

10 May, 2006

Remarks at the launch of Nine Lies

Parliament House Canberra

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Ray Evans

I wish to thank Russell Broadbent, the Member for McMillan, for launching “Nine Lies about Global Warming”. Russell has been attacked and ridiculed by the chattering class press, and Victorian Government ministers, for taking seriously the concerns and fears of his constituents in the electorate of McMillan.

He has been a very effective advocate on their behalf. The attacks on him have revealed an astonishing contempt for democracy, and the parliamentary processes which we usually regard with pride. That a member of parliament should seek to overturn the decisions of the great and good, just because his constituents are outraged with what has been decided, is seen by his detractors as an impertinence. In my view Russell Broadbent has upheld democracy in Australia and we are all in his debt on that account.

The debate on global warming and greenhouse gases has been running since the unusually hot North American summer of 1988. June 23, 1988 is often cited as the beginning of the global warming scam, since it was on that date that James Hansen testified to a US Senate Committee, chaired by Al Gore, that we were experiencing unprecedented warming and that anthropogenic greenhouse gases were responsible.

The essence of the global warmers’ argument is very simple and it is this. We are now experiencing historically unprecedented record temperatures, and the cause of these high temperatures is anthropogenic carbon dioxide. The corollary is that unless we stop burning fossil fuels we will impose temperature increases of 3, 4, 6 or even 9 deg C on our descendants by 2100 or some such date.

This doctrine is taken very seriously in high places. The pretentiously self-styled Australian Business Roundtable on Climate Change, six companies allied to the Australian Conservation Foundation, has issued a document entitled “The Business Case for Early Action”. The six CEOs tell us that “CSIRO has concluded that reducing global greenhouse emissions will reduce the rate and magnitude of climate change.” They then urge the government to adopt a carbon emission rationing scheme with a market in ration coupons. Such a development would no doubt help Westpac, since it bought Enron’s carbon trading enterprise, not long before Enron was exposed as not only bankrupt but its senior executives charged with fraud and other serious crimes. But the European experience in carbon trading is already, fortunately, demonstrating the corrupt and lunatic nature of such an enterprise, so I don’t think Westpac and its partners in fantasy will make much progress there.

It is sometimes difficult to pick a point of engagement in this constantly moving debate, but I was particularly struck by a recent article in the London Telegraph (30 April, 06) by an historian for whom I had some respect, Niall Ferguson, whose revisionist history of the Great War entitled “The Pity of War” gave him an international reputation. Here is the key quote.

“But the much more serious problem is environmental. Here, I have to dissent from the fashionably contrarian view that global warming isn't happening or doesn't matter. For 400,000 years, the world's atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) fluctuated between 180 and 280 parts per million (ppm). Last year it reached 380 ppm. The evidence that global temperatures are rising as a result is incontrovertible. True, no one knows exactly what the effects on the world's climate may be. But, once again, only a fool thinks there will be no effects.”

This paragraph is a fascinating example of spin. The facts on CO₂ are true. And we have had higher temperatures compared with the post-war period since the Great Pacific Climate Shift of 1976/7. But when we look at the graphs of CO₂ concentrations for the last 500,000 years, and the global temperature record since, say, 1860, it becomes impossible to argue that atmospheric CO₂ concentrations, let alone anthropogenic contributions to those concentrations, are the driver, repeat the driver, of the world's climate. Further, the climatic events of the last 1000 years, events such as the Mediaeval Warm Period (800 - 1300 AD) and the Maunder Minimum Quiet Sun period of 1645-1715 (Frost Fairs on the Thames) which are well known to us, have no relationship whatsoever to atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. Zero.

I return to the Ferguson argument which takes us back 500,000 years. The Vostok Ice Cores provide us with data going back to 420,000 years ago. They show a regular sawtooth pattern of both CO₂ and methane (CH₄) concentrations, with maxima occurring at approximately 100,000 year intervals. The temperature curve follows the CO₂ and CH₄ curves very closely.

Now these events were unaided by the burning of fossil fuels. There was no anthropogenic factor to excite any feelings of guilt or shame. The temperature swings were huge: - up to 12 deg C between 138 and 128 thousand years ago. The CO₂ swing at that time was relatively slight: from 190 to 280 ppmv. It is noteworthy that measurements of CO₂ concentrations taken from fossils laid down at the same time give readings in the upper 300 ppmvs, but regardless of debates over which technique is more accurate, the essential characteristic of the Vostok data is its periodicity.

50 million years ago CO₂ concentrations were 5 - 10 times what they are now, and that was a period of abundant growth of plants on land, and of shelly animals in the shallow seas.

It is curious that our Greens should be so hostile to the production of the gas which will green the planet more effectively than we can imagine. A truly Green policy would be to encourage natural gas production from those resources which are highly enriched with CO₂, which could then be liberated into the atmosphere, and fertilise the planet. For example, the vast gas fields in the South China Sea have enormous quantities of CO₂ which, if liberated into the atmosphere, would provide a useful contribution to the greening of the world.

Vostok Ice Core data from Lance Endersbee's *A Voyage of Discovery*

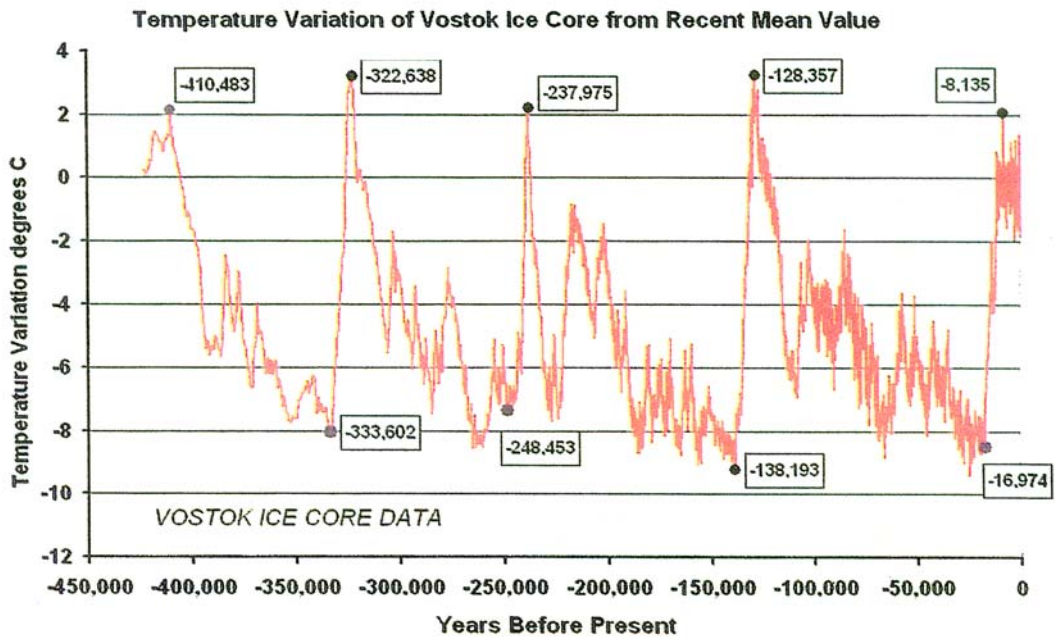


Figure 124

Data from the Vostok ice core in the Antarctic showing the variation of temperature at time of deposition from present mean value. (Source: Petit *et al*) The temperature and age were estimated by isotope measurements and known correlations. The numbers in the insets are the ages of the main peaks in temperature, together with the ages of a deep low temperature prior to the abrupt warmings. Note the characteristic shape of the four cycles of cooling followed by a sudden warming. I suspect that the explanation of this phenomenon of such large variations and regular behaviour may be due to geotectonic activity induced by orbital variations.

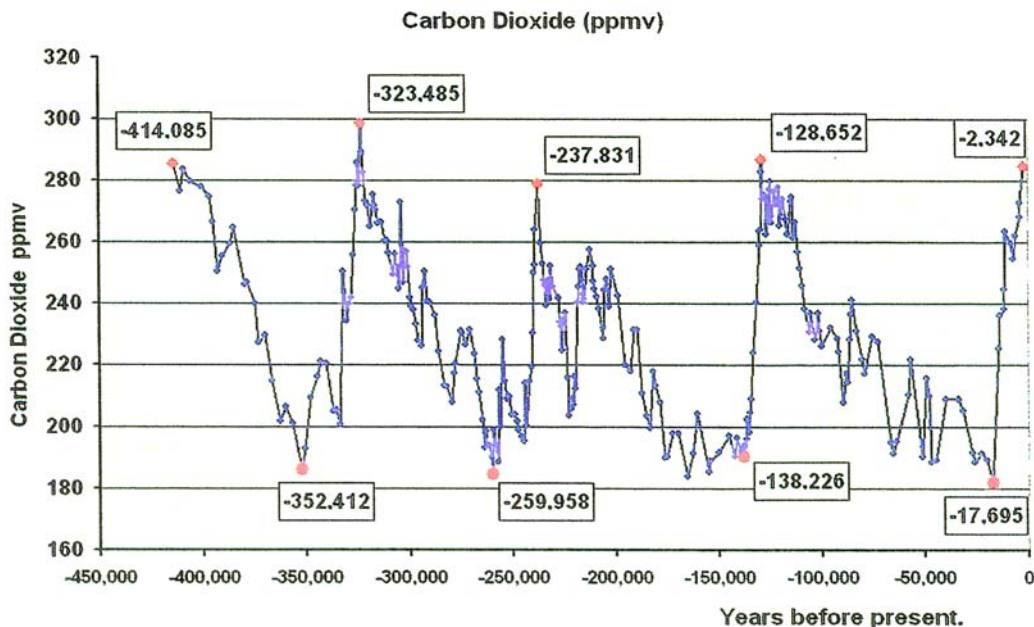


Figure 125

Data from Vostok ice core showing variations of levels of carbon dioxide. (Source: Petit *et al*) The ages of the main peaks are shown, together with the ages of the deepest lows prior to an abrupt rise. Note the characteristic shape of the cycles over four cycles, and the similarity of behaviour for carbon dioxide to that of temperature. In Chapter 17, on deep earthquakes, I described how earthquakes are accompanied by the 'pumping' of volatiles such as water, methane and carbon dioxide to the surface of the earth.

Any theory of the changes that we know of the world's climate, must provide a plausible explanation for the Vostok Ice Core data, as well as our more recent climate experiences of the last millennium. Anthropogenic greenhouse gases don't even get in the door. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that whatever was driving the huge climatic shifts manifest in the Vostok Ice Cores, was driving all of these indicators more or less in unison. The vast quantities of methane and carbon dioxide which were injected into the atmosphere every 100,000 years or so could only have come from the interior of the earth, and can only have occurred through volcanic and earthquake activity of immense proportions. But that leaves the question - why did this huge seismic activity occur with such periodic regularity, and why did global temperatures follow such a regular pattern?

The question arises - does Niall Ferguson know about the Vostok Ice Cores? Since he has taken it upon himself to write about these matters in the London Telegraph he should have tracked down the source of his figures. If he does know, then he is guilty of serious misrepresentation of the facts.

The debate over temperatures is another example where spin is much in evidence. A month or so before the COP 11 meeting which took place in early December 2005, in Montreal, we were told that 2005 was on track to be the hottest year in recorded history. As it turned out the northern winter of 2005-6 was one of the most severe that people could remember. The UK had the coldest December for a decade and the COP 11 meeting itself was held in Montreal in blizzard conditions. Last winter in Moscow was as severe as any since the War.

This juxtaposition of global warming fantasy with the blizzard outside, produced some great lines. Mark Steyn excelled himself by picking up the London "Independent's" query concerning what planet President Bush thought he was.

"As to what planet Mr Bush is on, he's not on Pluto but on planet Goofy, a strange lost world where it's perfectly normal for apparently sane people to walk around protesting about global warming in sub-zero temperatures. Or, as the Canadian Press reported: "Montreal - tens of thousands of people ignored frigid temperatures Saturday to lead a worldwide day of protest against global warming."

"Unfortunately, no one had supplied an updated weather forecast to the fellow who writes the protesters' chants. So, to the accompaniment of the obligatory pseudo-ethnic drummers, the shivering eco-warriors sang: "It's hot in here! There's too much carbon in the atmosphere!" Is this the first sign of the "New Ice Age" the media warned us about last week?

But the point is, as Steven Guilbeault of Greenpeace puts it: "Global warming can mean colder, it can mean drier, it can mean wetter, that's what we're dealing with." Got that? If it's hot, that's a sign of global warming, and, if it's cold, that's a sign of global warming.

And if it's just kind of average - say, 48F and partially cloudy, as it will be in Llandudno today - that's a sign that global warming is accelerating out of control and you need to flee immediately because time is running out! "Time is

running out to deal with climate change," says Mr Guilbeault. "Ten years ago, we thought we had a lot of time, five years ago we thought we had a lot of time, but now science is telling us that we don't have a lot of time."

So the record temperature forecasts of 2005 turned out to be premature. The interesting thing is that five months into 2006, the full 2005 figures, as of last week, still haven't been released.

The other interesting thing is that global temperatures have started to drop a bit since 1998. The global warmers now tell us that 1998 was an anomaly and should be expunged from our consideration. By wiping out 1998 they can still hope for continuing warming or at least a cessation of cooling.

The Vostok ice cores tell us that in the past rapid increases in temperature, were followed by less rapid declines in temperature, a sawtooth phenomenon. There are a number of competing theories seeking to explain the Vostok ice core results, but regardless of these different arguments, given the regularity of the saw-tooth pattern of the last 500,000 years, it would be prudent to assume that the pattern has not changed. I think this approach is known as the Precautionary Principle, and it indicates that sometime relatively soon, we will be facing serious cooling problems.

The debate about global warming is a surrogate for a debate about sin. We are to be punished because we drive large cars and warm our houses in winter and cool them in summer. It is a marvellous religion for the upper classes because they can afford to pay double or triple for their electricity bills, at the same time knowing that ordinary folk have to shiver in winter and sweat in summer. We can call it a doctrine of vicarious salvation, known to environmentalists as "sustainable development". Cardinal George Pell was attacked in The Australian recently by Paul Collins

For instance, he (Pell) said that "pagan emptiness" and fears about nature have led to "hysterical and extreme claims about global warming", adding: "In the past, pagans sacrificed animals and even humans in vain attempts to placate capricious and cruel gods.

"Today they demand a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions."

The US and President Bush are favourite targets for the global warming crowd because President Bush will not ratify Kyoto and because Americans drive SUVs in large numbers. Americans are a church-going people and Christianity is much in evidence. When driving through Virginia and West Virginia a few years ago I was struck by the frequency with which we saw an array of three crosses - typically about 12 ft high - placed in paddocks near the roadside

In Australia, and particularly in Victoria, the outward and visible signs of the power of this new upper-class religion is the array of wind-mills or wind-turbines towering high on the crests of hills, and visible for miles around. These behemoths are hundreds of feet high, beyond the reach of fire hoses when they catch fire, and are monuments to the power of the priestly class which ordains them. They are paid for by everybody who consumes electricity directly and indirectly. They are like the pagan gods of former times in that they bestow their

benefits at whim - the whim of the breezes which blow at the right speed - not too low and not too fast.

Thanks to Alan Moran of the IPA we have a pretty good idea of the cost of the electricity they produce - at whim. It is at least double, and arguably 2.5 times, the cost of the electricity generated in our now despised brown coal fired power stations. But the value of the electricity coming out of these symbols of Green power is close to zero, because it is electricity produced at the whim of the Green gods. So the back-up required from conventional power stations is over 90 percent, and the greater the proportion of wind-mills which are built, the greater is the back-up which is required to maintain the integrity of the electricity supply system.

Bernard Ingham was Margaret Thatcher's press secretary. He now writes a column for the Yorkshire Post. On April 12 last, while commenting on Tory Leader David Cameron's much publicised rooftop windmill he argued

Is Tony Blair our last hope? I realise that just by posing the question regular readers will think I have flipped. In fact, I am deadly serious. Blair may well be the only British political leader ready to face up to an issue on which turns the economic life or death of this country.

I refer to energy - and more especially electricity - policy. Without reliable, continuous and competitive supplies of electric power, we have no comfort, no convenience, no economy, no jobs, no lifestyle worth having and no protection for civilised society.

Those words comprise a tribute to Russell Broadbent, the Member for McMillan, in his campaign, on the behalf of his constituents, to stop the erection of these expensive monuments to the new Environmentalist religion on the Bald Hills of South Gippsland. The Vic Government is threatening legal action against the Commonwealth Minister's decision. Sec 116 of the Constitution prohibits the Commonwealth from establishing any religion or imposing any religious observance. Now the Bald Hills wind farm is a State project but it depends for the massive subsidies it will receive on the Commonwealth's Renewable Electricity Act of 2000, an Act which was passed as part of the price to get the Democrats' vote for the GST.

These windmills are symbols of belief in the power of carbon dioxide to warm the planet, and of our capacity to control our climate. This is a very primitive form of religious belief. It would be a good thing to put the High Court to the test on this matter.

I wish to conclude on the scientific consensus. Paul Johnson (Spectator, 5 Nov 2005) noted that

Those in the West who, in retrospect, sneer at Russia for its Lysenko scandal and claim it could not happen here are too complacent. It could. It has. It does and it will again. Science is just as liable to error as any other field, particularly in areas where dogmatists and bigots have seized power, and perhaps especially today. The only safeguard is to subject those who rule it to constant scrutiny and to give the greatest possible freedom and publicity to iconoclasts who question the prevailing orthodoxy.

In the UK not one reputable scientist in the climatology field has questioned the lunatic dogma of the global warmers. The current Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government, Sir David King, has been very colourful in his comments claiming that climate change was more of a threat to our way of life than terrorism and that Antarctica is likely to be the world's only habitable continent by the end of this century if global warming remains unchecked. Sir David's predecessor, Lord May has been even more outspoken. He has referred to greenhouse sceptics in the following terms:

“our world is destined to undergo deeply worrying changes, a point accepted by most scientists but rejected by a few climate-change deniers: half of them crackpots. Yet these individuals have managed to stymie most of the worlds efforts to curtail its greenhouse gas emissions.”

Hence May's scorn for the United States 'loony' stance on global warming, and for his disdain for Michael Crichton whose latest book, *State of Fear*, depicts global warming as a myth created by villainous climatologists to fool the world for their own perfidious purposes.

“That book is presented not as a thriller but as something really important. In fact, it is total rubbish, yet it has been used by Crichton as a huge pulpit from which he can spout his views, even though they are nonsense. The whole thing is idiotic”.

Since Lord May was President of the Royal Society we can appreciate why any British scientist with a career to build, would be very careful about voicing any doubts.

In Australia a number of scientists who have retired from the CSIRO, the Met Bureau, amongst other organisations, have played a very important role in describing in detail the nakedness of the global warming emperor. For example, Bill Kininmonth, who was Director of the National Climate Centre from 1986 to 1998 published his book “*Climate Change - A Natural Hazard*” in 2004. It is a book which does not make many concessions to scientific illiteracy but it is well worth making the effort to understand his basic arguments, which systematically destroy the climate model, a flat earth model, on which the CO2 climate control hypothesis is based.

In the US, where government control of universities and scientific research establishments is far less pervasive than here, or in the UK, the list of so-called climate sceptics is a long one, and a distinguished one. A recent manifestation of this scientific eminence was the list of signatories on the letter, which can be perused on our web-site, to the newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, urging him to set up an inquiry into the state of the global warming debate.

This global warming scam is, I think, unprecedented in the history of the English-speaking world. In Germany, under the Third Reich, there were purges of Jewish and other non-conforming scientists from the universities and other scientific institutions, many of who ended up working on the Manhattan Project. Germany is again a leader in global warming dogma as it is in Green ideology generally. But to see the leader of the British Tory Party proudly displaying a windmill and a solar panel on his roof is evidence of a nation losing its grip on reality, and without institutions capable of restoring its equilibrium.

The Global Warming Scam scam has already cost Australia billions of dollars. The amount of money expended on the Greenhouse Office since it was established in 1999? is in the hundreds of millions. The rent-seeking expenditures of the wind-mill industry, and of course the mal-investments in the actual windmills are in the tens of millions, and unless this racket is stopped will cost us 100s of millions annually.

Re-injection of carbon dioxide underground in the WA off-shore gas industry is a totally unnecessary expenditure. All of the expenditures and the hype about geo-sequestration of CO₂ from power stations is pure waste. The fact that Rio Tinto, the world's largest coal producer, has endorsed this nonsense, is I believe, a consequence of being headquartered in St James Square, London.

Anglo-American is pursuing plans to convert Victoria's brown coal into distillate and other liquid fuels. Currently, the estimates of the cost of such product are in the \$30 per barrel range. A requirement to inject CO₂ underground, a requirement imposed by the current Victorian Labor Government, will add \$10 per barrel to the cost.

We were reminded on Tuesday evening that Australia is enjoying a commodities boom of the kind we last experienced in the late seventies. Only this one is bigger and better and is officially predicted to last longer. This commodities boom is a consequence of China and India joining the carbon economy, by which I mean that the per capita consumption of energy in those countries will increase from about 3 MWhrs per annum to about 60 MWhrs per annum, the amount of energy which Australians consume. The ability to use machinery powered by electric motors or diesel engines; the ability to turn on the switch and have abundant lighting regardless of the time of day; and to enjoy the use of motor cars, aeroplanes, or trains; is the essence of modernity.

The energy we use is predominantly derived from burning coal. The world has coal reserves which will last for several hundred years to come. The nuclear option, of course, will provide unlimited power for millennia, and currently can provide unmatched security of supply for those nations, such as the UK, which now are dependent on foreign sources for energy supplies.

Australia is the world's largest coal exporter and we have huge reserves for future development. The Prime Minister, to his credit, has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on the grounds that it is not in our national interest to do so. It is even more in our national interest that his Government should get behind those who have exposed the fraud and the deceit of the global warming scam. The name of the AGO should be changed to the Australian Greenhouse Scam Office, and its staff restructured accordingly.

I conclude with Aaron Wildavsky's summary of it all.

Aaron Wildavsky

“Global Warming is the mother of all environmental scares. In the scope of its consequences for life on planet Earth and the immense size of its remedies, global warming dwarfs all the environmental; and safety scares of our time put together. Warming (and warming alone), through its primary antidote of withdrawing carbon from production and consumption, is capable of realising

the environmentalists dream of an egalitarian society based on rejection of economic growth in favour of a smaller population eating lower on the food chain, consuming a lot less, and sharing a much lower level of resources much more equally.” Introduction to Robert Ballings’ *“The Heated Debate”*, 1992, Pacific Research Institute