

Sallie Baliunas of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for astrophysics questioned the link between human activities and climate change.

Before the Environment and Public Works Committee, Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, pointed out problems with the General Circulation Models that are the basis for the predictions of warming.

My Committee also heard from Dr. V. Ram Ramanathan of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, about the role of water vapor as a confounding factor in these models.

In the Environment and Public Works Committee, Dr. John R. Christy of the Earth System Science Laboratory at the University of Alabama in Huntsville discussed the satellite temperature records that conflict with ground-based data.

Before the Foreign Relations Committee, Dr. Patrick Michaels, professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, directly challenged the links between human activities and observed warming.

These are all respected scientists. They are not crackpots, nay-sayers, or as some press accounts have branded them, a "small and noisy band of skeptics."

Instead, they are scientists, doing what scientists do. Consistent with the scientific method, they are challenging the findings of other scientists, in an open, intellectually honest manner, using all the data and analysis that they can bring to bear.

That is how the system is supposed to work.

Unfortunately, the proponents of the view that we must take extreme actions now to address climate change have been attacking the credibility and the reputations of some scientists who do not share their view.

Instead of attacking their science, they attack the scientist.

They claim that scientists who disagree with the so-called consensus view of climate change are part of some kind of anti-science conspiracy, funded by big oil and big coal to deliberately mislead the American public.

That sounds silly, doesn't it?

Yet, on the Diane Rehm radio program which aired locally on WAMU-FM on July 21, a prominent guest made some pretty remarkable assertions. Let me quote from the transcript of this radio interview:

... it's an unhappy fact that the oil companies and the coal companies in the United States have joined in a conspiracy to hire pseudo scientists to deny the facts ... the energy companies need to be called to account because what they are doing is un-American in the most basic sense. They are compromising our future by misrepresenting the facts by suborning scientists onto their payrolls and attempting to mislead the American people.

A "conspiracy," Mr. President.

"Pseudo scientists."

"A deliberate attempt to mislead the American people."

"Un-American."

These are serious charges.

Who was the guest who was making these charges of a conspiracy designed to deliberately mislead the American people?

Was this guest calling Dr. Lindzen a pseudo scientist? Or Dr. Baliunas? Or any of the others I mentioned?

Are they part of this conspiracy?

Sadly, a member of the President's Cabinet—the Secretary of the Interior—was responsible for these remarks.

Here is a political appointee who appears to be making judgments about the scientific integrity of others.

Those were unfortunate remarks, Mr. President. And they are the sort of remarks I hope that the Senate will avoid as we continue the debate on climate change.

Let us keep to the high road.

Let us appreciate the fact that scientists, and indeed, all Americans, are free to disagree and to challenge the views of others in honest, public debate.

There will be disagreements. Just as I challenged the scientific understanding of Senator KERRY on several issues earlier in my remarks, others will surely challenge my understanding of the science at some point in the debate.

And in the process, we will all learn. That is the way it should be.

But there will be some, Mr. President, who will attack the scientist instead of the science.

There will be some who say that you must agree with me, or you must be part of some conspiracy that is trying to mislead the American people.

That, to use Secretary Babbitt's words, strikes me as un-American.

Let's not fear a healthy scientific debate. Instead, let's depend on it.●

HONG KONG

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, 1 month ago, Hong Kong reverted to the control of the People's Republic of China, ending over 150 years of colonial rule. This was a historic and unprecedented event in Chinese history. I was honored to serve as the chairman of the official Senate delegation that attended the handover ceremonies along with several of our colleagues from the House of Representatives, led by Congressman CHRIS COX.

I hope that when I return to Hong Kong next year, and the year after, and the year after, I will witness the same optimism that I observed during the transition from British to Chinese rule. The people of Hong Kong should be congratulated for their determination to keep Hong Kong the pearl of the Orient.

During our visit, our delegation was fortunate to meet with the new chief executive, C.H. Tung, as well as his Chief Secretary, the highly respected civil servant, Anson Chan. This duo has been referred to as the dream team and the name is well deserved. It is my

opinion that if C.H. Tung and Anson Chan work together they will lead Hong Kong to a brighter future. But they will face severe trials. The "one country, two systems" approach of the late Chairman Deng is untested, and I predict that there will be hurdles to its implementation, especially in the area of personal and political autonomy.

The purpose of the Senate Delegation to Hong Kong was to demonstrate our continued commitment to support the people of Hong Kong and to protect United States interests. And Congress will continue to monitor events in Hong Kong.

The key events that I think will determine whether this experiment will work are the following:

Whether the elections C.H. Tung has called for May of 1998 are free and fair and allow broad participation.

Whether the Court of Final Appeal functions as the final word, or whether the PRC People's Congress uses the fig leaf of "national security" to step in and usurp Hong Kong's legal system.

How the PRC Government handles Martin Lee, and other democrats. Thus far, democratic protests have continued without intervention.

What happens to the first paper to publish a Pro-Taiwan or Pro-Tibet editorial.

Whether Chief Secretary Anson Chan stays in her post after 1998, and whether there is an exodus of other civil servants.

But I also urge restraint by my colleagues. We should not assume the worst for Hong Kong. Specifically, we should not alter trade laws that assume that Hong Kong cannot enforce her borders and her laws. If Hong Kong cannot live up to her commitments in this regard, then the United States should act, but we should not act prematurely.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to extend my commitment to the people of Hong Kong to support their efforts. I hope on my next trip to Hong Kong I can say that Hong Kong remains the vibrant, successful, energetic engine of Asia.●

NIH RESEARCH ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to your attention an important report on child abuse and neglect. This report, released in April of this year, examines current research being conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health [NIH] into the area of child abuse and neglect. The report proposes groundbreaking recommendations for improving the coordination of child maltreatment research across the NIH, with other divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services, and with other federal agencies. In addition, the report addresses the current gaps in research, identified in the National Research Council's 1993 report,