



Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

APRIL 2009

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 4

We're Never Getting Back to 'Normal'

Some Sobering Thoughts about the Financial Meltdown

*by Hendrik van den Berg
UNL Professor of Economics*

The first week of March, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that it would make another \$30 billion available to the bankrupt insurance conglomerate, AIG—on top of the \$150 billion that has already been transferred. The government also reported that it had upped its ownership in Citibank to nearly 40 percent. Mid-month, the British government announced it would raise the public's stake in the troubled Lloyds Bank to 80 percent. As I write, the Netherlands is debating a complete governmental takeover of ING, the huge Dutch banking/insurance conglomerate that (like our AIG) is deemed 'too big to fail.'

And so it goes.

Conservatives never tire of lamenting the huge amounts of public money

being spent and what they see as a 'nationalization' of private banks and insurance companies. Liberals also bemoan the huge amounts of money being handed out to private banks and insurance companies, and they use terms like 'black hole' and 'bottomless pit' in order to urge the government to fully nationalize bankrupt banks and insurance companies.

Meanwhile, the economic problems are clearly not confined to the financial sector. An audit of General Motors concludes that—with or without government help—the firm is not viable. GM's subsidiary Opel is asking the German government for immediate help, lest it be forced to shut down plants all over Europe within a month or less. The French government has already agreed to lend billions of euros to the big automakers Renault and Peugeot/Citroen.

Another 600,000-plus jobs were lost in February, and the unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent of the labor force. Add the number of people who were working part-time but wanted to work full-time, plus those who have simply stopped looking for work altogether, and nearly 15 percent of the workforce is now unemployed or underemployed. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation just announced it had liquidated its 17th bank this year, and it was running out of funds to protect depositors' accounts. It is seeking to double the fees it charges banks to insure the accounts, but banks say they cannot withstand the increase of another one-tenth of one percent of their deposits. Congress is casting its eyes on future generations for more borrowing to help the broke FDIC.

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Nebraska Report

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Nebraskans for Peace

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We're Never Getting Back to 'Normal', continued

And so it goes.

Maybe, if the facts about the economic crisis that's swirling around us hadn't prejudiced my outlook, I would have been comforted by the beautiful full-color online brochure I received from General Motors last week touting their large fuel-guzzling pickup trucks. "Now is the perfect time to buy the truck you always wanted!" the ad exhorted. The Internet also runs streaming ads for Ford's "completely redesigned F-150." And I am getting more notes from financial firms with titles such as: "It may be time to go back into the market."

Is the recession over then? Has the market bottomed out? Will things soon be back to 'normal'?

The Reality

We will never get back to 'normal'—not by 2010, 2012 or even 2020—if by 'normal' we mean the economic growth we have experienced over the past 25 years. The fact is that the past 25 years themselves were not 'normal' in that they were economically unsustainable.

Over the past 25 years, we let our trade deficit rise to 6 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by selling our assets to foreign investors and governments. We incarcerated or confined to our criminal (in)justice system 3 percent of our working age population. We let our healthcare industry be manipulated by private conglomerates even though public funds and subsidies pay for or subsidize 60 percent of all medical expenditures. Americans now pay 17 percent of GDP for healthcare—over 5 percentage

points more than other high-income countries (who, by the way, achieve better health outcomes than we do). We ignored our stock of human capital by undermining public education, charging students more and more for college, and demonizing science. We demanded tax cuts and cheered on the deterioration of government to where it now handles neither emergencies nor many routine tasks very well.



We let inequality grow to early 20th century proportions by letting the minimum wage fall to about 60 percent of what it was 40 years ago, restricting workers' ability to organize unions, and massively cutting taxes on the wealthy and large wind-fall inheritances. The real wage of the median worker has remained about the same for 40 years running, and the gains from economic growth have gone almost entirely to the very wealthy. We saluted the flag and let defense expenditures rise to about 7 percent of GDP when all military expenditures are fully accounted for. The U.S. now makes virtually half of all mili-

tary expenditures in the world, and we have in the process triggered a wasteful arms race on earth and in space. And we questioned the 'science' of ecology while we went from consuming 70 percent of the Earth's capacity to provide renewable resources such as water, air, soil, waste management, etc. in 1960 to consuming over 120 percent of that capacity today. We now face climate change and water shortages, and the astonishingly rapid loss of biodiversity may yet make climate change the lesser of our environmental problems.



No, we cannot go back to this 'normal' later this year, next year, or ever.

But few people in the media, the political arena, or in the general public have yet grasped that 'back to normal' means going back to saving much more, consuming much less, producing more stuff for foreigners and not being able to buy so much stuff from them on credit, stopping the senseless arms race, raising taxes and

spending more on public education, health and the environment. We have lived in fantasy land for so long that we have forgotten what a sustainable real world really looks like. Most of all, we have forgotten how to pay for what we buy.

The Enabler: The Financial Industry

We have been spoiled by the financial industry. We blame the collapse of our unsustainable lifestyles on the financial industry—and it's true, they are not blameless—but we need to get the blame right. The banks, brokers, and insurance companies are in financial difficulties because they enthusiastically took on the task of funding the unsustainable imbalances described above. U.S. consumers have been able to buy all this foreign stuff and consume without actually increasing their real wages, because the financial industry did such a bang-up job of bundling our risky home mortgages, mountainous credit card debt and constant stream of new car loans into what's called 'securitized' packages, and then selling (and pretending to insure) these overvalued securities all around the world. Our government could engage in costly wars without anyone feeling any immediate financial burden, because the international financial markets channeled a couple of trillion dollars worth of government bonds to China and elsewhere. These were monumental accomplishments of our global financial industry. Unfortunately, even

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Cut the Military Budget

by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)

Not since the end of the 'Cold War' nearly 20 years ago has a public official dared to propose cutting the Pentagon budget. Last October though—just ten days before the November election—Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, set off a firestorm by calling for a 25 percent cut in military spending. "If we are going to get the deficit under control without slashing every domestic program, this is a necessity," Frank told the Washington news publication, Politico. "The Pentagon is probably the most wasteful organization in the federal government and people have given it a pass for years." Even at 75 percent of its current spending level, he stated, America would "still be the strongest nation in the world." In the following article, originally published in the March 2, 2009 issue of The Nation, Frank outlines the necessity for such a cut and explains how it could be done.

I am great believer in freedom of expression and am proud of those times when I have been one of a few members of Congress to oppose censorship. I still hold close to an absolutist position, but I have been tempted recently to make an exception, not by banning speech but by requiring it. I would be very happy if there was some way to make it a misdemeanor for people to talk about reducing the budget deficit without including a recommendation that we substantially cut military spending.

Sadly, self-described centrist and even liberal organizations often talk about the need to curtail deficits by cutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other programs that have a benign social purpose, but they fail to talk about one area where substantial budget reductions would have the doubly beneficial effect of cutting the deficit and diminishing ex-

If we were to cut military spending by 25 percent from its projected levels, we would still be immeasurably stronger than any combination of nations with whom we might be engaged.

penditures that often do more harm than good. Obviously people should be concerned about the \$700 billion Congress voted for this past fall to deal with the credit crisis. But even if none of that money were to be paid back—and most of it will be—it would involve a smaller drain on taxpayer dollars than the Iraq War will have cost us by the time it is concluded, and it is roughly equivalent to the \$651 billion we will spend on all defense in this fiscal year.

When I am challenged by people—not all of them conservative—who tell me that they agree, for example, that we should enact comprehensive universal healthcare but wonder how to pay for it, my answer is that I do not know immediately where to get the funding but I know whom I should ask. I was in Congress on September 10, 2001, and I know there was no money in the budget at that time for a war in Iraq. So my answer is that I will go to the people who found the money for that war and ask them if they could find some for healthcare.

It is particularly inexplicable that so many self-styled moderates ignore the extraordinary increase in military spending. After all, George W. Bush himself has acknowledged its importance. As the

December 20 *Wall Street Journal* notes, "The president remains adamant his budget troubles were the result of a ramp-up in defense spending." Bush then ends this rare burst of intellectual honesty by blaming all this "ramp-up" on the need to fight the war in Iraq.

Current plans call for us not only to spend hundreds of billions more in Iraq but to continue to spend even more over the next few years producing new weapons that might have been useful against the Soviet Union. Many of these weapons are technological marvels, but they have a central flaw: no conceivable enemy. It ought to be a requirement in spending all this money for a weapon that there be some need for it. In some cases we are developing weapons—in part because of nothing more than momentum—that lack not only a current military need but even a plausible use in any foreseeable future.

It is possible to debate how strong America should be militarily in relation to the rest of the world. But that is not a debate that needs to be entered into to reduce the military budget by a large amount. If, beginning one year from now, we were to cut military spending by 25 percent from its projected levels, we would still be immeasurably stronger than any

combination of nations with whom we might be engaged.

Implicitly, some advocates of continued largesse for the Pentagon concede that the case cannot be made fully in terms of our need to be safe from physical attack. Ironically—even hypocritically, since many of those who make the case are in other contexts anti-government spending conservatives—they argue for a kind of weaponized Keynesianism that says military spending is important because it provides jobs and boosts the economy. Spending on military hardware does produce some jobs, but it is one of the most inefficient ways to deploy public funds to stimulate the economy. When I asked him years ago what he thought about military spending as stimulus, Alan Greenspan, to his credit, noted that from an economic standpoint military spending was like insurance: if necessary to meet its primary need, it had to be done, but it was not good for the economy; and to the extent that it could be reduced, the economy would benefit.

The math is compelling: if we do not make reductions approximating 25 percent of the military budget starting fairly soon, it will be impossible to continue to fund an adequate level of domestic activ-

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Czech Parliament Rebuffs StratCom Base

The Czech Republic's Chamber of Deputies rebuffed the ruling government's proposal to build a StratCom missile defense radar base in the Central European nation March 17, forcing the prime minister to withdraw the ratification measure without a vote. Weakened by the legislative defeat, the conservative government of Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek (which had allied itself wholeheartedly with the Bush/Cheney Administration's Missile Defense plans) suffered a 'no confidence' vote less than a week later and fell. Jan Tamas, a founder of the "No Bases Initiative" in the Czech Republic who attended the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space conference about StratCom in Omaha a year ago, hailed the 'no confidence' vote. "For us it is a great victory: we knew that the only way to stop the installation of the U.S. radar base was the fall of the government and we worked for more than two years in this direction. A government that represented the interests of the U.S. military industry has fallen."

Catholic Workers Protest Omaha Archdiocese's Support of StratCom

by John Krejci, NFP State Board

The Des Moines Catholic Worker community joined with friends from Omaha and Lincoln to call the Archdiocese of Omaha to task for returning to the SAC (Strategic Air Command) Museum—a shrine dedicated to war—for their annual fundraising dinner for the poor.

On March 14th, after being escorted from the museum grounds, the

on the human race, and the harm it inflicts on the poor is more than can be endured.” (Gaudium et Spes, 81 and 3). Their flier stated:

It is a moral outrage to raise money for the poor while feasting at the temple of the death machine that keeps them poor.

The billions spent on the weapons of mass destruction enshrined at the SAC Museum would easily shelter and

the hideous weapons worshipped her) the Catholic Church has repeatedly condemned...

Their message concluded with the oft-quoted, 1953 statement of President Eisenhower:

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

The protesters urged the Archdiocese to repent. “It is our fervent hope and prayer that the Archdiocese of Omaha see the moral error of their ways and not return to the SAC Museum for their annual Catholic Charities fundraising event. We encourage as many people who can to contact Kathy Grandsaert of Omaha Catholic Charities and the Omaha Archbishop and let them know how inappropriate this event really is and beg them not to return next year.”

(Kathy@ccharities.org or contact@archomaha.org.)

As supporters of Nebraskans for Peace might expect, no media covered the protest. StratCom (and SAC) are the cash cows of Omaha, its media, its churches and unfortunately the hearts of many of its people. How long will it take the Catholic Church and the people of Omaha to listen to the words of Vatican II?: “The arms race is one of the greatest curses on the human race.”

NFP lauds the Des Moines Catholic workers for their prophetic voice. They support our own campaign to raise the consciousness of the country and the world to the danger StratCom poses.

feed not only the poor of this nation but around the world. By hosting their annual Catholic Charities fundraiser at the SAC Museum, the Omaha Catholic Archdiocese mocks and exploits the poor we are called to serve and instead blesses the very arms race (as well as



A photo of the silent auction at Omaha Catholic Charities' annual fundraiser held at the Strategic Air Command museum March 14. As one appalled Catholic stated in an email to the Catholic Charities office, "While viewing photos of your event taken by the Catholic Worker members who posted them on the internet, I was taken aback by the image of the Blessed Virgin Mother with a nuclear bomber as a backdrop. What shall we call this? Our Lady of Utter Destruction?"

protesters set up their banners at the entrance and attempted to hand out fliers to the cars of those coming for the banquet, few of whom stopped. However, their Gospel message of nonviolence echoed loud and clear. In the words of the Vatican Council: “The arms race is one of the greatest curses

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What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Global Warming and Polar Ozone Depletion

When chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were banned in the late 1980s under the “Montreal Protocol,” most experts expected ozone depletion over the Antarctic to heal rather quickly. By 2005, however, ozone depletion was still a major problem and an ozone ‘hole’ was starting to open over the Arctic as well. As the science has evolved, we are now better able to explain how the capture of heat near the Earth’s surface by greenhouse gases speeds cooling in the stratosphere, and plays an important role in continuing ozone depletion at that level. Thus, the healing of the stratospheric ozone layer depends, to some degree, on reduction of greenhouse-gas levels in the lower atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases warm the atmosphere near the surface like a blanket, holding heat where we live. Deprived of emitted warmth, the stratosphere above cools. The cooler stratosphere, in turn, accelerates the chemical reactions that drive ozone depletion, which accounts for why—despite a two-decade-long ban on CFCs—the restoration of the ozone layer has proceeded so slowly.

But what’s so important about stratospheric ozone?

It protects people and other animals from damaging ultraviolet

radiation, which can lead to dangerous forms of skin cancer in humans. The probability that DNA can be damaged by ultraviolet radiation varies with wavelength, with the shorter wavelengths being the most dangerous.

Ozone ‘Hole’ Continues to Expand

The coupling of global warming near the surface with cooling stratospheric temperatures continued in 2006, as loss of ozone over Antarctica reached a new record, according to scientists with the European Space Agency. “Such significant ozone loss requires very low temperatures in the stratosphere combined with sunlight,” said ESA atmospheric engineer Claus Zehner. “This year’s extreme loss of ozone can be explained by the temperatures above Antarctica reaching the lowest recorded in the area since 1979,” the beginning of recordkeeping. Late in September 2006, the World Meteorological Organization reported that the size of that year’s ozone hole had expanded to 10.6 million square miles—an area of depleted ozone larger than the surface area of North America.

Chlorofluorocarbons initially sounded no environmental

alarms when they were first marketed by Dupont Chemical during the 1930s under the trade name ‘Freon’ for use in air conditioning. The building in which I work, the University of Nebraska’s Arts & Sciences Hall, made news at that time as the first fully air-conditioned college classroom building in the United

States for fast food. “They were amazingly useful,” wrote Anita Gordon and Peter Suzuki in *It’s a Matter of Survival* (1991). “Cheap to manufacture, non-toxic, non-inflammable, and chemically stable.”

By the time scientists discovered, during the 1980s, that CFCs were thinning the ozone

Because CFCs remain in the stratosphere for up to 100 years, they will deplete ozone long after industrial production of the chemicals ceased.

layer over the Antarctic, they found themselves taking on a \$28-billion-a-year industry. The ozone shield protects plant and animal life on land from the sun’s ultraviolet rays, which can cause skin cancer, cataracts and damage to the immune systems of human beings and other animals. Thinning of the ozone layer also may alter the DNA of plants and animals.

By 1976, manufacturers in the United States were producing 750 million pounds of CFCs a year and finding all sorts of uses for them—from propellants in aerosol sprays, to solvents used to clean silicon chips, to automobile air conditioning, and as blowing agents for polystyrene cups, egg cartons and contain-

ers for fast food. “They were amazingly useful,” wrote Anita Gordon and Peter Suzuki in *It’s a Matter of Survival* (1991). “Cheap to manufacture, non-toxic, non-inflammable, and chemically stable.”

By the time their manufacture was banned internationally in 1987, CFCs had been used in roughly 90 million car and truck air conditioners, 100 million refrigerators, 30 million freezers and 45 million air conditioners

in homes and other buildings. Because CFCs remain in the stratosphere for up to 100 years, they will deplete ozone long after industrial production of the chemicals ceased.

The Ozone ‘Hole’ of 2000

The Antarctic Ozone ‘hole’ formed earlier and endured longer during the September and October of 2000 than ever before—and by a significant amount. Figures from NASA satellite measurements showed that the hole covered an area of approximately 29 million square kilometers in early September, exceeding the previous record from 1998. These record sizes persisted for several days.

Ozone levels, measured in Dobson units, fell below 100 D.U. for the first time. The area cold enough to produce ozone depletion also grew by 10 to 20 percent more surface area than any other year. The ozone-depletion zone was coming closer to New Zealand, where usual springtime ozone levels average about 350 D.U. During the spring of 2000, ozone levels reached as low as 260 D.U. when atmospheric circulation patterns nudged the Antarctic zone northward. Scientists usually regard an area of the stratosphere as ozone-depleted when its D.U.

Just in Time for Gardening Season... Dan Deffenbaugh's New Book

Learning the Language of the Fields

Hastings College faculty member Dan Deffenbaugh is not a native Nebraskan, but the "2005 Nebraska Professor of the Year" and NFP activist understands the importance of 'place' (and, as we learn from his newly published book, *Learning the Language of the Fields: Tilling and Keeping as Christian Vocation*, the value of your personal garden patch). Chosen as "one of the best spiritual books of the year by *Spirituality and Practice*," the text, Deffenbaugh says, "encourages Christians to be committed to the spiritual, ecological and social well-being of their local communities—kind of an antidote to the enthusiasm for globalization that we hear so often these days. A danger of being a 'global citizen' lies in the potential to forsake the responsibilities that await you in your own backyard."

The Nebraska religion professor practices what he preaches. Working with a coalition of local churches and nonprofit agencies, he helped establish the "Open Table" program to eradicate hunger in Hastings. "I have been struck by the balance Dan brings to his work," the Rev. Betsy Bennett, president of Open Table says. "He is able and willing to talk about the theological underpinnings of the work we are doing, and he is very aware of current political issues that bear on the problem of hunger in the United States, but he also is eager and willing to do the hands-on work that needs to be done."

A specialist in ecological theology, a devout environmentalist and an avid organic gardener, Deffenbaugh also serves on the board of directors of the Nebraska Bird Observatory at Crane Meadows, an

ecologically diverse site encompassing 250 acres of native prairie and Platte River habitat. "Like the primal couple in the garden," he writes in the introduction to his book, "we are called to be faithful tillers and keepers, people who take the time to wonder and not wander; to watch intently and listen, with dirt on our hands."

Learning the Language of the Fields: Tilling and Keeping as Christian Vocation

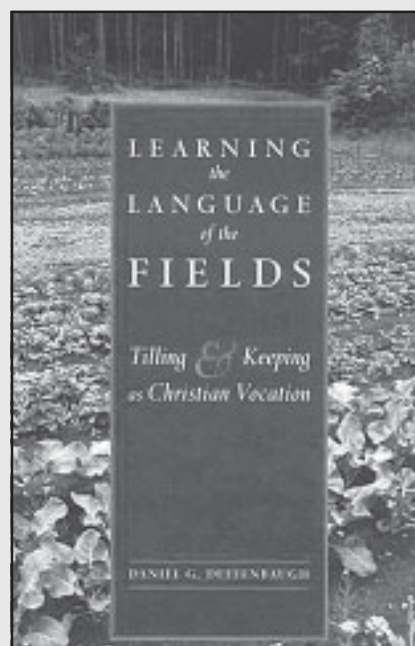
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Daniel G. Deffenbaugh is Associate Professor of Religion at Hastings College where he teaches a variety of courses, including *Sacred Space* and *Ecological Ethics*. He has been the Summer Education Director at Narrow Ridge Center, an environmental education and retreat center in Washburn, Tennessee.

"Many these days take to the trails or to the rivers and lakes hoping in some way to regain a sense of being one with nature, but they fail in this because they cannot get away from the ingrained tendency to relate to these places as 'environments,' as commodities. The climber sees the mountain as an obstacle, a challenge; the hiker, 'wilderness as therapy,'" Deffenbaugh wisely observes in this

paperback. But there is another way to approach nature: "Persons reveal themselves only in a relationship of care and gratitude. The garden is the one place where this can occur today, where people can, over a committed



period of time—not just a Sunday afternoon here and there—listen and watch patiently, enter into alliances, perform rituals, give thanks, know intimately the myriad persons of their community, and experience a sense of living in place."

The traditional Christian view of human beings as having dominion over the earth has alienated many who feel a spiritual kinship with creation. Deffenbaugh believes that if this religious tradition does not affirm the intrinsic goodness of the biotic communities in which we live and work, then Christians will be missing

a chance to deepen their faith and savor the multiple pleasures of the world which God created. The author salutes the myths among the indigenous peoples of North America that connected them in satisfying ways with nature. These are contrasted with the stories told among Euro-American immigrants to the New World who saw themselves as overlords of creation who could exploit the earth and its resources for their own purposes. This commodification of nature has led to the present predicament where four companies (Monsanto, DuPont/Pioneer, Novartis and Dow) now control a major portion of the North American corn, soybean, and cotton market and are involved in the genetic modification of crops.

Deffenbaugh calls Christians back to a reverence for place instead of the traditional eschewing of time on earth coupled with a yearning to be with God in heaven. He also sees in organic gardening a chance for individuals to nurture life within a context that brings us in touch the soil, plants, animals and the four seasons. The author is convinced that tending to the growth of various garden plants is a kind of lectio—the reading, ruminating, responding and resting in the text of our place. Wendell Berry's writings are good examples of this kind of spiritual practice. Thanks to his regular tilling and keeping, he knows the language of his fields and revels in his relationship with the biotic community.

Deffenbaugh brings ecology down to earth and challenges the Christian community to develop a new spirituality of place.

Still Pushing Booze on the Indians after All These Years

A Brief Legal History of Whiteclay Alcohol Sales

by James G. Abourezk



Born and raised on what was then the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Jim Abourezk served in the U.S. Senate from 1973-79, where he chaired "Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs." Now a practicing attorney in Sioux Falls, Abourezk has long been interested in the hideous situation at Whiteclay (which he refers to by its original name of "White Clay"). The article below originally appeared in a June 2008 issue of Counterpunch newsletter—a bi-weekly newsletter co-edited by Alexander Cockburn.

White Clay, Nebraska, is a tiny village—population 14—in the northwest corner of Nebraska. Despite its size, however, it boasts four liquor stores to serve its customers, most of whom come from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation just

across the border in southwest South Dakota. White Clay's liquor stores are there to accommodate the Reservation's alcoholics, primarily because the Oglala Sioux Tribe has made illegal the sale or possession of liquor on the Reservation. A small amount of the beer, wine and whiskey sold to Indians is consumed in White Clay itself, with most of it being transported back to Pine Ridge by bootleggers, who then sell it to alcoholics living on the Reservation.

The story of White Clay whiskey peddlers selling alcoholic beverages to the Indians is only a continuation of one that began back in the 1800s.

In the 1850s, the U.S. Army tried, without success, to tame the Indian Tribes who objected—violently—to white settlers disturbing their lands in the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana. When the U.S. Army found it could not defeat the Indians, the government decided to negotiate a treaty with them. The resulting 1858 "Ft. Laramie Treaty" signed by the U.S. government and the Sioux Indians set aside the western part of South Dakota as the "Great Sioux Reservation," promising that the Indians would no longer be bothered by white settlers, who were cluttering up the Indians' land on their way to the West Coast. The Treaty also provided part of Wyoming and Montana as exclusive hunting grounds for the Indian Tribes in that area.

Not long after the Pine Ridge Agency, housing the Oglala Sioux Tribe, was established prior to 1882, white-owned

stores began springing up on the Nebraska side of the border, selling guns, ammunition and, more importantly, whiskey. Valentine McGillicuddy, the U.S. government's agent in Pine Ridge at that time, described the white squatters as "undesirables," who "will endeavor to settle on the land" near Big White Clay Creek. McGillicuddy at that time suggested to the Chester Arthur Administration the establishment of a 50-square-mile buffer zone along the Nebraska border as the only way to keep the undesirable whites—and their whiskey—away from the Indians.

It was a historical preview of what is happening today at White Clay. McGillicuddy then described to his superiors the destruction caused by the Indians' easy access to whiskey in White Clay,

Nebraska. He related the story of an interpreter who fell off his horse while drunk, breaking his neck, as well as several instances of deaths resulting from drunken brawls, including the killing of an Indian named "Gray Eyes" and the wounding of his wife in April of 1880. Secretary of the Interior Kirkwood agreed with McGillicuddy's assessment of the situation, and, in January of 1882, he convinced President Chester A. Arthur to sign an Executive Order withdrawing sale of alcohol to the public in a five-by-ten-mile strip of land, situated just across the Dakota border in Nebraska, adding it to the Great Sioux Reservation.

McGillicuddy was able to report to his superiors that after establishment of the new Reservation boundary, there had

conclusion on page 10

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"Chronicles a painful odyssey that should give pause to the caring, the oblivious, and those who don't give a damn." Frank LaFère, Minneboago Tribe of Nebraska, Chair, Native Caucus, Democratic National Committee



Send written requests to:
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941 'O' Street, Suite 1026, Lincoln, NE 68508

What's HOT? conclusion

level falls below 220. 'Ozone warnings' were issued in southern Argentina and Chile.

During early September 2003, the area of depleted ozone over Antarctica approached near-record size again. By the end of the month, the area of severely depleted ozone was the second-largest on record, at about the size of North America. This record size was exceeded in 2006, and changed little in 2007 and 2008.

A Scary Game of 'What If?'

Scientists now realize that it will take more than a ban on CFCs to heal the ozone shield. A 'fix' for stratospheric ozone is part of the tougher problem of mending the natural imbalance that we have created by interjecting ancient stores of Earth's carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as fossil fuels.

The world community, however, just got a scientific 'heads-up' about the importance of taking timely action on climate change in a newly released NASA study. Curious about what might have happened if the world community hadn't acted to ban CFCs 22 years ago, a group of NASA scientists created a computer model to predict the effect on the planet.

Had the earth's 193 nations not adopted the Montreal Protocol, we'd have been well on our way to what atmospheric scientist Paul Newman called a "bizarre world." By 2065, he stated, two-thirds of the protective ozone layer would have vanished and the ozone 'hole' would have covered the Earth. The additional CFCs would have pushed the world's temperature up an extra 4 degrees F. By implementing the 1987 ban, what was a bad situation was kept from getting worse, he said. That experience, Newman continued, provides hope that the world can do the same thing on the looming and even tougher problem of global warming.

Bruce E. Johansen is the Frederick W. Kayser Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and author of The Global Warming Combat Manual (Greenwood Press, 2008).

Never Back to 'Normal', conclusion

those really bright guys cannot forever postpone the inevitable. As the noted economist Herbert Stein once observed: "If something is unsustainable, it will stop."

These Are Opportunities, Not Problems

Once we accept that it was the financial industry that enabled our irresponsible consumption binge and the government's war making, then the solution for what to do about Citibank, ING, AIG and all the other large financial firms that are struggling becomes clear. While any modern economy does need a viable financial industry, we do not need the financial industry we now have. The basic functions of lending and borrowing, funding productive investment, saving for retirement, etc. can be handled by a much simpler and manageable financial system. We should be grateful Citibank may be defunct. It saves us the trouble of having to dismantle it.

We do not, therefore, need huge bailouts to sustain private financial firms we do not want. Instead, nationalization, liquidation and reorganization are called for. The emphasis in the short run should be on protecting deposits and loans, and then placing them in existing or new smaller financial institutions. In the longer—but not too long—run, a new regulatory and oversight structure should be established. This also is not as difficult as some people suggest. Remember, we had a good regulatory structure not very long ago. We could easily go back and start where we were. There are, no doubt, more than a few people still alive who remember how things used to work. Many of the really smart guys from Wall Street (after a brief but sobering spell of unemployment) could get socially productive jobs as auditors, inspectors, loan officers and, I suppose, even managers of well-regulated smaller banks and brokers.

The recent fiscal stimulus package also takes on a very different appearance when we recognize that, in the long run, we need to save more, consume less, educate more, distribute the economic gains more equally, provide everyone with basic healthcare and comfortable retirement, and stop funding our dangerous and senseless arms race. We should heed the Republicans' rhetoric (though not their record) and not 'waste' any money. We simply do not need as many automakers and

tribution may improve, especially if we reestablish a more progressive tax system to fund Social Security, extend food stamps and other assistance to more families, and make college more affordable for the unemployed and the children of the poor.

Most important for humanity, the U.S. will no longer be a false role model for the rest of the world. In this sense, this economic crisis comes not a moment too soon. The American-inspired acceptability of greed and material

Most important for humanity, the U.S. will no longer be a false role model for the rest of the world. In this sense, this economic crisis comes not a moment too soon.

homebuilders, but we need more auto repair workers, home improvement workers to insulate homes and install solar panels, teachers, nurses, counselors, writers, organic farmers and conservationists. We do not need so many health insurance agents, but we could use good administrators of a single-payer national health plan. What an opportunity we now have to redirect expenditures in our economy.

The World Is Changing

The economy is already taking us in the right direction. The higher household saving and the lower automobile sales, which the media report as evidence of our deepening economic troubles, are actually close to the 'sustainable normal' we seek. The decline in private health coverage caused by the sharp rise in unemployment provides the opportunity to extend government provided healthcare to more of our population. Rising unemployment and poverty will trigger a reversal in the decades-long effort to shred the government safety net. As the wealthy lose their financial wealth, income dis-

wealth has already launched a race to the bottom in excessive consumption, lowering corporate taxes, dismantling government social programs, and privatizing crucial government services like water, education, health, transportation, criminal justice and the military. Income inequality grew almost everywhere over the past ten years. And with the U.S. refusing to recognize the science of global warming, even progressive Canada felt no constraints in letting the oil conglomerates develop Alberta's tar sands. Hopefully our economic collapse makes such foolishness less attractive, perhaps even repulsive.

The spectacular crash of the U.S. economy may end up saving humanity. After 25 years of irresponsible, unsustainable economic behavior, Americans are finally getting a planetary wake-up call. And this unprecedented opportunity to stake out a new direction for our nation may make the loss of our jobs, retirement funds and home equity just a tad bit easier bear. Forty-five years later, it just maybe that the prophecy of that Sixties minstrel is finally coming to pass, "for the times they are a-changin'."

Still Pushing Booze on Indians, conclusion

been little or no trouble involving intoxicating liquor.

In 1889, Congress enacted new legislation, which included a proviso that mirrored President Arthur's Executive Order, holding that the 50-square-mile tract was to be reserved, "only so long as it may be needed for the use and protection of the Indians receiving rations and annuities at the Pine Ridge Agency."

in Nebraska still exists today, to which the grisly modern statistics of highway deaths, spousal and child abuse, crimes of theft and murder, and rampant alcoholism graphically attest. In these modern times, drunken killings still persist, as well as thievery of items sold to the liquor stores in exchange for alcohol, along with spousal and child abuse, all of which are directly attributable to the al-

by his staff that there were a number of meetings held on the question between the Interior Department, the Justice Department and the White House Counsel's office, but with no ultimate result. Eventually, after I tried calling Vice President Gore to see what he could do on this matter, a member of the White House staff called me back and said that President Clinton would not sign such an Order because he did not want to set a bad precedent. That was about the same time he was busy selling pardons in his last days in office. I thought about the response back then by Clinton's staff during the 2008 Democratic primary campaign in South Dakota, when Bill, Hillary and Chelsea were practically living on the South Dakota Indian Reservations, promising to do great things for the Indians if elected.

After George W. Bush was sworn into office in 2001, I called Vice President Cheney, asking him to recommend that the president overrule President Roosevelt's 1904 Order. Saying he didn't understand the legalities, he referred me to the White House Counsel, a lawyer named Albert Gonzales. After sending Mr. Gonzales all the historical information and legal research I had collected, and asking that the Executive Order be overturned by President Bush, Mr. Gonzales wrote that he did not want to take away the land from the non-Indians

who now owned it. I wrote back, telling him he had misunderstood the law, which states that no land would be transferred, but only jurisdiction would go to the Oglala Sioux Tribe, which already has in place a ban on Reservation liquor sales. It would be a repeat of the 50-square-mile buffer zone that prevented liquor sales to Indians over a century ago. Beyond that, I explained, the Tribe would not have criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, only regulatory jurisdiction over the liquor licenses. Mr. Gonzales never bothered to respond.

Nebraskans for Peace is still campaigning. The group has just completed a film on the White Clay issue, which they hope will help draw attention to the immorality of the situation. Indian activists, including Russell Means, have tried establishing checkpoints at the border to stop the flow of beer and wine, but they get little cooperation from the Tribal police, and none from Nebraska authorities.

I attribute the politicians' lack of interest in the Indians' problems with whiskey peddlers in White Clay to the Indians' lack of money. I have no doubt that, if the Tribe and its member Indians were rich and powerful, there would be presidents, senators and congressmen knocking at their door, wanting to do something for them.

But, obviously, it is poverty that is keeping the Indians poor... and exploited.

Despite an ongoing campaign by Nebraskans for Peace, as well as by activist Indians, State of Nebraska officials seem to believe that there's nothing wrong with a small village of 14 people being allowed to have four liquor stores that sell millions of dollars worth of alcoholic beverages each year to Indian alcoholics.

But, almost immediately, pressure by white settlers again began to build for a return of the reserved land to the public domain. The buffer zone continued until 1904, when President Theodore Roosevelt was convinced by his Commissioner of Indian Affairs, William A. Jones, that the lands should be returned to the public domain, opening it for white settlement. Acceding to the request, President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order on January 25, 1904, which purported to accomplish what the white settlers wanted. Significantly, the 1904 Executive Order contained no findings by the president, nor did it contain any recitation that the tract was no longer needed for the "protection of the Indians receiving rations and annuities at the Pine Ridge Agency." Although these omissions made the Executive Order illegal, no one noticed it, which resulted in the tract being opened for settlement, and removed from the Tribe's jurisdiction.

The need for protection of the Pine Ridge Indians from the liquor peddlers

coholism enabled by the White Clay liquor stores. It is legacy of shame that no one in authority wants to put an end to. Despite an ongoing campaign by Nebraskans for Peace, as well as by activist Indians, State of Nebraska officials seem to believe that there's nothing wrong with a small village of 14 people being allowed to have four liquor stores that sell millions of dollars worth of alcoholic beverages each year to Indian alcoholics.

President Roosevelt's illegal Executive Order can be overruled by any current president signing another Order, which would transfer jurisdiction over the buffer zone back to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Under U.S. Supreme Court law, the Oglala Sioux Tribe would then have only regulatory jurisdiction over whiskey sales in White Clay, but not criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians residing within the buffer zone.

During Bill Clinton's last year in office, I tried to get him to sign such an Executive Order, overruling that of President Roosevelt's. It was reported to me

Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park, President of the Nebraska Peace Foundation

2008 is over, except for making out your 2008 income taxes.

If you have prepared your tax return, aren't you surprised how much goes to our government in Washington? Now is a good time to look at what you can do to reduce the amount you have to pay in taxes. Of course it is too late for your tax due April 15th, but a contribution to the Nebraska Peace Foundation made this year will help with what you owe next year.

For many, donations to charitable causes such as the Nebraska Peace Foundation result in not having to pay taxes on income that is donated. Check with your accountant or tax advisor to see how you can benefit from a gift made now.



Paul Olson, conclusion

we-know-it-ending events.

We commended the senator for saving Obama's stimulus package, praised his 'benchmark' efforts in Iraq and encouraged the like for Afghanistan. (Sen. Nelson has since done this, which will give us at the very least a sense of what we are doing in Afghanistan and whether we are accomplishing anything.) We urged him to also play a moderating role in the Afghanistan-Pakistan war: to urge the replacement of our troops and aircraft with a UN-sponsored Interpol force in Afghanistan, to push for serious economic development that would substitute food-production for Afghan opium-poppy agriculture, and to work for separating indigenous unemployed Taliban from imported, outside-agitating Taliban trying to wage a holy war. We urged respect for indigenous tribal forms of self-government (though they may not rule in our ways), and discussed various means for closing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to military incursion.

We also urged a massive United Nations effort to build schools, roads, economic capacity and civil society in Afghanistan. We left feeling we were heard.

And there is hope in the long run. The Afghan-northwest Pakistan area is not intractably violent. The terrain does not require it. Relatively pacific nearby Tibet is equally mountainous. The conventional narrative of inevitable violence omits the area's relatively cultivated and stable Greco-Buddhist kingdoms left behind by Alexander the Great when the young ruler drank himself to death. The Buddhist ruler, Ashoka, around 250 B.C., not only urged his realm to practice his religion's nonviolent Buddhism, but abolished his country's military without apparent ill effect. Tibetan Buddhism originated in territory that is part of Pakistan-Afghanistan's most violent area now. Violent invasions from outside came later from the 1200s through the 1900s and destabilized the area. But even recently—during part of the rule of the late King Mohammed Zahir Shah and his uncles—Afghanistan enjoyed a relatively stable government whenever the Soviets, the CIA, the Pakistanis and other outsider

groups left it alone.

NFP will have to take a stand as soon as Obama's review of the region is complete. I propose we adopt a position arguing that:

1. We end the destabilizing flights of drones and the flow of U.S. military aid to the Afghanistan/Pakistan area;
2. The U.S. and NATO take the lead in withdrawing from Afghanistan and turning the stabilization process over to United Nations police forces; further, as the UN extends control, all U.S. and NATO military bases in the region of South and Central Asia should be systematically closed;
3. UN policing be designed to strengthen traditional tribal governments and stabilize the border between the tribes and the multi-ethnic areas where violence commonly flares;
4. The UN and international agricultural and relief agencies undertake serious economic development in agriculture and small business in Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan;
5. The Pakistani army's double game of supporting and arming the Taliban, while also claiming to oppose them, be challenged;
6. The UN participate more thoroughly and effectively in the India-Pakistan-Kashmir negotiations that keep the region destabilized and encourage the formation of Taliban-like groups;
7. That, as rapidly as possible, we include the nuclear powers of eastern and southern Asia (China, Pakistan, and India) in our present negotiations with the Russians and others to reduce nuclear weaponry around the world. We cannot ask others to reduce nukes until we do.

After that will have to come discussions over such issues as whether the Pashtun need their own nation, or how movement toward the recognition of international human rights is to be gained in the area.

Right now, our job is to move away from being downwind from nuclear holocaust.

Carlton B. Paine, Ph.D. • Clinical Psychologist

5625 'O' Street, Suite 7 • Phone: 402-489-8484 • Lincoln, NE 68510


Cut the Military Budget, conclusion

ity even with a repeal of Bush's tax cuts for the very wealthy.

I am working with a variety of thoughtful analysts to show how we can make very substantial cuts in the military budget without in any way diminishing the security we need. I do not think it will be hard to make it clear to Americans that their well-being is far more endangered by a proposal for substantial reductions in Medicare, Social Security or other important domestic areas than it would be by canceling weapons systems that have no justification from any threat we are likely to face.

So those organizations, editorial boards and individuals who talk about the

need for fiscal responsibility should be challenged to begin with the area where our spending has been the most irresponsible and has produced the least good for the dollars expended—our military budget. Both parties have for too long indulged the implicit notion that military spending is somehow irrelevant to reducing the deficit and have resisted applying to military spending the standards of efficiency that are applied to other programs. If we do not reduce the military budget, either we accustom ourselves to unending and increasing budget deficits, or we do severe harm to our ability to improve the quality of our lives through sensible public policy.

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|  <p>MARY RIEPMA ROSS MEDIA ARTS CENTER</p> <p>UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS</p> | <p>www.theross.org</p> | <h3>COMING SOON</h3> <p>3.27 - 4.9 THE CLASS In this film, Mr. Shi comes to the United States to see his divorced daughter, Yilan (Faye Yu). Mr. Shi soon discovers that it wasn't just age and the distance separating him from his daughter, and he tries to learn more about Yilan, despite her best efforts.</p> <p>3.27 - 4.2 CHE November 26, 1956; led by Fidel Castro, a band of 80 rebels sails to Cuba. Nation-less, strapped for resources and fueled only by determination, the group engages in swift, bloody battle to free the Cuban people from the corrupt dictatorship of Batista.</p> <p>4.10 - 4.16 WENDY AND LUCY On the heels of her critically lauded OLD JOY, Kelly Reichardt delivers another deeply resonant portrait of a dying America with WENDY AND LUCY.</p> <p>4.10 - 4.23 GOMORRAH is a dense, sprawling exposé of the corruption plaguing the communities of Naples and Caserta in modern-day Italy.</p> <p>4.24 - 5.7 FADOS completes the musical trilogy of award-winning Carlos Saura (Flamenco, 1995; Tango, 1998). Using Lisbon as a backdrop, he explores Portugal's most emblematic musical genre (fado) and its haunting spirit of saudade (melancholy).</p> <p>4.24 - 5.7 EVERLASTING MOMENTS In this breathtaking film from renowned Swedish director Jan Troell, a woman experiences an artistic awakening after being introduced to photography. Despite the bleak world the characters inhabit, the film is ultimately a moving affirmation of life's beauty and the strength of the human spirit.</p> |
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Visit www.lincolnearthday.org to find out all about "Lincoln Earth Day 2009." The celebration will take place Sunday, April 19, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., on the UNL City Campus at 12th and 'R' Streets in Lincoln. Come and join the fun, learn about our earth, and find out what all kinds of organizations and businesses are doing to help create a more healthy, sustainable future for everyone. The theme for this year's event is "Energy—A Time for Action." Energy not only refers to electricity and fuels, but also to the human energy each of us can contribute. Get involved: sign up for a booth, sponsorship, or volunteer.

BULLETIN BOARD

- April 3-4** "2009 Peacemaking Workshop"
Visit: www.fmclincoln.org/peacemaking_workshop/2009 for details.
- April 4** "Beyond War: A New Economy is Possible," 6th anniversary protest of the Iraq invasion and occupation, Saturday April 4, sponsored by the Lincoln NFP Chapter. The event will begin with a rally on the west side of the State Capitol building at 12:30 p.m., followed by an organized march to the UNL Student Union, where Nebraska Green Party activist Steve Larrick will speak about Martin Luther King Jr's "Beyond Vietnam" speech of April 4, 1967. The rally will focus on the need to address the same societal problems Dr. King outlined more than 40 years ago: militarism, racism, social and economic injustice.



Speaking Our Peace

Not Exactly the Peaceable Kingdom

by Paul Olson, NFP President

This morning's paper brings news that former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's followers are marching on Pakistan's major cities—and that the current Prime Minister, Asif Ali Zardari, is ordering an answering crackdown. We can expect similar news in the days to come as Pakistan continues crumbling. The Taliban now control governing in North and South Waziristan in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas and in the beautiful Swat valley of the country's North-West Frontier Province. Across the border in Afghanistan, the Taliban rule much Pashtun territory in the south and stage raids on the capital of Kabul with impunity. The Karzai government, which has been friendly to the West, is tottering. Everywhere you look in the region, there's crumbling.

We in Nebraska need to think about our contribution to the crumbling now taking place in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are complicit in this mess through our state university's publication back in the '80s (with money from the Agency for International Development—a renowned CIA accomplice) of the Jihadist textbooks

that encouraged militancy in Afghan children. We have fawningly supported a StratCom that—hand-in-hand with the CIA—flies the unmanned Predator drone aircraft that are regularly bombing and killing civilians. Through its space, intelligence and war-planning activities, StratCom is also integral to the daily combat operations going on there. Some of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's suffering begins right here in Husker Nation.

Given the mess we've made of things, the temptation of course is just to say, 'Out now. Let's bring the troops home. The region was always violent. Our being there only makes things worse.'

But that may be too simplistic.

For sure, al-Qaida and the Taliban, the U.S. and NATO have radically disrupted traditional rule in the area. But so did the Soviets and the British before them and the Mongols and the Persians and God only knows how many others who have invaded over the succeeding centuries. The tribes in Afghanistan come from the radically disparate areas and peoples who have invaded it—the Pashtun from the eastern Iranian plateau (about 40 percent of the population); the Hazara (10 percent) who are Mongoloid peoples;

the Tajiks (30 percent) who hail from another Iranian area; and the Uzbeks (10 percent) from Turkic Central Asia. Nor are these tribes neatly confined to arbitrarily drawn national borders. A significant number of the Pashtun tribal group, for instance, actually lives in western Pakistan, in districts controlled by the Taliban. The nation of Pakistan itself was concocted by the British as a way to hive off the Muslims in India. The region's sense of nationhood, accordingly, is fragile... As is the security of its nuclear arsenal.

The region as a whole—Pakistan specifically—possesses 30-60 nuclear weapons about the size of the Hiroshima weapon. In short, the weapons of mass destruction that George Bush was so quick on the trigger to attribute to Iraq actually exist in Pakistan.

And the issue of national, ethnic and religious loyalty is even more complicated. Although Pakistan purportedly resists the Taliban, many Pakistani Army segments work with them and other like militias. They arm them, train them and use them along the Kashmiri and Afghani borders. And the Obama Administration policy—persisting with the drone missile

attacks, killing civilians while targeting Taliban and al-Qaida operatives—is only weakening the Zardari government further. (Despite repeated Pakistani government protests over the CIA-StratCom drone attacks on its soil, the drones are apparently based and flown from inside from Pakistani territory with the Zardari Administration's approval.) As commentators on a recent "Bill Moyers" program warned, every civilian death from a drone attack produces at least five new Taliban.

The Taliban or related fundamentalist forces may soon control most of Afghanistan and much of Pakistan reaching south and east from their present northwestern strongholds.

When the news of the drone attacks and Obama's decision to send 17,000 more troops was announced, several members of the NFP State Board visited Senator Nelson's office in Lincoln to talk to his top aide. The coffee was good, the table polished and the chatter polite—but we knew we were talking about possible world-as-

conclusion on page 10