



Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

JULY/AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 6

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Nebraskans for Peace

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Clip & Mail

Congress Approves More War Funds

So What's This All Gonna Cost Us?

by Hendrik van den Berg
UNL Professor of Economics

Congress has just agreed to fund our occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan through next year. This guarantees that our longest foreign conflict will become longer yet. While some pundits point out that the stated \$150 billion annual cost of our Iraq venture is just a little more than 1 percent of national income, several estimates suggest a much higher cost. For example, a well-known study by Nancy Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006) and my own analysis in the January, 2008 NFP *Nebraska Report* show that our invasion and occupation of Iraq will cost the U.S. more than \$3 trillion. That cost will be spread over many years as we replace the military's worn-out equipment, pay for the medical care of our many injured and disabled soldiers, and pay the interest and principal on the government's debt incurred to pursue a war without raising taxes. We are effectively looking at a cost of 1 percent per year for many years into the future. Yet, the ultimate cost of the Iraq venture may be much greater yet.

We tend to forget that when the \$3 trillion-plus bill for our government's Iraq adventure comes due, we will be saddled with other (and even bigger) debts—ones we're refusing to face by retreating into the same sort of self-denial we exhibited about the risks of invading Iraq. Among other things, our country has been borrowing massively from foreigners, we have been ignoring the environmental damage we are causing, we are preventing increasing numbers of people from contributing to our society, we continue to allow our failing healthcare system to take more of our income, and we permit our politicians to sharply increase our overall defense expenditures to confront unspecified and undefined threats. How we can continue to ignore these 'debts' is hard to understand—particularly when we see the 'costs' virtually every day.

Our Country's Debt to Foreigners

We are currently consuming goods and services equal to 106 percent of what we actually produce in our country. We accomplish this seemingly impossible feat by importing much more than we export. To pay for these net imports, we must borrow from foreigners an amount equal to 6 percent of our national product each year. Specifically,

American consumers, firms, financial institutions and government agencies have been selling hundreds of billions of dollars worth of stock, bonds, bank accounts, factories, condominiums, and all other types of assets to foreign investors to pay for our imports. Even Budweiser has now become a foreign-owned brand! These foreign investors are usually firms, banks and individuals, but they are also often foreign governments.

Basic accounting principles require us to accurately state future obligations. Eventually, private foreign investors and foreign governments will stop lending us so much. They may even begin selling the assets they hold or simply not roll over their U.S. assets when their bonds or loans mature. In this case, the U.S. would have to begin consuming at least 6 percent below the current trend and sell more of the U.S.-produced goods and services to foreigners instead. Or, put another way, our long-run real income is about 6 percent less than our current level of spending may have led us to believe.

As of August 2008, the Iraq War had cost Nebraskans



www.nationalpriorities.org

The Destruction of Our Natural Environment

We have also not been paying the full cost of the environmental damage caused by the growth of our consumption—such as our coal-fired power plants, our cars, our urban sprawl, our large homes and our airplane trips. Under the motto 'the evidence is not yet in,' we have largely ignored the damage global warming is likely to bring. Similarly, we ignore the thousand-fold increase in the rate of extinction of living species and our rapid depletion of our non-renewable resources. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the Nobel Prize with Al Gore last year, estimates that we must spend about 1 percent of total world income over the next 25 years to bring about the new technologies, alternative energy sources, and changes in lifestyles necessary to stop global warming. Because the U.S. has disproportionately contributed to global warming, fairness mandates that we bear a cost that is at least proportional to our share of economic wealth. Therefore, our

implicit bill for mitigating global warming is at least 1 percent of our national income. The price of \$4-dollar gas pales in comparison.

Our Oppressive Incarceration Rate

Our economy also suffers from the oppression of large segments of our population. For example, the U.S. incarceration rate is about seven times the world average, and it is highly skewed by race and income. About 2.3 million Americans, mostly poor and minorities, are currently incarcerated. The direct cost of housing, feeding, and guarding these 2.3 million prisoners is about \$70 billion per year. Since increased incarceration has not been shown to reduce crime, much of these direct costs are wasted. Of course, dealing humanely with the addictions, the mental illness and the anti-social behavior that is now so cruelly addressed by oppression through incarceration will probably cost as much as our direct costs of incarceration, perhaps more. But unless we bear this cost, we will continue to lose several percent of our potential national product due to the indirect costs of incarceration.

Preventing 2.3 million adults—or about 1.5 percent of our total adult labor force—from carrying out productive work cuts our national product by about 1 percent, given that the majority of people in prison are less productive than the average worker. The high incarceration rate also implies there are nearly six million ex-felons, and there is ample evidence that, all other things equal, ex-felons remain less productive than people who have never been incarcerated. This lower productivity stems in large part from the fact that years in jail translate into less job experience. But, we also maintain many restrictions on what jobs ex-felons can hold, and employers routinely discriminate against ex-felons. This loss of productivity steals perhaps another 0.5 to 1 percent of national income.

In addition to our oppressive incarceration, we also oppress our Native American population on reservations, our inner city youth in sub-par schools, and millions of undocumented immigrant workers who are

continued on page 4

War Costs, continued

easily exploited and mistreated because they have no legal recourse. It will take a wholesale reform of our social policies to reverse the discrimination, the incarceration, the neglect the unequal educational opportunities and the second-class status of immigrants

healthcare by exempting contributions to health insurance from income tax. In all, the conservative weekly magazine *The Economist* estimates that the U.S. government is already paying or subsidizing about 60 percent of U.S. healthcare expenditures. Coincidentally, that

of our national product. We have not been terribly successful at any of these tasks by devoting 7 percent of our national product to them. Instead, we have pretty much destroyed our military capabilities after just two indecisive wars in small countries, and there is still plenty of conflict and terrorism.

While 7 percent of national income is apparently too *little* to accomplish our military goals, it is too *much* to achieve a peaceful coexistence with the rest of the world. Seven percent of our national product accounts for over half of the world's total military expenditures. This level of expenditure is so threatening that, instead of making other countries less threatening, it has set off an international arms race that, in the end, gives no one except the military-industrial complex any advantage.

Hence, the 7 percent of our national product spent on the military and national security is largely wasted. A much smaller percentage could effectively combat international crimes if it is channeled to a cooperative global security effort that discourages senseless arms races that leave no one better off. Given that Japan manages to protect itself very well devoting little more than 1 percent of its national product to its military, U.S. defense and security expenditures equal to 2 percent of national product should be more than enough to provide for our security and protect the world's shipping lanes from piracy.

The Total Cost of Our Denial

In summary: (1) our militaristic approach to world affairs, therefore, implies a waste of perhaps as much as 5 percent of national product; (2) because we have for years been borrowing from foreigners, in the future we will have to repay well over 5 percent of national income to foreigners in interest, profits, rents and principal; (3) it will cost us at least 1 percent of national product (and more if we wait much longer) to deal with global warming, plus more for other forms of environmental destruction our past and present production and consumption cause; (4) incarceration and other forms of oppression

We tend to forget that when the \$3 trillion-plus bill for our government's Iraq adventure comes due, we will be saddled with other (and even bigger) debts—ones we're refusing to face by retreating into the same sort of self-denial we exhibited about the risks of invading Iraq.

which all suppress our long-run national product. Unfortunately, Americans are not yet willing to even recognize this oppression.

Our Underperforming & Overpriced Healthcare System

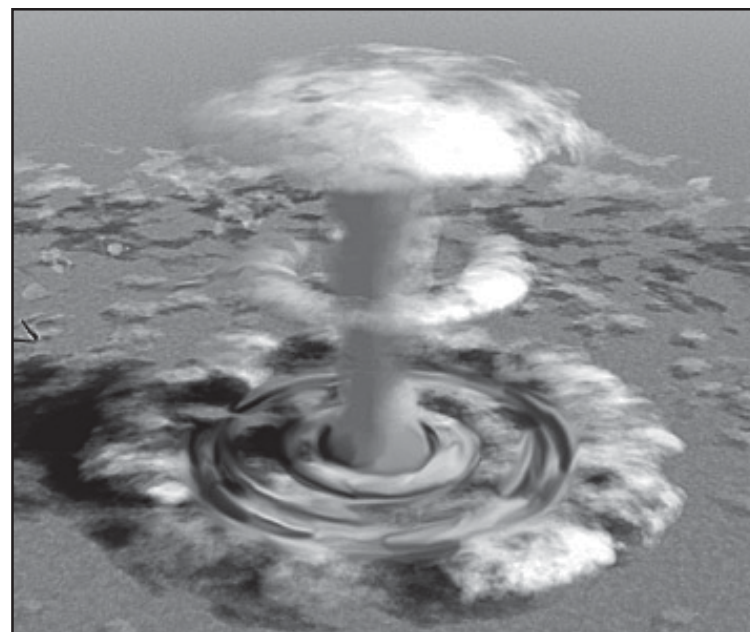
Americans endure an excessively high cost of healthcare. Other developed countries provide healthcare to their entire populations at costs that range from one-half to two-thirds of what Americans now pay. We spend close to 15 percent of our national product on healthcare, but other advanced countries spend only between 7 and 10 percent. And they achieve consistently longer life expectancies, lower infant mortality rates and superior preventive care. We effectively overspend on healthcare by at least 5 percent of national product. Despite this huge cost, the mere mention of 'socialized medicine' seems to be enough to shut off debate on reform.

Obviously, we already have quite a bit of 'socialized medicine' in the form of Medicare, Medicaid, the Veterans Health system and the universal coverage provided to members of Congress. Our government also implicitly subsidizes

60 percent would fully pay for a European-style universal single-payer healthcare system. Thus, we effectively waste at least 5 percent of our national product on overpriced drugs, overpaid private hospitals, private insurance companies organized to deny payments, and overemphasis on major operations rather than preventive care.

The Full Bill for Our Military

Finally, we greatly overpay for national security. The combined defense and security budgets that cover national defense, security, surveillance, intelligence gathering and military assistance to foreign allies sum to well over \$1 trillion per year, or about 7 percent of national income. Our Congress suggests that we must endure this burden in order to protect ourselves from terrorism and to fight tyranny abroad. Critics of defense expenditures have used these numbers to quantify what they refer to as the 'cost of American imperialism.' I would argue that regardless of whether we are fighting terrorists, promoting democracy or colonizing the world, the true cost of accomplishing these goals is clearly much higher than 7 percent



Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Protest at StratCom

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August 6 - Wednesday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Vigil at Kenny Gate, StratCom/Offutt AFB

(http://dodlodging.net/VT_Offutt_Map.htm)

7:00 p.m. Movie: *The Day After Trinity: J Robert Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb* (<http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/74400/The-Day-After-Trinity-Oppenheimer-the-Atomic-Bomb/overview>)

McFoster's Natural Kind Café, 302 S. 38th St. - between Harney (one-way going East) and Farnam (one-way going West) (<http://www.mcfosters.com/index.html>)

August 7 - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Vigil at Kenny Gate, StratCom/Offutt AFB

6:00 p.m. Mass and Potluck at Omaha Catholic Worker Contact Jerry Ebner, Omaha CW, cwomaha@gmail.com, 402-502-5887

August 8 - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Vigil at Kenny Gate, StratCom/Offutt AFB

7:00 p.m. PowerPoint Slide Show "The Story of StratCom at Offutt: Its New Mission and Our Resistance to It" by Frank Cordaro. Basement of St. John's Church at Creighton University.

August 9 - Saturday

8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Vigil at Kenny Gate, StratCom/Offutt AFB, with closing ceremony and prayer (and line crossing if anyone is up to it).

6:00 p.m. 'Peace Seekers and Pizza'
7:00 p.m. (discussion, reflection and leadership support) at 4924 Chicago Street.
Contact: Jo Peterson at 350-3019.

Contact people for more information:

Jerry Ebner, cwomaha@gmail.com (402-502-5887)

Frank Cordaro, frank.cordaro@gmail.com (515-282-4781)

Elaine Wells, mmwells1@cox.net (402-573-1702)

**Keep
Space
for
Peace**



**Especially in the heavens
war is hell.**

Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space

PAROS

Demilitarize and Prevent the Weaponization of Space!

Militarization of Outer Space: Militaries all over the world rely on satellites for command and control, communication, monitoring, early warning, and navigation with the Global Positioning System. Satellites are used to direct bombing raids or to orchestrate prompt global strike capability, which is the ability to control any situation or defeat any adversary across the range of military operations. The 1999 bombing of Kosovo and the 2003 shock and awe assault on Iraq both involved the use of satellite-guided armaments.

Weaponization of Outer Space: While there are currently no weapons deployed in orbit, the United States is developing space weapon technologies, which can include ground-based systems designed or used to attack space-based assets, such as satellites, and weapons that travel through space in order to reach their targets. **This includes elements of the US ballistic missile defense system which, as the February 2008 shoot-down of a falling satellite proved, can be deployed as an anti-satellite weapon.**

We are campaigning and demonstrating to prevent the weaponization and reduce the militarization of outer space. The whole world must bring pressure to bear on the United States to join with other nations to negotiate a treaty to keep space for peace. No one country must ever be permitted to dominate and control the planet from on high.

Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space!

The overwhelming majority of United Nations member states are concerned that the weaponization of outer space will lead to an arms race. They insist that a multi-lateral treaty is the only way to prevent such an arms race. Each year in the General Assembly, member states adopt a resolution on the **Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS)** by an overwhelming majority. In fact, every country in the world votes in favor of negotiating a treaty on PAROS except for the US, which has voted for the past three years, and Israel, which has abstained. A PAROS treaty would complement the 1967 Outer Space Treaty for peaceful uses of outer space if it prevented space weaponization and programs, such as so-called "missile defense," satellite-guided weapons launched from earth, and spy satellites collecting and using data for aggressive military purposes.

In the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the official body where UN disarmament treaties are negotiated, the United States has prevented any progress on PAROS negotiations. In 2008, Russia and China, which have always been strong promoters of the PAROS vote in the UN General Assembly, submitted a draft treaty to the CD on banning the weaponization of space. The US dismissed the proposal out-of hand, characterizing the offer to make peace in space as "a diplomatic ploy by the two nations to gain a military advantage.

We disagree. The purpose of negotiations is to prevent any nation from gaining a military advantage. It is critical that the US support PAROS and take up this urgent offer to start negotiations to keep space for peace. We must never permit the tragic expansion of the terror of war into a new frontier in space.

This fact sheet was produced by the Reaching Critical Will project of the Women International League for Peace and Freedom. For more information go www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

Military Pollution Threatens Omaha's Water

by State Senator Don Preister, District 5

The following "Midlands Voices" guest editorial was originally published in the June 10, 2008 Omaha World-Herald under the title, "It's too risky to start using new well field."

Omaha cannot afford a risk to its water supply. Safe water is critical to the health, recreation and economic well-being of our state's largest population center. But with the Metropolitan Utilities District's new well field located adjacent to a Superfund site, the future safety of Omaha's water is not guaranteed.

Military chemicals contaminate groundwater and surface water at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead in Saunders County—just two miles southwest of MUD's new well field.

The site has been on the EPA Superfund list since 1990 and remains contaminated with volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethylene (TCE), and explosives, including RDX.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also has primary responsibility for cleanup at the sites of the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant in Hall County and the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot. Although both were designated Superfund sites in the mid-1980s, they remain contaminated.

RDX is a possible human carcinogen. TCE can cause impaired heart function, liver damage and cancer through inhalation, skin contact and drinking. In 2001, a draft EPA risk assessment found that TCE is up to 40 times more carcinogenic than previously thought. The National Research Council found in 2006

that "the evidence on carcinogenic risk and other health hazards from exposure to trichloroethylene has strengthened since 2001."

The NRC urged federal agencies to finalize their risk assessment to enable expeditious risk management decisions, such as tightening regulatory standards. The dangers are real.



It is not clear why these chemicals are still in the groundwater. Nebraska state policy calls for accomplishing cleanup in 20 years or less. However, the Corps of Engineers, which has primary cleanup responsibility at the Mead site, has selected cleanup strategies that will take at least 130 years to complete. The corps did not consider a 20-year strategy at Mead, and its current cleanup plans for the Grand Island and Hastings sites estimate that cleanup there will not be completed for another 40 to 50 years.

Scientific evidence of the water problems at the Mead site has been mounting since contamination was

uncovered in a private well in 1989.

Although TCE above the regulatory action level appeared in other local groundwater samples, initial groundwater remediation did not begin until 2001—12 years later. Six residences in Saunders County currently use alternate water supplies; four use carbon treatment systems.

Despite the Mead site's 17-year-old

Military chemicals contaminate groundwater and surface water at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead in Saunders County—just two miles southwest of Omaha's Metropolitan Utility District's new well field.

— State Senator Don Preister

Superfund status, we do not fully know the nature and extent of toxins contaminating it. In August 2007, the Corps of Engineers said it was surprised to learn that the contamination was not contained in three areas and that its cleanup strategies were not as effective as previously believed.

In October 2007, the corps admitted that it was caught off guard by the discovery of TCE in groundwater contamination plumes previously thought to contain only explosives.

All of this poses serious health risks to Nebraskans. And the slow, frequently ineffective cleanup and the ongoing

discoveries of spreading contamination make risky any imminent startup of MUD's new Platte West well field.

Neither MUD nor the corps has established definitively that site contaminants will not pollute Omaha's water supply. Indeed, MUD's 404 permit, issued by the corps, acknowledges that MUD's new pumping may cause contamination to move, interfere with the corps' cleanup and contaminate drinking water.

Long before the corps acknowledged its faulty containment system, it expected that MUD's pumping would cause movement of the plume farther east. Now that it is clear that the contamination is not contained near MUD's new well field, we need to ask additional questions:

- How far east and south from the Mead site does the contamination go?
- Are the corps' and MUD's monitoring wells properly placed and numerous enough to detect movement of contamination from MUD's new pumping when it occurs?
- Is the corps' response plan adequate to tell us as soon as elevated toxins are detected?
- What is MUD's contingency plan if toxins are pumped into Omaha's water system?

Local public officials should ask these critical questions and demand responses before it is too late. Our state's water supply and Nebraska's residents deserve protection.

Public Involvement Needed on Mead Superfund Site Contamination

by Steve Larrick, Director
Lower Platte South Natural Resources Dist.

Under the U.S. Constitution, our military is legally obligated to defend our country and its citizens. But in stunning defiance of both its constitutional duties and federal regulations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has abruptly cut off public meetings with a local advisory board just as a new well field may begin pulling toxins toward Omaha's water supply.

The Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District plans to soon begin Corps-approved pumping from its new Platte West well field, located just two miles from the contaminated groundwater plumes at the Mead Superfund site.

In August 2007, however, the Corps admitted that a carcinogenic brew of toxins underlying eleven square miles at the Superfund site in Saunders County (a few miles upstream of Lincoln's municipal well field) is not contained. At that time, the Corps said it was surprised that its cleanup efforts were not functioning effectively. In addition to polluting wells of Saunders County residents who are currently forced to rely upon alternate water supplies, the Corps acknowledged that MUD's new high-powered wells may move the contamination, polluting more wells and threatening the safety of Omaha's water.

Just as these threats to our water supply loom—at the very moment when the public most

deserves to know key facts—the Corps is severely cutting back on information available to the public about the contaminated groundwater plumes at the Superfund site and their movement toward our drinking water supplies.

Instead of modifying MUD's permit to delay the start-up of the new well field until the contamination is contained, the Corps has suddenly discontinued its participation in quarterly public meetings of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)—a body comprised of area citizens affected by the Department of Defense's Superfund site cleanup activities. Moreover, in defiance of its own regulations, the Corps has informed community RAB members that it will not hold public meetings with them unless they agree to new restrictions.

Besides violating federal regulations, the

Corps-demanded strictures dramatically cut back access to crucial information and remove the public's ability to participate meaningfully in meetings. They limit participation far more than any procedures used since the RAB's inception in 1997. Thus, at a time when it's critically important that citizens exercise their right to know essential facts about the water coming into their homes and interact meaningfully with government officials, the Corps is unlawfully seeking to limit access to factual information and to the responsible officials.

The purpose of a RAB, according to federal regulations, is to provide a community forum for exchanging information about DoD cleanups and an opportunity to dialogue with

conclusion on page 11

What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Right-Wing Punditry & Green Cheese Science

I alternately envy and pity regular op-ed columnists whose punditry is syndicated by the millions of copies in U.S. daily newspapers. On one hand, imagine all that wonderful news space and all those willing eyes. On the other hand, imagine the angst of coming up with faux wisdom several times a week and trying to make it sound fresh and profound.

Every day I try to read a few pundits who are guaranteed to disagree with me. As a long-time devotee of Thomas Jefferson, I believe that to have an honest debate, we must suffer the opinions of those who disagree with us. We even (occasionally) may learn something.

Of late, I have been reading right-wing pundits on global warming, finding reason once again to remind myself that carbon dioxide and methane have no politics. CO₂ and methane don't care if we believe in the importance of global warming or not. They are not having a debate with us. All they do is hold heat in the atmosphere. And while it's true (weather being weather) that other influences do come into play with regards to global warming, injecting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere will increase temperatures.

The New Commies

The basic science of global warming intrudes only rarely in the op-ed debates. If we get any science at all, it's the moon-is-made-of-green-cheese variety. More likely I will run into the John Birch Society's signature nightmare from the 1950s that stars the United Nations in a plot to enslave the people of the United States, updated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cast as the New Commies. Or, as George F.

Will put it so succinctly: "Today's 'green left' is yesterday's 'red left,' revised," using pessimism about the future as an unjustified excuse for government curtailment of individual freedom to exploit and pollute. Carbon dioxide is thus exonerated by facile (and rather simplistic) historical irony, without the slightest bow to geophysics. If carbon dioxide had a sense of humor, it would get a belly laugh out of this. Will strikes me as a reasonably intelligent fellow, a wonderful word-spinner, but his global-warming science is strictly green cheese.

Right-wing pundit Cal Thomas argues that global warming amounts to nothing more than a "cult" that "ignores evidence," an excuse for liberals to expand the reach of government into peoples' lives. "Growing numbers of atmospheric scientists and others with related expertise are emerging from the global-warming cult and testifying to their conversions. They are mostly ignored by the press and politicians who have embraced the cultists' doctrines," he argues. The carbon dioxide is chuckling, Cal! No 'thermal inertia' for him, no 'feedback loops'—just hard-right ideology. And he thinks *someone else* is displaying allegiance to a cult.

Dissing Carbon Taxes

The columnist Robert Samuelson, who specializes in economics, argues, a "cap-and-trade" scheme will amount to a tax on fossil-fuel energy as a market device to reduce its use. Just call it "cap-and-tax," he moans. And who, after all, wants to pay taxes? In a perfect world, the streets would pave themselves.

If Samuelson is worried about

a tax running around under the guise of a futures market in carbon, we could institute a straight-up carbon-dioxide tax. Such things are done in Europe. But I doubt the wise-guy pundits would like that, either. Tax favors for oil companies are more their style.

Of course cap-and-trade is a tax, and its stated purpose is to reduce our production of carbon dioxide. It is far better to tax something we do not want (greenhouse gases) than activity we would rather encourage, such as human labor.

Samuelson makes the use of taxation to reward or penalize certain types of human behavior sounds like an evil new idea. And yet what, dear writer, is an oil-depletion allowance? What is a tax deduction for charitable contributions? Of course cap-and-trade is a tax, and its stated purpose is to reduce our production of carbon dioxide. It is far better to tax something we do not want (greenhouse gases) than activity we would rather encourage, such as human labor. Samuelson misses the example of Sweden, which has replaced a large proportion of its income tax with energy taxes.

Rapidly rising prices for fossil fuels—from coal-fired power to gasoline—already are altering the

market in favor of alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power. Wind power is already less expensive than fossil-fuel sources under some conditions. Cap-and-trade will encourage this necessary trend, by requiring payment to pollute, and raising the price over time.

The Special-Interest Dance

As soon as the United States Congress began to seriously consider taxing carbon emissions, various industries involved in the Climate Action Partnership (CAP) began to jockey in favor of their interests. While major industries supported curbs in principle, specifics varied widely. The raw truth is that dealing with global warming will reward some industries and penalize others. Get used to it.

In January 2007, the CAP endorsed reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 60 to 80 percent by 2050, supporting climate scientists' views at that time. These days, the favored scientific figure for carbon emissions in 2050 is zero. That was the easy part. Next came the particulars—practice versus theory. Consensus proved elusive. Should carbon allowances be given away to companies that emit carbon dioxide, such as utilities, or auctioned at a price from the beginning? This and other debates have stymied negotiations over policy and regulations. In Europe, permission to emit a ton of CO₂ already was selling for about \$26 in 2008; at that level, the carbon dioxide emitted in the United States would be worth about \$220 billion a year.

By 2008, trade groups were readying ad campaigns against

cap-and-trade. One ad, produced by the United States Chamber of Commerce, was described in the *Washington Post* as showing "a man cooking breakfast over candles in a cold, darkened house, then jogging to work on empty highways, asking: 'Is this really how Americans want to live?'"

Samuelson seems to be something of a climatic fatalist, who believes that reducing carbon emissions by penalizing its production "promises to be hard and perhaps futile." He seems not to mind leaving our children a hot, miserable world. Or, perhaps, he thinks it is a hoax or a cult. Or that we can continue to add to the atmosphere's greenhouse-gas overload without causing any real environmental problems—"green-cheese" science.

It's a dangerous tack these right-wing pundits are advising. Conducting business as usual will ensure a climate out of control.

Bruce E. Johansen is the Frederick W. Kayser Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

CORRECTION

Jim Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies sent a correction to my last column:

"Bruce, I note that in the article you sent to me that you thought I said we had to get back to 350 ppm in 10 years—no way that could be done... We show how a coal phase-out by 2030 would allow us to get back to 350 in the second half of the century. Jim."

Rep. Kucinich Introduces Impeachment Resolutions

Four years ago this summer (and four months before President George W. Bush was elected to a second term), Nebraskans for Peace publicly called for the impeachment of both he and Vice-President Dick Cheney—and were roundly ridiculed for our action.

This past June, exactly four years later, Rep. Dennis Kucinich introduced 35 articles of impeachment against Bush into Congress (H. Res. 1258), with the warning that if the House Judiciary Committee failed to hold hearings within the next 30 days, he would be back with yet another resolution to impeach. Good as his word, on July 10, Kucinich introduced a follow-up resolution, and this time his tenacity appears to have paid off. In an about-face, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi told the media that she now expected the Judiciary Committee and its chair, Rep. John Conyers, to consider the matter.

Reprinted here are both Kucinich's July 10 media statement about the second impeachment resolution, and the full 35 articles from his original June 9 document.

July 10 Media Statement

Yesterday in the House, we had a moment of silence for the troops. Today it is time to speak out on behalf of those troops who will be in Iraq for at least another year, courageously representing our nation while their Commander in Chief sent them on a mission that was based on falsehoods about the threat of WMDs from Iraq.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2002, the Congress, the media and the American people heard the terrifying drumbeat of fear from the Bush White House in the form of loud, well-advertised and orchestrated chanting by the President and his Administration about “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” “Nuclear Threats,” “Biological Weapons,” “Chemical Weapons,” “Threats of Imminent Attack,” all calculated to gain media attention, public support and Congressional support for a war against Iraq.

This afternoon I will introduce a single Article of Impeachment of the President.

The Article is entitled: “Deceiving Congress with Fabricated Threats of Iraq WMDs to Fraudulently Obtain Support for an Authorization of the Use of Military Force Against Iraq.” The Impeachment resolution focuses narrowly on what the President pre-

sented to Congress in the Authorization of the Use of Military Force. It does not address the voluminous evidence of orchestrated deceptions which have been well documented by various governmental, non-governmental and media sources.

I understand that many members of Congress voted in good faith to authorize the use of force against Iraq. And I understand that many in the media supported that action. When the President of the United States makes representations on matters of life and death, we all want to believe him and give him the benefit of the doubt. Trust is the glue which holds the fabric of our nation together.

Those in Congress and in the media who acted on the President's representations of the threat of Iraq WMDs did so trusting that those representations were honest. Unfortunately, they were not. We all know the consequences of the war, the loss of lives and injury to our troops, the deaths of innocent Iraqis, the cost to the American taxpayers. There has been another consequence: Great damage to our Constitution through an unnecessary, illegal war and the destruction of the superior role of Congress in the life of this nation.

Congress must, in the name of the American people, use the one remedy which the Founders provided for an Executive who gravely abused his power: Impeachment. Congress must reassert itself as a co-equal branch of government; bring this President to an accounting, and in doing so reestablish the people's trust in Congress and in our American system of government. We must not let this President's conduct go unchallenged and thereby create a precedent which undermines the Constitution.

In the final analysis this is about our Constitution and whether a President can be held accountable for his actions and his deceptions, especially when the effects of those actions have been so calamitous for America, Iraq and the world. Unless Congress reasserts itself as the power branch of government which the Founders intended, our experiment with a republican form of Government may be nearing an end. But when Congress acts to hold this President accountable it will be redeeming the faith that the Founders had in the power of a system of checks and balances which preserves our republic.

Thirty-five Articles of Impeachment (House Resolution 1258)

- Article I: Creating a Secret Propaganda Campaign to Manufacture a False Case for War Against Iraq.
- Article II: Falsely, Systematically, and with Criminal Intent Conflating the Attacks of September 11, 2001, With Misrepresentation of Iraq as a Security Threat as Part of Fraudulent Justification for a War of Aggression.
- Article III: Misleading the American People and Members of Congress to Believe Iraq Possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction, to Manufacture a False Case for War.
- Article IV: Misleading the American People and Members of Congress to Believe Iraq Posed an Imminent Threat to the United States.
- Article V: Illegally Misspending Funds to Secretly Begin a War of Aggression.
- Article VI: Invading Iraq in Violation of the Requirements of HJRes114.
- Article VII: Invading Iraq Absent a Declaration of War.
- Article VIII: Invading Iraq, A Sovereign Nation, in Violation of the UN Charter.
- Article IX: Failing to Provide Troops With Body Armor and Vehicle Armor.
- Article X: Falsifying Accounts of US Troop Deaths and Injuries for Political Purposes.
- Article XI: Establishment of Permanent U.S. Military Bases in Iraq.
- Article XII: Initiating a War Against Iraq for Control of That Nation's Natural Resources.
- Article XIII: Creating a Secret Task Force to Develop Energy and Military Policies With Respect to Iraq and Other Countries.
- Article XIV: Misprision of a Felony, Misuse and Exposure of Classified Information And Obstruction of Justice in the Matter of Valerie Plame Wilson, Clandestine Agent of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Article XV: Providing Immunity from Prosecution for Criminal Contractors in Iraq.
- Article XVI: Reckless Misspending and Waste of U.S. Tax Dollars in Connection With Iraq and US Contractors.
- Article XVII: Illegal Detention: Detaining Indefinitely And Without Charge Persons Both U.S. Citizens and Foreign Captives.
- Article XVIII: Torture: Secretly Authorizing, and Encouraging the Use of Torture Against Captives in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Other Places, as a Matter of Official Policy.
- Article XIX: Rendition: Kidnapping People and Taking Them Against Their Will to “Black Sites” Located in Other Nations, Including Nations Known to Practice Torture.
- Article XX: Imprisoning Children.
- Article XXI: Misleading Congress and the American People About Threats from Iran, and Supporting Terrorist Organizations Within Iran, With the Goal of Overthrowing the Iranian Government.
- Article XXII: Creating Secret Laws.
- Article XXIII: Violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.
- Article XXIV: Spying on American Citizens, Without a Court-Ordered Warrant, in Violation of the Law and the Fourth Amendment.
- Article XXV: Directing Telecommunications Companies to Create an Illegal and Unconstitutional Database of the Private Telephone Numbers and Emails of American Citizens.
- Article XXVI: Announcing the Intent to Violate Laws with Signing Statements.
- Article XXVII: Failing to Comply with Congressional Subpoenas, and Instructing Former Employees Not to Comply.
- Article XXVIII: Tampering with Free and Fair Elections, Corruption of the Administration of Justice.
- Article XXIX: Conspiracy to Violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Article XXX: Misleading Congress and the American People in an Attempt to Destroy Medicare.
- Article XXXI: Katrina: Failure to Plan for the Predicted Disaster of Hurricane Katrina, Failure to Respond to a Civil Emergency.
- Article XXXII: Misleading Congress and the American People, Systematically Undermining Efforts to Address Global Climate Change.
- Article XXXIII: Repeatedly Ignored and Failed to Respond to High Level Intelligence Warnings of Planned Terrorist Attacks in the US, Prior to 911.
- Article XXXIV: Obstruction of the Investigation into the Attacks of September 11, 2001.
- Article XXXV: Endangering the Health of 911 First Responders.

Review of *The Battle for Whiteclay*

A Glass Onion film directed and produced by Mark Vasina

Reviewed by Fran Kaye
UNL Professor of English

The day after I received my review copy of *The Battle for Whiteclay*, my brother told me that our friend Jamie Yellow Horse was dead. Funny, irrepressible Jamie, who a year ago had stood with us outside the governor's mansion to protest against the scheduled execution of Carey Dean Moore. Jamie, who always insisted on tuning the car radio away from my sacred *NPR* to Country-Western. Jamie, who moved back to Pine Ridge last fall, concerned that he would not survive another winter on the streets of Lincoln. Jamie Yellow Horse, who survived the winter but not the spring, drinking on the streets of Whiteclay.

The Battle for Whiteclay is a two-hour-long documentary film, produced and directed by Mark Vasina, about how four off-sale stores in the tiny hamlet of Whiteclay, Nebraska sell millions of cans of beer every year to people like Jamie—vulnerable adults who come from the officially dry Pine Ridge Reservation a few feet across the South Dakota state line to enlist a few beers (particularly the fortified malt liquors like “Hurricane” and “Colt 45” that allow a man or a woman to get drunk quicker) in a fruitless attempt to forget unemployment, disappointment, and more than a century of cultural genocide.

The film focuses on the activism of those who have called on the State of Nebraska to enforce its own liquor laws so that Whiteclay is no longer an attractive nuisance to the people in Pine Ridge. Since the establishments are all off-sale and since the reservation is dry, there is no legal place for most of the purchasers to drink their beers. Jamie and his friends, like much of the clientele, were drinking in public, which is illegal in Nebraska. In addition, as the video makes clear through footage almost accidentally shot by a Nebraska state trooper, establishments continue to sell to patrons who are intoxicated—also illegal in Nebraska. Investigator Byron Peterson has repeatedly heard allegations that at least some of the dealers have been known to sell on credit, sell to minors, sell for sexual favors and trade beer for services, such as the shakedown of other patrons who have defaulted on credit agreements. Jamie and his friends *chose* to drink in Whiteclay. But they have the right to the context of protection from their own addictions that other Nebraskans have, and they did not and do not receive it.

In addition, Whiteclay is in a section of Nebraska that was originally set up as a buffer zone for the Pine Ridge reservation. President Theodore Roosevelt unilaterally abrogated this agreement more than 100 years ago, but the legality of that action is in question, and it may be that the liquor stores are illegal under properly understood federal law.

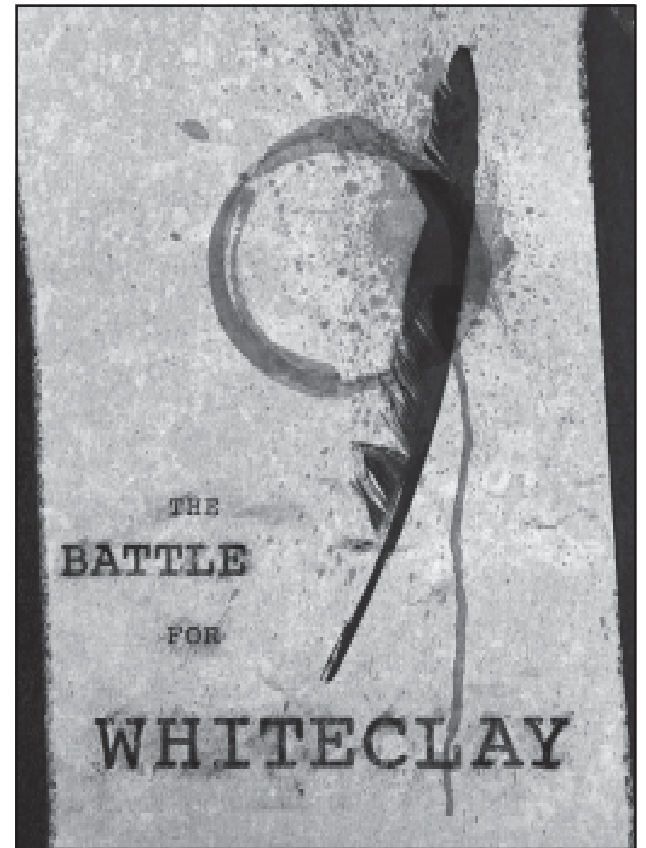
The documentary shows scenes of drinking in Whiteclay and gives a background glimpse of the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Reservation, but most of it focuses on the various processes that opponents have taken to close down the beer stores. Thus we see a teach-in and march in Lincoln, marches and blockades in Whiteclay, and hearings at the county board, the state liquor commission and the state legislature dealing with various licensing questions. Most of the decisions favor the beer stores. After all, those mil-

lions of cans of beer constitute considerable profit for those who sell them, as well as generating sales and excise tax revenue for the State of Nebraska and the federal government. We see and hear the people who drink (mostly Lakota), the people who regulate the drinking (mostly white), and the people concerned with closing down illegal beer sales in Whiteclay (Lakota, white, and other Indian activists such as former AIM leader Russell Means, Oglala Lakota member Duane Martin, Sr., and Frank LaMere of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska).

I watched the video with students in my summer Native American Literature class at UNL. Most of them were ‘ordinary’ middle class students, uninformed about Whiteclay or Native issues in general. They found the video eye-opening and informative. A few had received minor alcohol-related citations and were amazed at the volume of public impairment that was tolerated in Whiteclay. People die in Whiteclay and nothing happens, but if a UNL student were to die drunk on the streets of Lincoln there would definitely be a public outcry. Lincoln is also well served by Cornhusker Place, a detox center, which offers protection to folk like Jamie Yellow Horse who pass out or are otherwise publicly impaired in the city and county.

While the students found the shots of various board hearings boring, they also found them informative, and one student—who had been thinking to herself that this had nothing to do with her—changed her mind when she saw her state senator on the screen. This did concern her, and as a voter, she had a say in who sits on the legislative committees governing Whiteclay. Although the video talks about the astronomically high rate of poverty and unemployment on Pine Ridge and the complete lack of alcohol treatment facilities in the region, the students said that they would have liked to see more emphasis on how shutting down Whiteclay could be part of sustained economic and social development on both Pine Ridge and in northwest Nebraska. They certainly agreed that the beer stores made Whiteclay a death trap for people caught in the vicious circle of despair and drinking, and that checking the illegal and predatory sales was important. But they also agreed that this open sore was primarily a symptom of the underlying dysfunctions on the reservation.

Closing down Whiteclay would not mean that everyone was safe and happy on Pine Ridge. Any huge social problem can only be solved one piece at a time. Stopping the sale of beer for illegal consumption in Whiteclay is one tangible part of a solution—one that could be achieved if Nebraska were willing to enforce its own laws and to take seriously its obligations to regulate liquor sales. What the students applauded most in the film was the portrayal of the Pine Ridge activists, the young men, the mothers, the grandmothers, who maintained their sobriety and pride in the midst of the despair, who did not give in to drinking, and who were voting with their feet in the marches, their heads in the blockades and their hearts against the excessive beer sales. These activists, like community activists in any ill-favored community, will have to be the core for change on Pine Ridge and in Whiteclay. But they deserve all the help they can get from Frank LaMere, Russell Means, Byron Peterson, Mark Vasina, Nebraskans for Peace and everyone else.



Artwork by Justin Kemerling

Cover art for the DVD of Nebraska filmmaker Mark Vasina's Whiteclay documentary

DVD copies of *The Battle for Whiteclay* will be available in late August through the NFP office for a suggested donation of \$10 to NFP.

Send requests to:

Whiteclay DVD
c/o Nebraskans for Peace
941 'O' Street, Ste. 1026
Lincoln, NE 68508

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War Costs, conclusion

cost us as much as 2 percent of national product; and (5) our publicly subsidized but privately operated healthcare system costs us at least 5 percent of national product too much. Hence, the many debts that we have been building up will leave our children with an economy that may be 20 percent poorer than the one most Americans think they are leaving them.

There are obvious signs that we are, in fact, already living in an economy that is 20 percent smaller than we like to think. Declining real wages, lagging adjustments in the minimum wage, actual declines in life expectancy in nearly one third of U.S. counties, the dismantling of our government-provided social safety net, increased work hours, more family members working, the collapsing household saving rate, and the falling value of the dollar are all signs of fundamental economic weakness. Our environmental, social and healthcare debts also show up in the erosion of our public education system, large tuition increases at universities and colleges, growing income inequalities, collapsing levees and poor public transportation. And, even more discreetly, we are increasingly paying these debts in the form of rising utility rates, road tolls, explicit service fees and deteriorating services because desperate state and local governments increasingly resort to privatization schemes to meet short-run budgetary gaps caused by lagging tax revenues.

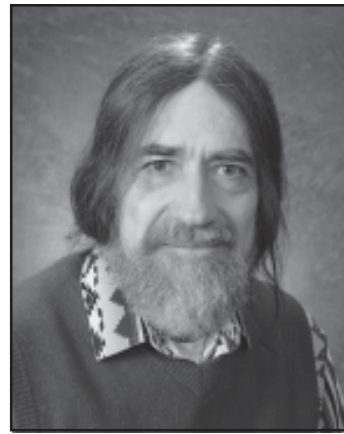
What Now?

Fortunately, we have the wealth to deal with the debts described above. Yes, our environmental destruction will cost us 1 or 2 percent of national product to reverse, and foreigners will, sooner or later, want to be repaid the trillions we have borrowed. Those are real costs we must pay for by reducing our own consumption. Our huge military expenditures, on the other hand, can be reversed however by simply cutting the spending. Also, if we can overcome the resistance of the special interests, a government-funded single-payer universal healthcare system can begin reducing health costs and improving coverage as soon as it comes on line. Dealing with these debts will not slow down economic growth or cause unemployment to rise either, because American labor and capital freed from producing bombs, training soldiers or producing Hummers can be used to build public transportation, design alternative energy systems, educate and inspire our youth, and produce the huge volume of exports with which to repay our foreign lenders. The problem, of course, is that special interests are well-entrenched in our political system, and it will take time to

carry out these changes. Until we make them, the costs will accumulate.

It is encouraging to see poll results showing that 80 percent of Americans think the U.S. is moving in the wrong direction. Apparently, many people are, to some degree, aware of the huge debts we will have to pay off in the future. Recent polls also reveal, however, that Americans favor John McCain, the more pro-war candidate, when

even further, leaving our children even less prepared to pay the debts our militarism passes on to them. In short, we may very well end up in a vicious downward economic cycle from which we cannot recover. The postponement in dealing with our foreign, social and environmental debts, and a long-term decline of the U.S. economy, could then become the real legacy of our invasion and occupation of Iraq.



Hank van den Berg

The many debts that we have been building up will leave our children with an economy that may be 20 percent poorer than the one most Americans think they are leaving them.

it comes to foreign policy. This is not encouraging. If Americans opt to support wasteful militarism and the continued occupation of Iraq, our government will continue to borrow more, our real incomes will stagnate and individuals will not save, foreigners will continue to buy more of our assets and lay claim to more of our future income, and social expenditures will likely be cut

In closing, it may have occurred to you that the efforts of Nebraskans for Peace to promote peace between nations, peace within our society, and peace with our natural environment very nicely address our most pressing economic problems.

Peace, it turns out, is good economic policy.

Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park, President, Nebraska Peace Foundation









Today, we see a wide difference in the presidential candidates. One is going after the big donors—at SAC Museum a \$1000/plate dinner with a \$50,000 donation giving you a chance for your picture with the candidate.

The other candidate is pushing for \$5 (or maybe \$10 or \$25) donations but is building the largest donor base ever for a presidential candidate.

Nebraska Peace Foundation applauds the big donors that have helped keep Nebraskans for Peace afloat for years, but also is very appreciative of many smaller donations. As with one of the presidential candidates, we can do well if we have a large donor base even though few are large givers. Please consider giving a tax-exempt donation to Nebraska Peace Foundation.

Just send your check to the NFP office, payable to Nebraska Peace Foundation.



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Speaking Our Peace, conclusion

living standards in many Asian, African and Middle Eastern nations." It will further erode "...conditions in already fragile areas... as food production declines," increase diseases, destroy clean water sources, and force large populations to move in search of resources. (Oxfam case studies point to rising rivers and severe storms jeopardizing crops in Bangladesh, and longer droughts making subsistence more difficult in West African countries like Mali and Burkina Faso.) The admirals and generals who endorsed the report argue that "the national security consequences of climate change be fully integrated into national security and national defense strategies" and that the U.S. "commit to a stronger national and international role to help stabilize climate change." We should, they say, "commit to global partnerships... to better manage climate impacts" and find better energy alternatives. The con-

sequences of failure will be terrorism, weakened and failed governments or authoritarian ones, a U.S. drawn into a larger role in Africa, and possibly a further nuclearization of international tensions. Last month the military released another study essentially repeating these findings.

We do have alternatives to military solutions in which StratCom will likely be our hammer to keep the starving at home, intimidate non-cooperative governments, destroy terrorist targets, wall up borders and keep down nuclear threats. There is another way, and the military half recognizes it. That way is to stop our emissions post haste, negotiate a new and better Kyoto accord, create relief and conflict resolution tools to answer hunger and refugee problems, and rely on negotiation among members of the world community to keep us part of the web of life.

The world need not end in fire. Or ice.

Public Involvement, conclusion

decision makers. The federal regulations empower community RAB members to decide how meetings are run. In April, the community members officially adopted operating procedures which codify many of the existing practices.


Consistent with the RAB's purpose and current practices, members adopted procedures allowing ample opportunity for all meeting attendees to ask questions and provide comments—necessary to verify the accuracy and completeness of Corps statements and to explore evasions. Members also codified a procedure used since 2005 requiring preparation of meeting transcripts—to record the public statements of Corps personnel who frequently turn over and suffer from recurrent "memory loss".

In response to operating procedures lawfully adopted by community RAB members, the Corps stated its intention to impose totalitarian-like measures, defying both federal regulations and the adopted operating procedures. These measures include muzzling the public during most of the meet-

ing, not preparing meeting transcripts, and cutting in half the number of meetings annually. In essence, the public process the Corps now desires is as contaminated as the site.

Rather than seeking to control and contain information reaching the public about the uncontained contamination and potential effects of MUD's pumping on water supply safety, the Corps should respect federal regulations and the authority they provide to community members to hold government officials accountable. Starting immediately, the Corps should resume public meetings consistent with RAB operating procedures and cooperate in providing complete, factual information.

Meaningful citizen participation in governmental processes greatly improves decision making and strengthens our society. In contrast, the Corps' decision to flout regulatory requirements is not only undermining public safeguards envisioned in federal environmental laws. It is perverting what the framers of the Constitution intended.




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2008 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemorative Lantern Float

Saturday, August 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
North Side of Holmes Lake in Lincoln

Lantern floats in Japan are used to guide the souls of the dead to their rest. In recent times they have been used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to commemorate the people killed by the first atomic bombs. This annual memorial, which is sponsored by Lincoln churches and Peace & Justice groups, reminds us of what happened to these Japanese cities, in the hope that such events never again occur – particularly now, when we are hearing from our governmental leaders that the ‘nuclear option’ is still on the table.

Materials for the lanterns and plans for making them will be provided at the site, or see how to make a shade and base at www.progressiveportal.org/lanterns/shademaking.html.

BULLETIN BOARD

August 6-9	Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Protest at StratCom (See details on page 4.)
August 9	Hiroshima Lantern Float at Holmes Lake in Lincoln.
October 7-9	StratCom Protest at the “Strategic Space and Defense 2008 Conference” in Omaha.
October 18	2008 Annual Peace Conference in Lincoln. University of New Mexico Associate Professor of Accounting, Michele Chwastiak, will speak on the economic costs of the Iraq War.
November 4	General Election Day (the clock is ticking)

To list an event, submit in writing by the tenth of the month preceding the event to:
NFP, 941 ‘O’ Street, #1026, Lincoln, NE 68508, or email: NeReport@neb.rr.com.

NFP State Office Hours in Lincoln, 9:00 – 2:00 weekdays.



Speaking Our Peace

The World Will End in Fire

by Paul Olson, NFP President

Poor old Robert Frost. He thought the dilemma of whether the world would end in fire or ice concerned whether passion or hatred would destroy the world:

*Some say the world will end in fire;
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire. . . .*

But “ice”—hatred—constituted Frost’s alternate destruction of choice.

*But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.*

Of course, like Frost, we know that both desire and hatred will enter into our destruction. But can we ‘be more specific,’ as my teachers in high school would say? My father thought that some kind of fire from God would end the world (the “elements will melt with fervent heat” he used to say). And when the bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he thought he knew specifically how it would happen.

Another kind of ‘fire’ though may be more likely. As UNO Professor Bruce Johansen said at a recent NFP-Oxfam America forum in Omaha this past June, for this fire to come, we don’t have to do anything—other than keep on keeping on. The presentations by Johansen, Maril Hazlett of the Land Institute, and Jim

French of Oxfam were powerful statements about how global warming will not stop for decades even if we do everything we can. ‘Thermal inertia’ (the ‘lag effect’ of carbon in the atmosphere) and feedback loops (that act to accelerate the warming process) will keep it going. They three speakers told how here in Nebraska, where we have excellent wind and sun, our legislators have failed to provide incentives for wind and solar and energy-saving devices to cut our losses. They told how—per person—Americans put 16 times as many warming pollutants into the air as do developing world citizens. They told how people are already starving and moving about as hunger refugees in Africa and Asia because of our global warming waste and greed. Peace is up for grabs.

Nebraskans for Peace has taken on the ‘environment’ as a priority not because we wish to duplicate what the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, Oxfam, or the Center for Rural Affairs are doing. They do good work. We have adopted militarism and the environment as a priority because we believe that the U.S. military does do not believe what Chief Seattle and his people believed:

Every part of this earth is sacred... Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, and every humming insect is holy

in the memory and experience of my people. The sap that courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man... This we know: All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

The implicit assumption of militarism, however, is that land can be seized and owned, that life is not a web, and that what befalls some of us need not befall all. Ownership can be secured by guns.

Did the military believe as Chief Seattle did, they would not have left carcinogens in the aquifers near Mead, York, Grand Island and Hastings. They would not be claiming that they do not have to obey the EPA and clean up the carcinogenic TCE found in military sites all over the country. They would not have waited decades before starting to clean up TCE near Mead, and decades more before cleaning it up completely, even when the poisons are migrating near the Omaha water supply. They would respect the web. The land the bombs of WWII supposedly secured for us, military carelessness has lost to decent human use at Mead.

Despite this, the military knows its interest in global warming. While the Bush/Cheney Administration was dismissing global warming as a ‘myth,’ the military

issued two reports—a 2003 study by Peter Schwartz and Doug Randall, *An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security* and a 2007 study endorsed by many generals and admirals entitled, *National Security and the Threat of Climate Change*. The former offers a scenario where heat and fresh water from glaciers collapses the Gulf Stream and other like currents that presently bring warm water toward the poles. The collapse would make Europe and North America colder and drier, leading to extreme drought in the breadbasket areas of North America and Europe. Such climate change would create reductions in the globe’s useable food, water and energy supplies, consequent vast refugee and border management problems that would, in turn, create heavy-duty nationalism and a ‘fortress mentality’ worldwide. In specific areas, Northern European populations might push southward, and the Middle East would host vast conflicts over water and energy resources. You can visualize the wars.

The second study projects a world characterized by “extreme weather events, drought, flooding, sea-level rise, retreating glaciers, habitat shifts, and the increased spread of life-threatening diseases.” The warming will “exacerbate already marginal

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