

a solution to the environmental problems, something that has not had great effect as we have looked at the securities industry, at the deregulation of energy, and has in the State of Texas, the voluntary program of then Governor Bush, has yielded really pitiful results in terms of cleaning up the air.

There is a deep and troubling question that is circulating now about the representations of the EPA about the World Trade Center pollution. Will the EPA, under the new administrator, be an independent agency that can give the American public the truth? One week after September 11, Christie Whitman assured the citizens of New York that the air was safe to breathe, the waters safe to drink. Her statements focused on asbestos levels and did not mention any other pollutants. Well, an investigation by the EPA Office of Inspector General has revealed that the White House, through its Council on Environmental Quality, told the EPA to downplay these concerns. The facts are that the EPA did not have sufficient data to evaluate short-term or long-term health impacts, and they had only data on four of 14 pollutants. It will be one of, I think, the black marks of former Governor Whitman's administration to make statements like this to the citizens of New York.

A team of independent scientists, led by the University of California, Davis, found that in fact the air was the most polluted the world has experienced. The area had high levels of sulfur, sulfuric acid, titanium, nickel and silicon. The EPA had not tested for these small particles, even though EPA scientists acknowledge that they are the most hazardous. Tragically, tragically, the rescue workers, the people who on this floor were commemorated and celebrated, with whom this administration has been involved with photo-ops and issued flowery words, these rescue workers were the most likely to suffer from this pollution. Yet the EPA was involved in, to be charitable, shading the truth. And we do not know what the long-term consequences will be with a failure to level with the American public.

There is a question about whether the EPA in the remaining term of President Bush, under a new administrator, will be able to change the pattern of manipulating and ignoring science to serve political and their own policy ends. For instance, in June of this year, the EPA released a report that was commissioned by former EPA Administrator Whitman to examine the state of the environment.

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It noted improvements which were actually due to landmark legislation passed decades ago. If the EPA does a follow-up report in a decade, what will be the likely increases in air and water pollution, global warming and ozone depletion as a result of this administration's policies because it is claiming

credit for what happened 10, 20, and 30 years ago and under its watch is undermining and delaying?

The report ignored global warming, the single most important long-term threat to our environment. The White House forced the EPA to eliminate references to many studies concluding that warming is at least partially caused by human activity. There is a denial despite the 2001 National Academy of Science report that was requested by President Bush that confirmed that greenhouse gases are accumulating in our atmosphere as a result of human activities, and this is causing air and ocean temperatures to rise.

The edicts made by the White House and acquiesced to by the former EPA Administrator were so severe that an internal EPA memo stated that the section on climate "no longer accurately represents scientific consensus on climate change, global warming."

Another example, last September the annual EPA report on air pollution that for 6 years had contained a section on climate change, this time when the scientific community has reached an even stronger consensus that global warming is a reality, when we have permafrost thawing in Alaska, roads buckling, villages washing away, parts of the Alaskan pipeline sagging and temperatures increasing 4, 6 and 8 degrees Fahrenheit, this report for the first time in 6 years had no section on global warming, climate change.

Mr. Speaker, Russell Trane, the Nixon-Ford EPA Administrator that I quoted earlier, stated that we have moved radically "away from regulation based on independent findings and professional analysis of scientific health and economic data by the responsible agency to regulation controlled by the White House and driven primarily by political considerations."

It has been one of the great frustrations and concerns during my tenure in Congress to watch the Environmental Protection Agency, an agency that I have worked with throughout my public service career, where I have worked with many fine, dedicated public servants, professionals, who are in that so-called faceless bureaucracy, but are really doing their best to deal with their mission of protecting the environment, and when I have worked with Republican and Democratic administrations going back over 20 years, it saddens me to see the politicalization of the EPA, the reversal, the abrogation of responsibility to give the American public the truth about the environment, to say nothing of hard work to move forward with policies and programs to give our communities the type of environment that our families deserve.

I can only hope that the Senate in the course of its deliberations will be able to focus on this and that the new Administrator, should Governor Leavitt be confirmed, will be the Governor Leavitt that was so creative in dealing with livable communities,

sprawl, planned growth, transportation, and allowing the community to work to gain control over its destiny, and not be the Governor Leavitt of questionable environmental achievements dealing with air and water, open space, and certainly not an EPA that has been characterized by the reversals and the politicization of these last 2½ years.

Mr. Speaker, time will tell, but the American public deserves an answer sooner rather than later, and I will continue to do all I can to put appropriate focus on these critical issues.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PASTOR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and September 24.

Mr. FEENEY, for 5 minutes, September 24.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today, September 24, and September 30.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, September 24.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and September 24.

The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on September 22, 2003, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.