising surface temperatures since the 1850s, global warming enthusiasts and the supporters of the Kyoto process would have lost a major propaganda tool with which to frightening politicians and the public by combining 'rising' observed temperatures (from complex proxy data) with even faster rising computer generated temperatures. The ultimate purpose of this persuasion is not the concern of natural scientists but that of social scientists like myself.

What has been revealed, so far, is a not uncommon occurrence in contemporary science: an 'epistemic community' intervening in peer review and publication processed to further its own interests and beliefs. From my experience, this involves ensuring the continued funding of a research agenda that has become closely identified with a cause and has attracted much government support because of its policy relevance. In this case this involved considerable support for and collaboration with the IPCC and Hadley Centre.

Serious questions about the funding of 'policy-relevant' science should now be asked. The belief that the emission of greenhouse gases, especially from energy use, has been enshrined as 'fact' in international law since 1992. Scientific research was required to support this claim and hence its associated 'solutions' or responses. To the best of my knowledge, the CRU-hack story is not over yet and serious implications for climate 'alarmism' are still possible. Any enquiry should go beyond the people directly involved and include senior government figures responsible for funding and advocacy of a cause science was expected to serve.

Sincerely

Dr. Sonja A.Boehmer-Christiansen

Reader Emeritus, Department of Geography formerly Senior Research Fellow, Science Policy and Technology Unit, Sussex University
Hull University
Editor, Energy & Environment

6. Phil Jones, head of the CRU, to Tom Wigley and Ben Santer commenting on the quality of NASA GISS and NCDC data. [H/t Randy Randol]

<http://www.eastangliaemails.com/index.php>

From: Phil Jones <p.jones@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx>

To: Tom Wigley <wigley@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx>, Ben Santer <santer1@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx>

Subject: Re: help please

Date: Tue Oct 6 13:35:34 2009

Tom,

Agreed that NCDC must have some data gaps - but this isn't very clear from the website. **GISS is inferior - not just because it doesn't use back data. They also impose some urbanization adjustment which is based on population/night lights which I don't think is very good. Their gridding also smooths things out. Plotting all three together for land only though they look similar at decadal timescales. GISS does have less year-to-year variability - when I last looked.**

I assume NCDC should add the back data in - although there isn't the need if infilling is going on OK.

I've never looked to see if NCDC changes from year to year. I think you can say that GISS is inferior to CRUTEM3. In Ch 3 of AR4 I put the station number counts in. GISS and NCDC have more, but almost all of this is more data in the US. Their **non-use of a base period (GISS using something very odd and NCDC first differences) means they can use very short series that we can't (as they don't have base periods) but with short series it is impossible to assess for homogeneity.** So some of their extra series may be very short ones as well. As you know the more important thing is where the stations are (and in time).

The paper I sent you by Adrian Simmons shows great agreement with CRUTEM3 when subsampled according to CRU grid boxes. Also shows that ERA-INTERIM is very good. ERA-INTERIM's absolute is also within 0.2 deg C of the CRU 14 deg C value. It would give about 13.8 for 1961-90. Sometime I should write this up as more and more people seem to be using 15 deg C. Away from tomorrow till next Tuesday.

Cheers

Phil

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps they anticipated John Coleman's TV special.]

7. Letter from Marlo Lewis of Competitive Enterprise Institute on EPA's actions to regulate carbon dioxide. [No URL]

Next week, the Senate may consider legislation to limit EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act. In this [two - part](#) column on MasterResource, the free-market energy blog, I argue that EPA's Tailoring Rule is a temporary, dubious, and incomplete antidote to *Massachusetts v. EPA's* legacy of "absurd results" -- only Congress can avert an era of litigation-driven, economically-ruinous, global-warming regulation.

I would summarize my argument as follows:

Congress did not intend to apply the Clean Air Act's preconstruction permitting (PSD) and Title V operating permits programs to small entities, did not intend for those programs to implode under their own weight, did not intend for PSD to freeze development, and did not intend for Title V to undermine Clean Air Act compliance. However, those are the inexorable consequences of the greenhouse gas endangerment finding and motor vehicle emission standards that the *Massachusetts* Court authorized and indeed pushed EPA to make. To avoid this mess, which would likely produce a fierce political backlash against EPA and the Obama administration, the Agency now proposes via its Tailoring Rule to amend the PSD and Title V programs. This breach of the separation of powers only compounds the constitutional crisis inherent in the Court's attempt to legislate global warming policy from the bench. Even if Tailoring Rule survives judicial scrutiny despite its flouting of clear statutory language, it will provide no defense against *Mass. v. EPA's* most absurd result: regulation of carbon dioxide under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) program. Congress should step up to the plate and either overturn *Mass. v. EPA*, overturn, veto the endangerment finding, or, at a minimum, prohibit EPA from regulating carbon dioxide from stationary sources.

8. Post-Copenhagen: picking up the pieces

The Scientific Alliance, Jan. 8, 2010

<http://www.gaia-technology.com/sa/newsletters/newsletters.cfm>

One of the defining issues of the first decade of the century has been climate change. The IPCC, set up to "... assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation" produced its 3rd and 4th Assessment Reports in 2001 and 2007.

Although some of the earlier more extreme projections for temperature rises and negative impacts were revised downwards in the most recent report, the certainty of the panel's conclusions on the human impact on climate has increased:

" Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations. It is likely that there has been

significant anthropogenic warming over the past 50 years averaged over each continent (except Antarctica)."

But we should not forget that the evidence for this is essentially circumstantial. The logic which gets the IPCC to this conclusion is

1. There has been a general rise in averaged measured surface temperatures over the past century.
2. At the same time, atmospheric concentrations of so-called 'greenhouse' gases, particularly carbon dioxide, have been rising. All the evidence points to the net increase being caused largely by burning fossil fuels.
3. Computer models of the climate (General Circulation Models) cannot account for the temperature changes on the basis of known natural variability in climate.
4. Therefore, the additional 'anthropogenic' carbon dioxide must be the primary driver of this change.

On this unproven argument, a whole climate change industry has been built; academic researchers, civil servants, carbon traders, environmental and development NGOs, taxpayer-subsidised renewable energy companies and, of course, UN agencies beaver away in the shared assumption that this logic is compelling and demands concerted action.

Fittingly, the last month of the decade saw this effort culminate in the event which had, until recently, been billed as the last chance to save the world from a climatic disaster: the Copenhagen summit, or 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to give it its full name. As we now know, it failed to produce anything of substance. While thousands of registered delegates were unable to get into the venue – a spectacular breakdown of planning by the Danish government – ill-tempered and undiplomatic exchanges were taking place behind closed doors, particularly between China and the USA.

Despite the hype, despite the pressure exerted from so many quarters, this key summit, - marking the end of what might come to be seen as the decade of climate change - exposed the deep rifts between the countries of the world. Far from being united to fight a single crucial problem, each country looked after its own interests and there was no way that the final accord could be spun as diplomatic coup.

The failure to reach agreement was not because of lack of effort. Neither was there insufficient top-level commitment: far more heads of state and government attended the closing sessions than originally expected. With so much political capital and personal credibility at stake, it is difficult to see any other factors which could have led to an agreement. For the same reason, allowing more time to translate the aspirational accord into a binding agreement in Mexico or elsewhere is not likely to increase the chances of success.

The secondary issue of possible disruption to marine life because of ocean acidification is also unlikely to tip the balance in favour of drastic emissions cuts. As the nightmare scenarios of 4 or 6 degree temperature rises painted by activists depend on hypothetical and undemonstrated positive feedback mechanisms, so a breakdown of oceanic food chains is based on one interpretation of an incomplete knowledge of mixing and buffering in seawater. If the prospect of catastrophic floods and droughts has not been enough to get an agreement, it is hardly likely that the possible effects on sealife will be decisive.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that this marks the end of the first phase of the climate change story. Whatever the rhetoric – and virtually no mainstream national politician has so far been willing to express public doubts about the official IPCC line – key policymakers have ultimately placed their national interests above the need for immediate, concerted action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

For the climate change issue, the new decade looks like being one of realpolitik rather than the idealism which was aspired to until Copenhagen. Having failed to reach the binding agreement which they claimed was essential, politicians will have to look hard at what is possible.

In democratic societies, governments will only be able to go as far as electorates will tolerate. This is currently very clear in the USA where members of both houses of Congress are heavily influenced by what their own constituents find acceptable. But the same influences are at work in Europe and even the behaviour of China's leaders, who are unlikely to be worried about the ballot box for many years to come, is heavily dependent on delivering continued rapid growth for their citizens.

The failure of Copenhagen will not see the issue of climate change fade from view. Even if, as some predict, the world continues to cool rather than warm, any long-term trend will still be difficult to define by 2020. Supercomputers will by then be capable of modelling the Earth's atmosphere at a much finer scale, but the output will still be meaningless unless the underlying processes and drivers of weather patterns and climate are properly understood. Large uncertainties will still remain, and there will almost certainly still be a body of opinion calling for precautionary reductions in emissions.

But politicians will continue to put national and regional interests first, and energy and food security will be top of their list. Any action to reduce carbon intensity will not be at the expense of these. The first decade of the 21st Century has been defined by the world obsession with climate change; the second is likely to see the focus shift to energy security.

[SEPP Comment: Now that the leaders of some developing countries have seen the willingness of some Western leaders to transfer wealth from their countries, we should expect additional demands of wealth transfer regardless of the justification. Also the promise of better results from advanced supercomputers is meaningless as long as the data is manipulated.]

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