



From The Wilderness

A Nonpartisan Non-sectarian MAP for the Here That Is, Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making

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Book Review

[Climate Crash: Abrupt Climate Change and What It Means for Our Future](#)

John D. Cox

Joseph Henry Press, (2005)

A Lesson in Humility

By
Michael C. Ruppert

"There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy, Horatio." -- Hamlet, Act I, Scene V

August 17, 2005 0800 PST (FTW) -- There is no hyperbole or alarmism anywhere in this book. This is truly a case where the understatement of fact is a bludgeon; an elegant and frightening bludgeon. Now and forevermore drop any illusion, conscious or otherwise, that global climate change is a long, slow, irrelevant process. And forever drop any belief that science, as articulated by the human mind, is the final or complete answer to anything.

I won't tell you what John D. Cox didn't say until the very end.

Cox, a seasoned journalist writing with silky aplomb, lays out scientific facts discovered over the last ninety years in a way that sets the reader up for a seemingly endless warehouse of other shoes dropping on our comfortable notions about how this planet behaves (and has behaved for millennia). The earth is a living thing.

The book really operates on two levels. It starts with the courageous (and ultimately fatal) research of German scientist Alfred Wegener in 1912 who speculated that the Greenland Ice Shelf might contain a detailed record of earth's climate history going back several hundred thousand years. It follows with a detailed history of how science – ever reluctant to challenge sacred bovines – has come to make a series of discoveries demonstrating that Mother Earth can be fickle, unpredictable and very rapid in her "mood swings". As the scientific discoveries unfold, a whole new reality appears showing that, even without the gross anthropogenic "tinkering" of modern man in the form of greenhouse gasses, deforestation, and pollution, mankind is about as secure on this planet as were the dinosaurs, the Saber-toothed tiger and the Trilobite.

So much for our supremacy.

On another level however, *Climate Crash* is also an exposé of the arrogance and myopic self-centeredness of the human ego. While giving due honor and praise to scientists who fought against the grain to establish that global climate collapses can occur in as little as one year, it leaves elegantly unsaid the fact that had mankind not been so in love with convenient scientific constructs, it might now stand a better chance of survival as we face a real climate collapse that has already begun in earnest.

I wish that all of our discussions and pontifications about Peak Oil, about politics and economics could be divorced from one underlying assumption: that human intelligence is the sine qua non of the universe.

Even as we analyze and speculate endlessly about current events, we still assume that we humans can figure it out and hence control it. That is where our collective fear (False Evidence Appearing Real) drives us. It is unthinkable to us that anything might be superior in consciousness or power to the human mind.

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From the Wilderness

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Iran, London, Wargames and Other Distractions

Keep Your Eyes on the Ball – The Real “End” is Near, But Not from These Places

by
Michael C. Ruppert

[A collapse is coming, a sharp drop in the world's supplies of food, water, and energy. Preparing for it and responding to it will require a host of new skills, good allies, and a great deal of luck. Attention to the daily threat of sudden annihilation, by contrast, gains you nothing but anxiety. On the other hand, it would be very convenient for some people if we all remained mesmerized by violence and its politics and its spectacle.]

Resource scarcity can be addressed on the supply side, on the demand side, or on both. When oil gets expensive – October crude futures touched \$67 / barrel on the NYMEX today – an economic slowdown can be beneficial. It cools off the intense consumption of oil and allows the price pressure to subside. This is called “demand destruction.” But what do you call it when the resource is not oil, but food? “Famine.” - JAH]

August 12, 2005 0700 PST (FTW): -- I woke up this morning to a host of panicked and hysterical emails about pending nuclear attacks against US cities; about a multitude of rumors that the US is planning on invading and/or even nuking Iran in the near future. Most of the sources of these reports were so-called Internet “journalists” with absolutely horrible reporting ethics and even worse records of making accurate predictions. Readers should actually check “batting averages” before running amok and encouraging others to do so. How often do these guys get it right? These writers also apparently don't know the first thing about proper sourcing standards either. Examination of most of these reports reveals rumors, unsubstantiated gossip, unsourced anecdotes, anonymous sources and connections that are so far-fetched as to be laughable. One “journalist” even tried to prove that CNN's new program “Situation Room” was reason to expect an imminent US attack on Iran or a nuclear attack on a US city by our own government. Give me a break!

I'm not saying that our government isn't capable of such things. I'm just saying that I refuse to be driven into a state of paralyzed hysteria over such unpersuasive evidence. For the neocons to nuke an American city it would have to be the end of the world as we know it anyway. They wouldn't gain much after getting everything (all the money they asked for or stole) they demanded to prevent just that: The Patriot Act (now permanent), Homeland Security, Northcom, Iraq, secret tribunals, the authority to impose martial law, etc., etc., etc. You know.

Even Wayne Madsen, a journalist I respect, who does know about sourcing and fact checking has published a [story](#) based upon apparently real intelligence briefings stating that the US was actually contemplating a nuclear attack on Iran and the seizure of its oil-rich province, Khuzestan. The report and briefing Madsen described probably did take place and are worthy of reportage for that fact alone. But the events described therein will never take

(Cont'd on page 4)

(Lesson in Humility—con't from page 1)

There is no spiritual (as opposed to religious) humility in our analyses. There is no awareness that humans simply cannot control the universe (and shouldn't). We are as guilty as the elites we criticize for failing to place ourselves humbly within a universe where all things are connected and where many things are more powerful than intellect, will or industry. We are "the powers that be" – our own worst enemies – and we reinforce the same basic error endlessly.

There are many realities other than the human intellect and ironically, science has proved this (e.g. *The Tao of Physics*). These realities do actually manifest in our limited world view; they influence it, change it and then we dismiss them glibly, ignore them, or denigrate them simply because we won't admit that we can't understand (control) them.

A good definition of the word humility is "teachable". It implies listening rather than talking. It demands a broader consciousness. It demands a surrender.

We assume rational behavior in all of our conceptually defined human players because we are afraid of understanding or accepting irrational behavior; because irrational behavior threatens our own self image as Gods: definers of reality. I saw a good quote the other day from Chalmers Johnson, "The danger is to believe that Washington knows what it is doing."

We act and think as though we are isolated from the rest of the universe, our environment, other living things, or the planet on which we live. We treat ourselves as a closed system with no exterior feedback loops and the universe treats us accordingly. How arrogant is that? How dysfunctional? How successful has mankind been? How many human civilizations have collapsed before us: "industrialized man"?

Yet still we behave as if "This time it will be different." That's a classic definition of insanity. Arrogance will be the "cause of death" on Homo Sapiens' cosmic Death Certificate.

Some things cannot and should not be completely understood by the human mind simply because the human mind (on an intellectual basis) is not capable of it. Feelings, emotions, natural and spiritual realms are just as real as the intellect and industrialized man has systematically cut itself off from what I believe is the only truly "rational" approach available: integration on all levels with the world around us.

What the human race needs is reconciliation with the universe and a willingness to trust something other than its own mind. Otherwise, the only thing we really worship is ourselves and it seems as though there is paltry little meat on a bone which we chew endlessly and with increasing fervor, receiving ever shrinking amounts of nourishment as desperation sinks in.

Now here's what Mr. Cox didn't say.

FORTUNE magazine wrote in a January 26, 2004 feature article titled The Pentagon's Weather Nightmare:

As the planet's carrying capacity shrinks, an ancient pattern re-emerges: the eruption of desperate, all-out wars over food, water, and energy supplies. As Harvard archeologist Steven LeBlanc

has noted, wars over resources were the norm until about three centuries ago. When such conflicts broke out, 25% of a population's adult males usually died. As abrupt climate change hits home, warfare may again come to define human life.

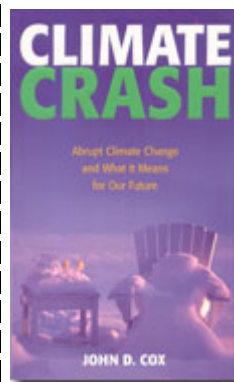
The same Pentagon report which sparked the FORTUNE article soon prompted another major story in Britain's *The Observer* which labeled the Pentagon report on Climate Collapse released in 2004 as "Secret". After describing apocalyptic climate change triggered by global warming and the collapse of the Gulf Stream an important observation was buried in deep in the text.

By 2020 'catastrophic' shortages of water and energy supply will become increasingly harder to overcome, plunging the planet into war.

Let them that have eyes, see. Let them that have ears, hear. Let those that can read, study this book and begin to think about survival. Not for our sake, but for the sake of all of the souls we have brought into this world; the souls we will leave behind us. The quality of mercy be not strained and perhaps mankind might get one more chance at true evolution.

And the next time you hear or see CNN or the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post* try to reassure you that climate change is something that takes centuries, pick up the phone and demand that someone be fired for crimes against life. You might also do that the next time you see them report that oil will not peak for another ten to fifteen years.

Planet earth is a living thing. Its lungs are the Amazonian rain forests. Its heart is the core and the magnetic field that surrounds us and protects us. It is capable of eradicating the human race in a heartbeat and all the more likely to do so if we continue to infect it and keep trying to kill it. Our debts are coming due today.



"Climate Crash"
by **John D. Cox**

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John Cox provides a succinct and elegant analysis of cutting edge climate research and brings to light the disturbing potential implications that these discoveries have for humanity. Climate crash and ecological destruction are with us now and getting worse. While a majority of scientists have put forth the idea that where the climate is concerned, things will continue much as they have in the past, it is unlikely. We now see that abrupt climate change may be a historical norm rather than an exception. In this light man's destruction of the environment looks more like a child playing with matches in a pool of gasoline rather than the economic selfishness we usually think of.

(Iraq, London, Wargames...—con't from page 2)

place. Anyone with even a passing actual familiarity with intelligence and covert operations understands that these events are often well-orchestrated government disinformation operations. Wayne did not say whether he believed the reports. He reported on the fact of the reports. Why was something that secret leaked to him in the first place? Why now?

I repeat, THE UNITED STATES IS NOT GOING TO ATTACK IRAN.

Answering two simple questions should convince you of the same thing. Then you should ask, "What is it that we're not supposed to be seeing?"

First: Did Iraqi oil production increase or decrease after the US invaded Iraq in 2003 and do you believe it possible for the US to attack Iran (especially with nuclear weapons) and have Iranian oil production remain unchanged? [If your answer yes, please go to your nearest mental health clinic and ask for strong drugs.]

Second: With oil production dramatically falling around the world; and since it is now known that global demand is exceeding supply on a monthly basis, do you honestly believe that China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Britain, India, Malaysia and Europe would permit even the loss of 100 barrels per day of Iranian crude from their own economies? Now, as we see below, there are clear signs that Russian production may also be falling. (*FTW* has been warning of this for some time). Russia is the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia.

Here are the world's ten-largest exporters in million of tons per year (Source: IEA):

Saudi Arabia 353
Russia 137
Norway 137
Venezuela 123
Iran 102
Nigeria 98
UAE 96
Mexico 91
UK 85
Iraq 75

Does anyone believe that any loss of Iranian oil will be tolerated anywhere? Madsen was quite correct when he said that a US invasion of Iran (or even an air attack) would lead almost instantly to strategic nuclear war. In my opinion, everyone that had the delivery systems to do it (maybe even France and Britain) would send everything they had at us – that's right us – within days if we persisted with such lunacy. Hell, they might even do it preemptively. That, of course, is something the US gave itself the right to do anywhere in the world just after 9/11. Tit-for-tat! It's only fair Dick.

This flurry of recent scare stories from many places on the Internet and elsewhere is telling in and of itself. Someone has cranked up the "Mighty Wurlitzer" of propaganda to distract our attention. "Bush/Cheney Secretly Indicted" is another totally unsubstantiated and horrible piece of journalism that got legs lately. The headline was based on one source, not in a position of authority, with absolutely no corroboration or verifiable confirmation of any kind. How easily are fools deceived? There's another story that

the removal of an Army four-star general in command of TRA-DOC (Training and Doctrine Command) was removed not for misconduct, or political reasons, but because he was being mutinous over these invasion plans which are unsubstantiated anyway. There was no sourcing or confirmation for this fear-mongering story either, except those deadly "anonymous" sources known only to the author. In almost eight years, *FTW* has mentioned anonymous sources only two or three times and then NEVER as a primary or sole source. We would do that only in a confirming second-source role and clearly say that. That's the rules and we play by them here.

Who are these people writing for? Not me. Not you. I have been in shootings as a police officer. I'm not afraid to take action. But please, give me just a little more to go on before asking me to join you all in hysteria. Journalism is supposed to be a public service, not a public health hazard.

LONDON

I can say four things about the London bombings. The first thing I can tell you about the London bombings and all that has followed is that I certainly cannot believe the official story.

The second thing is that I don't know what to believe.

The third thing is that as a result of London there has been a much more dramatic restriction of civil liberties and freedom of movement in both Britain and the US and Australia, and Italy and... We have swallowed it without a whimper, not even a serious "Hey, can we think about this?" Public transportation is now thoroughly regulated and subject to fascist abuse and control. You heard me.

The fourth thing is that when cops panic we are all in deep trouble.

I was in two "in-policy" shootings as a Los Angeles police officer. Working in South Central Los Angeles, I trained and practiced endlessly. I taught rookies (we called them probationers) in the streets in real-life. Then in 1977 I was transferred to the staff of the Los Angeles Police Academy where I assisted in evaluating how well LAPD's trainers trained. I guess someone thought I had good judgment.

The London cops lost it completely when they shot an innocent, unarmed man six times in the head and that speaks endless volumes about the real state of things. That scares me more than a hundred possible suicide bombers. Because when you cross the threshold where the police panic and don't come back instantly, anarchy and chaos stare you right in the face. Anarchy and chaos are ugly. They have real bad breath too. Those suicide bombers look a little less intimidating given the choice, don't they? There's a lesson there.

WARGAMES

Those trying to imitate/steal/plagiarize my research in "Crossing the Rubicon" have also been trying to make us all believe that every time there is a wargame exercise anywhere it means another attack is coming. There was one mass casualty exercise underway on July 7 th near one of the explosions in London. Rubicon detailed five (now six) known wargames on 9/11 which intentionally interacted to effectively paralyze emergency response only in the area being attacked. They were planned that

way. They were approved and coordinated by Dick Cheney.

One wargame exercise in London, or North Carolina or anywhere else proves absolutely nothing except that maybe someone is doing their job. Some people are now going hysterical every time an exercise is announced anywhere and asking everyone else to join them. Wargame exercises have been taking place for decades (almost all announced in advance) and are one of the most effective means of emergency preparedness training in existence. One wargame exercise alone proves nothing and signals no cause for alarm. How do you think agencies justify their budgets? They plan. They train. That's what they should do. It's what works.

The first London bombings may have been a false flag operation (emphasis on "may"). The second bombings quite likely were not. I'm suspecting copycats. I also wouldn't put it past British and UK authorities to have staged the first bombings as a calculated risk to draw out suspected cells early before they did more harm down the road. Does anyone remember Coventry?

We have living suspects in custody from London (too many to control in my opinion). We also know that many mid-level officials are getting very skeptical about the honesty of those who lead them and issue them orders. If I were a police executive in London and I knew that an attack was going to be allowed to happen, I just might deliberately schedule one medical wargame exercise near the site to help reduce casualties – a silent protest. What if it becomes necessary to engage in a conspiracy to save human lives?

We are being deliberately distracted. But from what?

THE BALL

A flurry of recent stories tells me that planet earth has most likely already gone over Peak already and confirms my suspicions that true bits of chaos will start to emerge this fall and winter:. Airlines are running out of fuel; Russian production is falling; Norwegian and North Sea production are collapsing; Prices are soaring; Saudi is unable to keep its promises. This is a deluge of real bad news but there's more.

In addition, climate collapse stories are breaking in a torrent. The most serious of the last twenty-four hours was a report in *The Guardian* that Russian tundra (peat) is thawing out and starting to release "billions of tons" of methane into the atmosphere. Methane is twenty times more potent a greenhouse gas than is carbon dioxide. That story acknowledges that earth has also gone past the climate-change "tipping point". If today's story was right, it's a certainty. Oh yes, had the bombings not occurred that day the world's top story would have been "Blair Breaks with Bush on Global Warming at G-8."

Global food production is declining as a result of both depleted soil and severe drought. Grain surpluses are disappearing even as the population continues to expand. Mother Earth is fighting back. Monsanto is trying to patent a pig and – oh joy – they've just broken the genome for rice so that it can now be patented and replaced with terminator seeds and all food production falls into just a few corporate hands. At the same time Warren Buffet and Halliburton can buy up all the electric utilities in the country and control the power supply to both people and government alike. That, my friends, is absolute tyranny.

Is any of this starting to sink in yet? There is a plan to deal with Peak Oil. It was formulated without asking any of us. And it is being implemented right in front of our eyes.

If there is a nuclear attack or any other such calamity in our immediate future it will only be because the powers that be will need that much of a distraction to keep you from seeing the much greater crisis that is really upon us. Heaven knows, if you actually understood Peak Oil and climate collapse you might actually get off your ass and do something serious, instead of sitting frozen like rabbits or deer in the headlights.

Michael C. Ruppert

Now Doubts Surface Over Russian Crude Production

By Adam Porter

09 Aug 2005 at 10:01 AM EDT

<http://www.resourceinvestor.com/pebble.asp?reid=11889>

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PARIS (ResourceInvestor.com) -- The International Energy Agency (IEA) has long been bullish on output forecasts for Russia. But now some analysts are openly questioning whether Russian production will continue to grow as predicted. As demand forecasts remain robust, extra supplies are needed if the market is to create a supply cushion.

OPEC is struggling to add large amounts of extra capacity, especially as Iraq continues to disappoint. Plus the extra oil OPEC says it has is all 'heavy crude,' more expensive to refine into petroleum.

As a result, non-OPEC suppliers such as Russia are becoming increasingly important. The IEA estimate that in 2006 Russia will match Saudi Arabia as the world's largest supplier of crude oil onto the market. They say that Russia will supply 9.91 million barrels per day (mbpd) onto the market place, a 4.1% increase from this year. In turn the Paris-based group estimate that Russian supply growth will increase this year by 3.7%. All of which follows final figures for 2004, which saw production soar by 8.7% or 740,000 bpd.

In other words, the IEA figures claim Russia's supply growth has slowed in 2005 from 2004, yet say it will once again increase next year. As a pointer, a more detailed look at the IEA's figures show that Russian output for May was 9.36mbpd. Yet in the fourth quarter of 2005, the IEA estimate that Russia will average 9.78mbpd, a prospective output rise of 420,000bpd. Is this just wishful thinking?

Kevin Norrish at Barclays Capital is an analyst who is starting to question the future of Russia's output.

"The morbidity of non-OPEC supply is... [a factor that is] fuelling the rise in prices. Russian output growth has decelerated...with the year on year growth in output for July a sharp downshift from the...growth rate achieved in July 2004. The IEA sees Russian supply rebounding strongly in the rest of the year and into 2006.

[Their] forecast is for Russian output to grow by 390,000 bpd in 2006, a very good recovery from the growth seen in the most recent monthly Russian output data. In all, the IEA view seems somewhat optimistic..." Norrish said.

Mike Wittner, global head of energy market research at Caylor Bank in London, told Resource Investor, "I'd be a little more conservative than the IEA. If you look at the recent trends which have basically been sideways it's a bit of a leap of faith just to restore the upwards trend. Russian production has not hit a plateau but you do have to wonder. Of course one thing is, it is so difficult to get really hard figures out of Russia."

After the collapse of the Soviet Union crude production inside Russia tumbled. It has never again reached the heights attained under Communism. But new rounds of investment by Russia's major oil companies has seen output rise steadily over the past few years.

For example in June 2002, Russian production was just 7.42mbpd. In three years it has added an extra 2mbpd. In 2004 just one company, the joint venture of Tenke Mining [TSX:TNK]-BP [NYSE:BP; TSX:BP.U], added 187,000bpd with a total output of 1.4mbpd. According to Russia's Industry & Energy Ministry output grew by 14% in 2000-2004.

A series of different answers are given as to why Russian production is starting to level off. Some like Anatoly Yankovsky of the Industry & Energy ministry's fuel department blames "the levels of taxation that oil companies have to pay." High tax levels, coupled with a desire by the companies themselves for healthy profits, have meant that Russian infrastructure has not kept pace with world standards. The result being that pipeline capacity suffers. This has in turn inhibited new exploration. After all, why find new deposits when the existing ones are only just being catered for?

"The uncertainty in the Russian tax regime is definitely a problem," says Deborah White at Societe Generale in Paris. "In my view however it is not greatly surprising. As barrel prices are far higher than anyone expected to expect these kind of deals - between companies and government - to remain stable isn't really possible."

"It is not at all surprising that with the clumsy handling of the Yukos situation we started to see production falls last October," White added. "But now as things are getting back to normal we may see a production recovery back on track."

Wittner takes a slightly different line on the Russian tax situation. "It does hold some water, but there is a question mark over that [idea]. After all the companies have still been making healthy profits as one would expect in a time of such high prices. If there is any major factor then there is definitely the Yukos affair that certainly created uncertainty for investors. And once you get a handle on the investment dollars in Russia you can generally tell what the output will be."

One thing that Wittner does not agree with is the idea that Russia wants to conserve reserves for future use, in an energy scarce world.

"I just don't buy that argument at all. Governments, state oil companies and oil majors are all very short term in their outlook. If they had it to produce, they would. They want the cash," he said.

For your reference:

Colin Campbell attacks oil majors' profits
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Could a Chinese peak derail the global economy?
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Norwegian production tumbles against IEA predictions
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When The Wells Run Dry
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Saudi Arabian fairy tales? Are Saudi figures correct?
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0234CBB3-169D-42DF-8B33-6BEFF80FA478.htm>
UK government tell pensioners to switch energy providers. Fiddling while Rome burns?
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0F185445-D578-4283-A68F-3705F29816DB.htm>
Oil Will Fail To Meet Demand (Inc interview with Jim Meyer of ODAC)
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/8853FFB5-3368-44D1-82AE-4066D9FCEA09.htm>
An interview with me. (Yes...they must be desperate!)
<http://www.gnn.tv/articles/article.php?id=864>
Report Says Global Warming May Aid Oil Industry:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/A3912343-2610-4E43-86D7-2912110E01BD.htm>
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<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/9EC1C0AC-C5AD-4C43-B98A-248F6F0D48A2.htm>
Oil Price Bonanza:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/C6B9BC78-26D4-42A5-9E72-0AFC116E4ABE.htm>
Interview with Ali Bakhtiar:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/351FD000-D263-46D8-BE9D-C17E9D5CEB84.htm>
OPEC loses control of market:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/D6E08A21-3A15-4D95-9256-9B801D9540BE.htm>
US reserves under pressure?
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/09E3FFAF-E0A4-4A55-AB55-470404D22B06.htm>
States in decline?
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/561306AC-83F7-4FCE-A7EE-3EDD1B5C6096.htm>
Market mired in confusion:
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/2BF5DADA-8763-4D3C-B41B-6BB17CC429E9.htm>
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<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/8AEF2417-CBDF-4E99-A8D2-CAA5409C147E.htm>
The end of cheap oil?

Rovegate

part 2 of 2

By
Jim DiEugenio

Special to *From the Wilderness*

August 9, 2005 1500 PST (FTW): In the first part of this article I outlined the “working background” to the investigation of Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald. Ostensibly hired to investigate the exposure of CIA undercover officer Valerie Plame, Fitzgerald has uncovered the apparatus used to manufacture the false pretenses for the American invasion of Iraq by the PNAC/neocon cabal in control of the White House. This constitutes an investigator’s relevant and working background. I will now outline who I believe are the prime figures in his investigation, the suspects he has cases against, some of the evidence, and some of the charges he may be able to draw up.

Let’s begin with Robert Novak, the man who started it all with a column he wrote in July of 2003 exposing Plame. Many have asked: Why did Fitzgerald charge reporters Matt Cooper and Judith Miller, but not charge Novak? I believe Novak has been talking. Which does not mean he will walk. The rightwing reporter has three problems. First he has told different stories about his conversations with “two senior administration officials” and two CIA sources, one official one unofficial. Second, he must reveal his second administration source other than Rove. Third, and probably the most serious: Was Novak part of a *planned* leaking that incorporated a cover story for both the reporter(s) involved and the administration officials? In other words, did someone get in contact with Novak first, tell him to call Rove, tell him what to ask, and alert him what Rove would say in reply, thereby resulting in a story which would reveal precisely what the perpetrators wanted?

There is some evidence for this scenario. First, Rove and Novak have been friends for years, at least since 1992 when Rove was fired during the campaign of Bush Sr. At that time he leaked a story smearing Robert Mossbacher, a financial backer of Bush, to his pal Novak. They then both tried to lie their way out of it. Also, the reported reply by Rove to Novak is interesting. Novak says he got the information about Plame from another source first. He then repeated it to Rove who said, “Oh, you heard that too.” This response suggests that Novak was attempting to provide Rove with a built-in legal defense. For if this actually occurred then Rove did not *provide* the information exposing Plame to Novak; he merely confirmed it. Thus, at trial Rove would have some form of a technical defense. The problem here for Novak is that if this is what he did, and Fitzgerald can pierce it, this would open him up to charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

This brings us to another journalist, the one who is already in jail. The case of Judith Miller is more fascinating than Novak’s. And, as I will try to explain here, it is probably even more important to Fitzgerald. To fully understand that potential importance,

we must digress a bit to fill in some history about the celebrated and controversial *New York Times* reporter. And we must go back even farther than the Bush family wars against Iraq.

In the 1980’s, the Reagan administration had their own problems with radical Islam and the Middle East. So National Security Adviser John Poindexter decided to launch a disinformation campaign against a representative of that religion, namely Muammar Gaddafi of Libya. Nine years into her tenure at the *Times*, in 1986, Miller participated in Poindexter’s massive campaign of discreditation. According to Bob Woodward — who should know — Miller agreed to plant Poindexter’s propaganda in her own columns. She wrote that Gaddafi was in danger of being overthrown from within, that he was mentally imbalanced, was a drug addict, and had even come on to her sexually but quickly cooled when she told him she was Jewish. Then, at the time of Gulf War I, she co-authored two books about Hussein. One was on germ warfare, which has always held an odd attraction for her. The other was a biography of Hussein which was co-authored with Laurie Mylroie — which tells us a lot.

In 2000 Mylroie published a clear black propaganda tome called *Study of Revenge: Saddam Hussein’s Unfinished War Against America*. The book was published by the American Enterprise Institute. In the acknowledgements, Mylroie thanks John Bolton, Lewis Libby, Paul Wolfowitz and his ex-wife. Richard Perle wrote a blurb for it saying the book was “splendid and wholly convincing.” This book supplied the figleaf for the neocon idea that Hussein was the world mastermind of terror. Mylroie blamed Iraq for every anti-American terrorist act of the last decade: even the Oklahoma City bombing. As Peter Bergen wrote in *Washington Monthly* (December 2003), “she is, in short, a crackpot.” Then, after 9/11, when Perle and others mustered a huge PR campaign to convince the public that Hussein had something to do with the hijackings, Miller and Mylroie were both associated with Eleana Benador, the huge public relations firm that partly handled that mass brainwashing effort. As part of this campaign, Dick Cheney made a speech on August 26, 2002 denouncing Hussein’s efforts to gain chemical and biological weapons. A few days later, Miller co-wrote an article for the *Times* which first set out the whole “aluminum tubes as centrifuges” myth which was used as a prop for the ersatz nuclear arsenal Hussein was building. The same day Miller’s article appeared, Cheney was on “Meet the Press” and mentioned her story, giving credit to the *Times* for a scoop.

But it was after the war, in the search for the non-existent WMD, that Miller’s true identity came through: in the *Washington Post* (June 25, 2003), Howard Kurtz wrote that Miller was embedded with the Pentagon’s MET Alpha group which was the team sent to hunt down the WMD. Donald Rumsfeld himself signed off on this assignment for Miller. One officer said she almost ended up “hijacking the mission.” How? By threatening to go to Rumsfeld or the *Times* if she did not get her way in the search. She was even allowed to sit in on the interrogation of Hussein’s son-in-law. At the end of the mission, she was at the ceremony to promote the warrant officer of MET Alpha, one Richard Gonzalez. She even pinned the new bars on his uniform.

So, to an even greater extent than Novak, Miller is a reporter who is not a reporter. She is so far inside the administration that she can fairly be called a participant. Which is why she is in jail. The key to what Fitzgerald is up to is contained in one of

his court filings on the Miller case. There he has alluded to the fact that if Miller does not talk by the time the grand jury term is over, he is contemplating changing her civil contempt charges to criminal contempt. That is a much more serious offense which necessitates a jury trial and could put her behind bars for years, maybe even decades. Why? Unlike Novak, or Cooper, Miller never wrote a story about Plame; indeed, no colleague at the *Times* over the past two years has suggested Miller was even actively working on a story about Plame (*Editor and Publisher*, 7/12/05). Yet Fitzgerald has her in prison. So there must be activities outside her actual writing efforts that make her so suspicious.

Every journalist that Fitzgerald has called has eventually talked. This includes Walter Pincus, Tim Russert, and eventually Matt Cooper. This was done by the source waiving the confidentiality privilege in either a general or a specific way. But not Miller. In fact, when she was called to testify, not only did she refuse to talk, she did not even show up. Why? It is hard to believe she is protecting her source since, for example, Fitzgerald did not make Pincus name his source. He already knew the source since he has all the datebooks and callbooks from the White House. Pincus testified as to the date, time, and information. Fitzgerald then matched it up. Miller won't do this. She chose jail. In my view, this strange and singular choice has little to do with her *First Amendment* freedom. She does not want Fitzgerald to force her to invoke the *Fifth Amendment*.

There are eight redacted pages in Fitzgerald's filings that reportedly concern Miller, and perhaps Rove (*Ibid*). Never seen by the public, they have convinced four courts to uphold the contempt charge against Miller. According to *Newsday*, Miller had a meeting in Washington with an unnamed government official on July 8 th, two days after the publication of Wilson's NYT article which partly contradicted her own writings. The only paradigm that explains Miller's obstinacy is that, on that date, she was not really reporting on Wilson and/or Plame. She was acting as either a source or a conduit for the Plame exposure. Reporter Steve Clemons has revealed (*The Washington Note*, 7/22/05) that John Bolton was a regular source for Miller's *New York Times* WMD and national security stories. If Bolton, or Libby, was the unnamed official who passed on the Plame/Wilson info then this would explain Rove's convenient memory lapse about the reporter who first alerted him as to Plame's status as Wilson's CIA wife. Rove's original source may have been Miller. Needless to say, if this (or a similar scenario) is correct, Miller is part of a conspiracy, and she has obstructed justice by concealing a carefully pre-planned national security leak. Perhaps Miller will not talk because she understands that the rules of evidence change in a conspiracy case. Her testimony and evidence may then be imputed to other co-conspirators. This is why I think Fitzgerald is threatening her with a criminal trial and a long jail term.

Karl Rove is likely part of that conspiracy. Fitzgerald seems to think so. Rove has appeared before the grand jury three times, has been informally interviewed by prosecutors twice, and has been interviewed by the FBI twice. But let us consider some of his public statements first to show why he is, for now, at the center of the probe. For a reputedly smart operator, Rove has said some dumb things. On September 29, 2003 he was asked by ABC News, "Did you have any knowledge or did you leak the name of the CIA agent to the press?" He replied he didn't. Almost a year later, on August 31, 2004, on CNN when asked a similar question he said, "Well, I'll repeat what I said to ABC

News... I didn't know her name. I didn't leak her name." In October of 2003, White House press secretary Scott McClellan was asked if Rove and two other administration figures had ever discussed Valerie Plame with any reporters. He said he had spoken with all three, and "those individuals assured me they were not involved in this." The other two were Lewis Libby and Elliot Abrams.

We now know that Rove lied in all three instances. In its issue of October 6, 2003 *Newsweek* reported that Rove had called up Chris Matthews of MSNBC's "Hardball" and told him that Wilson's wife was "fair game." Andrea Mitchell of NBC told Joe Wilson something similar. Clearly Rove and Libby were in overdrive against Wilson and were more than willing to use his wife's Agency status to discredit his trip to Niger. But as Robert Parry has pointed out in "The Consortium" (7/19/05), Rove told Cooper a couple of things that may be even more interesting to Fitzgerald. He stated that "material was going to be declassified in the coming days that would cast doubt on Wilson's mission and his findings." This apparently refers to the classified information he told Novak. He then closed with, "I've already said too much." To a prosecutor, that statement indicates "consciousness of guilt." Rove seemed to know he had gone too far.

In addition to the charges I mentioned above, Rove has clearly broken his White House Nondisclosure Agreement, and violated the 1917 Espionage Act. According to Murray Waas in *The American Prospect* (3/8/04), he lied to FBI agents. He told them he only circulated information about Plame *after* he read it in Novak's column. This is another chargeable offense. According to reporter Richard Keil (*Bloomberg News Service*, 7/21/05), in one of his first interviews with Fitzgerald, Rove told the counsel that he learned about Plame's CIA status through Novak, which is not his current story and may make him liable for perjury. Finally, he has probably violated the Intelligence Identities Act of 1982.

So: why hasn't Rove been asked to resign? Certainly, this would relieve some of the pressure on the White House. Something he did right after hanging up on Cooper may explain it. He e-mailed Stephen Hadley, then Deputy National Security Adviser to Condoleezza Rice, and reported on his conversation with Cooper by ambiguously saying he did not take the bait when Cooper suggested that Wilson's column had hurt the administration (which it clearly had). But why would Rove be reporting to the Deputy National Security Adviser about his conversation with a reporter? Because Hadley was part of the Iraq Study Group: the black propaganda shop I mentioned in my previous article. Although meant to create news stories in support of the war, it clearly had a counter-intelligence capability and function.

How long did it take Fitzgerald to figure out how Rove fit into the ISG, and that Rove was his path to the higher-ups? He convened his grand jury on January 21, 2003. On January 23 rd, Mary Matalin was called. Matalin was a member of the ISG (the others were Karen Hughes, Jim Wilkinson, Nicholas Calo, Rice, Hadley, and Libby.) She was also described as a former counselor to Cheney. And this is where things get interesting. In his grand jury testimony, Rove has reportedly said that he saw no classified document on Plame (*Washington Post* 7/17/05). This may be true, because although others in the group probably had Top Secret clearance (e.g., Hadley, Rice, and Libby), political operatives like Matalin, Hughes, and Rove

likely did not. This leads to what Fitzgerald seems to think is the origin of the classified information about Plame.

When Wilson was first recruited for his trip to Niger he met with several people from the CIA and the State Department. After Wilson agreed to the mission, the State Department representatives made notes on what had happened. These notes were turned over to their Department of Intelligence and Research (INR). In the following year, when Wilson began to appear on television and be anonymously sourced in newspaper and magazine articles, these notes were transferred into a three page memorandum, which featured one paragraph on his wife. That paragraph was clearly marked "Secret" — since she was a covert officer — and contained the (false) information that Plame had convened the Niger meeting and that it was her idea to dispatch Wilson. It is almost exactly that false information that was relayed to Cooper and Novak via Rove. Originally sent to Undersecretary Marc Grossman on June 10 th, the memo was redated and readdressed to Colin Powell on July 7 th after he heard about Wilson's column of the previous day.

But recall, Novak used Valerie Wilson's maiden name. Reportedly, that is not in the INR memo. So where did he get it? He might have dug it up somehow himself, which is what he seems to be saying now (*New York Times* 8/2/05). But at the time he was saying something else: "I didn't dig it out, it was given to me. They thought it was significant, they gave me the name and I used it." (*Newsday*, 7/21/03). So likely he got it from his other "senior administration official." According to Wilson's book, *The Politics of Truth*, in March of 2003, after Wilson appeared on CNN criticizing the just-launched invasion, Cheney's Chief of Staff Libby convened a meeting to start a dossier or "work-up" on Wilson (p. 452). Wilson states that John Hannah, who worked for Cheney, and David Wurmser, who worked for Bolton, were in on this assignment.

Fitzgerald seems to have been onto this quite early. In a report issued last year (2/5/04), Richard Sale of UPI wrote that officials have "developed hard evidence of possible criminal misconduct by two employees of Vice President Dick Cheney's office related to the unlawful exposure of a CIA officer's identity last year. The investigation...could lead to indictments...." The report names Hannah and Libby as the two Cheney employees and says that officials are pressuring Hannah with the threat of a long sentence if he does not turn over his superiors. Those superiors would be Libby and the Vice President himself.

How much pressure can be put on Mr. Libby, who was Matt Cooper's second source after Rove? Both Libby and Rove have said that when they were told about Valerie Wilson being in the CIA, they replied, "Oh, you heard that also?" They have both said they heard it from a journalist first. Rove cannot recall which one. Libby has said it was from Tim Russert, but Russert has denied this. And if Libby started the dossier "work-up" in March of 2003 it would be hard to believe that four months later he needed a journalist to tell him who Wilson's wife was.

It was Cheney who started the drumbeat about Hussein's quest for nuclear weapons back in the summer of 2002. According to the Downing Street Minutes of July 23, 2002, that is when the compact between England and the US was made. The war would be justified around WMD and an ultimatum to Saddam would allow the UN inspectors back in. Which in turn could allow "legal justification for the use of force." Reportedly, Cheney

told some congressional leaders at the time, that it was not a matter of *if* the US would attack Iraq; it was a matter of *when* it would occur. The hot button word "uranium" was always integral to this effort. In propaganda terms it was more potent than "germ warfare" or "chemical weapons." From the word uranium, you could then make the dramatic leap to "mushroom cloud," which the Cheney/Rumsfeld ISG decided to do in order to give a Cold War-style potency to an unfounded allegation. But to do this, for both England and the US, it was necessary to have a claim to stake it on.

According to *The New Yorker* (10/27/03), the first reports of the mythical Niger "yellowcake" appeared in Cheney's office in late 2001. They would be knocked down by Niger ambassador Barbara Owens-Kirkpatrick, then by general Carlton Fulford on a military mission in Niger, and then by Wilson's 2002 mission. Incredibly, in spite of all this, the administration pleaded ignorance to all three reports. The claim was *still* used throughout the rest of 2002. Even though, by then, it had been questioned further by the CIA, the State Department, and — as we shall see — an Italian reporter. After six discreditations, the administration *still* pleaded ignorance. But they knew they had to change the dressing a bit. So it was used by Bush in his 2003 State of the Union Address via the infamous British intelligence dossier, which simply supplied a different binding for a dubious story. And when Wilson put the final kibosh on it with his *New York Times* column, they went after him with a vengeance. Clearly, Cheney and Bush saw the Niger story as central to scaring the public into accepting this war, or else they would not have revived it so many times. By all accounts, the documents were so poorly forged that they could not possibly have fooled a professional analyst. This is why I do not agree with those who postulate that the CIA forged them.

Most politically astute observers know that Karl Rove is sometimes referred to as "Bush's Brain". But fewer know that, as far as foreign policy goes, Rove's brain is Michael Ledeen (*Asia Times* 6/26/03). This arresting fact was belatedly revealed by the *Washington Post* when Bush promoted Rove to some foreign policy coordination functions in late 2004. I say belatedly because the two appear to have met after Bush's disputed election/appointment in 2000. This is arresting because Ledeen is considered radical even by some neocons. He first came to national attention by initiating, along with his arms dealer friend Manucher Ghorbanifar, the reported basis of the Iran/Contra scandal — the idea of trading arms for hostages. He urged the US to invade Iraq by saying that Americans "were a warlike people and we love war. What we hate is not casualties but losing." (*Boston Globe* 10/10/04) Suspected of being a double agent for Israel, Ghorbanifar is a hardline Zionist and anti-Arabist who proposes a U.S. invasion of Syria, Saudi Arabia and his native Iran. In fact, he is already campaigning for a war against the last. For Ledeen, Iraq is just one step along the way to American hegemony over the Middle East. One of his closest friends is Richard Perle. Three of his contacts within the administration are Libby, Doug Feith, and Abrams. Fittingly, he loves Machiavelli and he has a strong interest in Italian history and culture. In the seventies, he was Rome correspondent for *The New Republic*. At that time he apparently developed some rightwing connections to Italian intelligence (SISMI), and paraintelligence, the notorious Propaganda Due Masonic Lodge.

Rocco Martino was a former employee of both of these organizations in 2000. Recently fired by SISMI, he went to the French and told them he would freelance for them by monitoring the

running of arms, both conventional and unconventional, out of Africa. The French gave him a handler in Brussels and asked him to focus on their former colony of Niger which had two uranium mines under the control of the giant French company Cogema. Shortly thereafter, Martino developed a contact only referred to as a lady at the Niger embassy in Rome. The lady gave him some papers indicating that Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican had been planning to expand trade with Niger. According to at least one report, this information got to Vice President Cheney. The French then asked Martino for more information.

In early 2001, there was a break-in at the Niger embassy. Documents and files were stolen. And curiously letterheads, stamps, and seals. In October of 2001, Martino, through the mysterious lady, now received a folder of documents, including the set which said that Iraq was now seeking shipments of uranium from Niger. Martino forwarded these to his French contacts and also to *Panorama* magazine, owned by Bush ally and Italian president Silvio Berlusconi. Martino later commented, "SISMI wanted me to pass on the documents but they didn't want anyone to know they had been involved" (*Financial Times*, 8/2/04). *Panorama* gave one copy to a reporter of theirs, and said they would send another copy to the U.S. through the American embassy.

But according to *The New Yorker* (10/20/03), the documents were never examined at the embassy. They were passed directly to Washington. Once in Washington, they were sent by the CIA to the Pentagon, where they were supposedly accepted as genuine. This is hard to believe. One CIA officer said they looked like "Somebody got old letterheads and signatures and cut and pasted" (*New Yorker* 3/31/03). Further, some of the letters were signed by officials of Niger who had been out of office for a decade. And some of the handwriting of government officials did not match up (Ibid). Also, the amount of uranium involved, 500 tons, could not have been secretly spirited out of the French-controlled mines. And as previously noted, General Carlton Fulford found the report to be spurious after going to Niger (*Washington Post* 7/15/03). So, if the Pentagon found it credible, it must have been through Douglas Feith's OSP.

Michael Ledeen is a friend of both Feith and his assistant Harold Rhode. According one report (*Washington Monthly* 9/04), Feith hired Ledeen to work as a consultant for OSP in 2001. One of the reasons his friend Ghorbanifar lost the confidence of the CIA was his tendency to create false intelligence, including forged documents. One of the most curious aspects of the phony documents is that they discuss some kind of military campaign against major Western powers by both Iraq and Iran that was being orchestrated through — of all places — the Niger embassy in Rome (Senate Intelligence Report, p. 58). This wild idea of an Islamic campaign against the West, which necessitates preemption, is a favorite theme of the neocons — especially Ledeen.

At about this time, in late 2001, Ledeen was meeting in Rome with the head of SISMI, the Italian Defense Minister, Rhode, Larry Franklin, and Ghorbanifar (Mr. Franklin, also of OSP, is now accused of giving classified information to the Israeli front group AIPAC). The ostensible subject was Iran, but Ghorbanifar admitted to *Newsweek* (12/22/03) that Iraq was also discussed. This meeting was arranged outside of normal channels: neither the CIA nor the State Department was aware of it (*Washington Monthly* 9/04). When the CIA and the U.S. ambassador to Italy complained to Rice, her deputy Stephen Hadley

sent word to Feith and Ledeen to stop the meetings. But the meetings did not stop. Ghorbanifar's colleagues, an Egyptian and an Iraqi, briefed an American official about the situation in Iraq, which the arms dealer said turned out just as he said, almost word for word. Ledeen arranged a third meeting, again going through mysterious channels. When the administration tried to explain these meetings as "chance encounters," Ghorbanifar laughed at the idea. "We had a prior agreement. It involved a lot of discussion and a lot of people... we gave him the scenario, what would happen in the coming days in Iraq. And everything has happened... as we told him" (Ibid).

The above evidence is strong enough to have persuaded former CIA officers Ray McGovern and Vince Cannistraro that Ledeen and his colleagues originally forged the Niger yellowcake uranium documents. Needless to say, if this is so, it would demonstrate that the Iraq War was a fabrication from its inception, even before 9/11. It would also explain another oddity: Pat Buchanan's complaint that the administration has not shown enough outrage over the discovery of this forgery.

I have explained above why I think the Fitzgerald investigation poses a real danger to the White House. Which is not to predict with certainty that this Special Counsel proceeding will do to Bush what a previous one did to Nixon. The balance of power is not there yet. In fact, Senate Intelligence Chair Pat Roberts had already announced he wants to review the Special Counsel investigation "who has been investigating the Plame case for nearly two years" (Reuters 7/24/05). Since Roberts is a shameless water carrier on Iraq for the White House, this is clearly the first shot across the bow for Fitzgerald. In fact, there may have been some technical violations of the Special Counsel law when Fitzgerald was appointed; the counsel should have been selected from outside the government, and his new charge was supposed to take precedence over his professional life. Yet he is still the U.S. Attorney for Northern Illinois. This could be cured by letting that position expire in October. There will be other attacks on Fitzgerald, as there were on Lawrence Walsh. He's cutting too close to the bone.

It is interesting that the new Republican candidate for Bernie Sanders' Vermont congressional seat is running on a platform to impeach Bush. It is also interesting that in Cincinnati, a conservative Democrat, Paul Hackett is running a close race against his opponent in an overwhelmingly GOP area. This bodes ill for Bush and Cheney for next year's elections. If the elections next year are honest (or indeed, if they are rigged in the *Democrats'* favor this time), and the Democrats take back Congress, I see no reason why impeachment should not begin.

I have tried to show here the three basic elements necessary to prove criminal conspiracy: a viable working background that shows the links between the conspirators; a provable intent, and if possible, motive for the crime; and the demonstration of specific acts (and if the enterprise was successful, a result) in furtherance of the conspiracy. The combination of the Downing Street Minutes and Fitzgerald's investigation provides clear and convincing evidence to establish such an enterprise. It is clear that from April of 2002, the British cooperated with Bush to fabricate the war, and people like Clare Short and Jack Straw and Richard Dearlove will be valuable witnesses in an impeachment hearing. So would have the late Dr. David Kelly, one of whose final messages was reportedly directed to Judith Miller.

A HALF-TRUTH IS STILL A LIE

By
Michael C. Ruppert

I had a horrible experience the other night. It was brief but it knocked me on my butt for a second. We were at my engagement dinner (that's right, I'm getting married to a wonderful woman next Spring). One of our guests looked at me and said, "You know, I just don't believe in Peak Oil. It's in the media every day now and I never believe what I see in the mainstream media."

Ouch!

It was not the time to talk back. That night was a celebration with a wonderful group of friends. Maybe now I can say what I was thinking. The following story from the *Financial Times* makes it essential.

Look, you have no idea how hard so many people have worked to get Peak Oil into the mainstream media; or for how many years; or at what price. I am a newcomer. I've only been at it for about four years. M. King Hubbert started in 1956. Ken Deffeyes, Colin Campbell, Richard Duncan, Walter Youngquist, Jay Hanson and others have been trying to get people to listen for decades.

It's easy to admit something that can no longer be concealed: the proverbial elephant in the room. But to admit only half the truth is a damnable lie and it further endangers the lives and safety of billions and I'll be damned if I'll shut up or be politically correct.

Big Oil tells us that actual peak is further away than we know it to be. And the fact that in some cases they are even acknowledging a possible peak in three to five years means that it's probably here right now. Remember Karen Silkwood?

Big Oil tells us that the problem is basically solvable. It is not. In the present reality, mankind is faced with only a partial chance of success in a desperate bid to soften the blow.

Big Oil makes this startling admission now, when just two years ago their annual reports to shareholders and press releases painted a completely different picture. In fact, they flatly contradict what Big Oil is saying today. Do the shareholders care? If we had a real SEC, it might care. *Hail Caesar!*

Big Oil tells us this now, when they are sitting – and I mean sitting – on mountains of cash that could actually be saving lives. It was Big Oil that lobbied to have American mass transit systems ripped up and destroyed in the 1950s. It was Big Oil and chemical companies like Monsanto that laid waste our farmland and our seed stock. Monsanto and other large corporations have actually patented living things. It was Big Oil that took away the American people's basic knowledge of farming and gave us unfarmable pavement. It was Big Oil that unleashed a global warming which now breathes down our necks like a hungry Saber-toothed tiger.

Noticed any hurricanes lately? Been a little warm this summer?

Heard of any blackouts anywhere? If this winter is cold you'd better know something about cold weather survival and candle making. Global warming does that by the way. It starts Ice Ages that spread rapidly. *FTW* will soon be offering a book for sale that shows that one ice age cold snap enveloped Europe in less than a year about 11,000 years ago. The book is dramatically understated about "anthropogenic" tinkering with the environment. Mankind is, at minimum, accelerating a mechanism that was already in place.

My fiancée, who is finishing a Master's degree in Ecological Agriculture, casually said something to me yesterday, almost in passing. It was profound:

"Isn't it possible that Mother Earth is developing a fever to rid herself of an infection?"

In a slightly more rational world, Big Oil's money could be providing tax write-offs while at the same time being poured into a crash program for "remedial" energy sources before it's too late. That money could be used to rebuild America's railroads. That, more than anything, could save tens of millions of lives in the next fifteen years.

Nothing will replace oil and gas and we are now seeing that clearly. There is no more serious oil left to find or extract, even at a ridiculous cost. Has anyone noticed that the whole world is rushing to buy into the Canadian tar sands? China is already there. Now France's Total is buying in. If there were anyplace else to go for oil, people, countries and corporations would be rushing there. We need three new Saudi Arabias today just to replace the impossible-to-hide-anymore global decline rates, especially in Norway, Indonesia and Mexico. They aren't there. The world has not discovered a single 500 million-barrel field for more than two years. A 500 million barrel ("mega-") field is conservatively just 1/500th of the estimated oil in Saudi Arabia that might be recoverable as of today.

Big Oil is lying about a lot. Most assuredly it will do everything possible to conceal and mislead about its responsibility for placing the entire human race in jeopardy and getting us into this mess in the first place.

Or, when the new energy bill is signed by George W. Bush, Big Oil might just start buying up (along with Warren Buffet) every major power and water utility in the country. They will be allowed to do that now for the first time since the Great Depression. Then – with the help of PROMIS software – Big Oil just might shut off the power selectively to any Enemies of the State it wishes: especially those who are too loud.

This new advertising is bullshit and no one should mistake it for any kind of victory or any reason to slack off and take a break.

— Michael C. Ruppert

Big Oil warns of coming energy crunch

Carola Hoyos in London
August 4 2005

http://news.ft.com/cms/s/7af6dc38-050c-11da-97da-0000e2511c8.ft_acl=s01=1.html

International oil companies have advertising campaigns warning that the world is running out of oil and calling on the public to help the industry do something about it.

Most of the executives of the world's five largest energy groups generally maintain that oil projects are viable with the price at which they test a project's viability is within the around \$20 a barrel. range. But their advertising and some of their companies' own statistics appear to tell a different story. [FTW reprints this damaged paragraph exactly as it appears on the *Financial Times* website. – FTW]

ExxonMobil, the world's largest energy group, said in a recent advertisement: "The world faces enormous energy challenges. There are no easy answers." And the companies' statistics back up the sentiment. In *The Outlook for Energy: A 2030 View*, the Irving, Texas-based company forecasts that oil production outside the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the cartel that controls three-quarters of the world's oil reserves, will reach its peak in just five years.

Chevron, the US's second-largest energy group, sends a similar message, but goes two steps further. "One thing is clear: The era of easy oil is over. We call upon scientists and educators, politicians and policy-makers, environmentalists, leaders of industry and each one of you to be part of reshaping the next era of energy. Inaction is not an option," was the message in a recent advertising campaign. The company has even set up a website, www.willyoujoinus.com, warning of the pressures of high demand and fewer fields and offering a forum of discussion.

A recent simulation exercise showed that, even with passage of an energy bill, the US has few tools to counter a sudden reduction in supply.

One senior executive at an oil company not involved in the advertising campaigns speculated that his counterparts were attempting to buy themselves some slack to go after the messier, more expensive, dirty oil. Another executive said it may buy some sympathy for the difficulty many companies are having in growing developing [sic] their production and reserves.

Total, the French oil company, this week made the latest acquisition in Canada's vast Athabasca oil sands, where companies are extracting extra tar-like bitumen from sand in an expensive and environmentally tricky mining operation.

Yves-Marie Dilibard, Total's director of communications, explaining the logic behind its campaign, said: "Tomorrow's energy needs mean developing new energy techniques, going further and deeper in the search of oil and gas. That's at the heart of Total's work today."

Royal Dutch Shell and BP, Europe's biggest energy groups, have recently felt the effects of venturing into more difficult frontiers. Shell was forced by environmentalists to reroute a pipeline that threatened rare whales in Russia's arctic and last month warned of a \$10bn (€8bn, £5.6bn) cost overrun at its Sakhalin project there. Meanwhile, BP battled with a platform in the deep waters of the US Gulf of Mexico that was severely bent by hurricane Dennis.


In its advertisements BP touts new energy alternatives, while ExxonMobil, which has unapologetically abandoned alternatives that have not been profitable, says in one advertisement: "Wishful thinking must not cloud real thinking."

But answering the concerns of the consumer, even about the possible shortage of oil, is not the primary job of an oil company. Its most important stakeholders are its stock shareholders, some of whom have been left perplexed by the advertisements after hearing an altogether different message at last week's earnings conferences.

Neil McMahon, analyst at Sanford Bernstein, said: "We think these messages are at odds with the comments normally made to investors regarding future oil prices and the ability of producers to meet demand, and we wonder if perhaps those messages are actually a better indicator of the companies' thinking."

Consumers are also not the primary concern of an even more important group: the national oil companies of producing countries, such as Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has as its first priority its growing population and the stability of the regime. This – together with the increased difficulty of finding new oil – is part of the reason for the capacity crunch, analysts and executives agree.

No amount of advertising is likely to change that dynamic.



"Peak Oil - Imposed By Nature" (DVD)
Produced/Directed by
Armund Prestegard

Featuring interviews with Colin Campbell, Mathew Simmons, FTW's Mike Ruppert, and Chris Skrebowski, *Peak Oil - Imposed by Nature* is one of the first films on the subject to clearly and succinctly address economic and geological issues.

With a running time of 28:30 this is a broadcast-ready product. The version offered by FTW also includes an additional 18 ½ minutes of interviews with Campbell, Simmons and other key figures.

"Armund Prestegard makes watching information on a scary subject a treat. This is the perfect way to expose someone to Peak Oil for the first time."

- Mike Ruppert

This is the first motion picture quality film about Peak Oil! Succinctly exposes the viewer to the issues of Peak Oil.

***Yours for \$19.95! (+s&h)**

Go to www.FromTheWilderness.com to order!
*Taxes may apply.

Cynthia McKinney Brings 9/11 Back to Congress

By
Michael Kane

July, 2005 1300 PST (FTW): July 22, 2005 marked one year since the Kean Commission published its final report. On this day in the Cannon House Congressional Office Building - where the Kean Commission first gathered - Representative Cynthia McKinney convened an all-day briefing focusing on the truth and lies of 9/11, and how that event has impacted the world we find ourselves in today.



Front row l to r: Peter Dale Scott, Loretta Napolione, Nafeez Ahmed. Back row, Cynthia McKinney and 9/11 victim Bob McIlvaine who lost a son. Where are the

The very same day, Congress renewed the USA Patriot Act.

The event was originally co-sponsored by Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), but according to Jenna Orkin who lobbied Grijalva's office three days later to thank him for his support, the co-sponsorship has been withdrawn for "many reasons" without specifying any details. The only sitting Congressperson to attend besides McKinney was Representative Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI), who stayed for half an hour. Also in attendance were staff members from the offices of Rick Larsen (D-WA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Michael Honda (D-CA), and Marcy Kaptur (D-OH).¹

FTW's Michael Ruppert, Wayne Madsen, and Ray McGovern made up the panel of experts assembled by Cynthia McKinney's staff to ask questions of the panelists giving testimony. The entire briefing has been placed in the Congressional Record.

Being the anniversary of the commission report, it was fitting for the event to open with a report card issued by those responsible for the creation of the commission in the first place - the "Jersey Girls." These women all lost their husbands in the attacks of 9/11.

But only two of the Jersey Girls were present, Lorie Van Auken and Mindy Kleinberg, together with Monica Gabrielle, who co-founded the [Skyscraper Safety Campaign](#). Van Auken stated she was speaking for the women seated beside her as she proceeded to tear the report's findings to shreds. Her extremely well researched and accurate account hit many facts that FTW's readers are very familiar with, but Van Auken referenced two issues in a way the Jersey Girls had never done before.

"Intentional" FBI Failure and 9/11 War Games

First on Van Auken's list of complaints was the history of FBI Supervisory Special Agent David Frasca - the man promoted after having blocked and thwarted Cowleen Rowley's investigation into Zacarias Moussaoui, the so-called "20th hijacker." When Van Auken spoke to this she detailed the intentional falsification of a FISA warrant request by the FBI. The warrant was subsequently denied. Had it been granted, it would have allowed the FBI to search Moussaoui's laptop, which would have revealed information whose proper use may have prevented 9/11 from happening.



The three questioners: l to r, Michael Ruppert, Wayne Madsen and Ray McGovern. (photo: Michael Kane)

It almost sounded as if she was reading from chapter 12 of [Crossing the Rubicon](#). From her testimony and the responses to it, it was apparent that all the panel members had read the book. Van Auken then went on to list the other 9/11-related investigations where Frasca acted as a deliberate and monumental roadblock. "FBI Headquarters thwarted their own agents instead of thwarting the terrorists."

The second issue raised by Van Auken and others was the multiple war game exercises being conducted on 9/11.

The Jersey Girls had never publicly commented on this issue before this briefing. Last year, this reporter communicated with Van Auken regarding the 9/11 war games. She had read [The Final Fraud](#) when it was published by FTW² and she stated in a private communication at the time that it was "important work." This is where it was first reported that General Eberhart, who headed NORAD on 9/11, refused to comment as to who was coordinating the multiple (now six confirmed)³ war game exercises occurring on the morning of September 11, 2001.

One year after the Kean Commission report was published, the Jersey Girls did have something to say.

Van Auken opened by referring to the report's one and only mention of any 9/11 war game exercise, which occurs in a footnote referring to "Vigilant Guardian." She then read an exchange between the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) and FAA published in the report regarding the hijacking of Flight 11:

NEADS: Is this real-world or exercise?

FAA: No, this is not an exercise, not a test.

She again quoted the commission's report showing NEADS did not know the correct locations to which fighter aircraft should be scrambled. There was discussion of "Phantom Flight 11," the off-course flight headed to the Pentagon which the FAA repeatedly referred to as Flight 11 in their communications with NORAD. But Flight 11 had already crashed into the first Tower much earlier.

Van Auken noted General Eberhart's statements to the commission in which he claimed that it took only 30 seconds for NORAD to realize the events unfolding on 9/11 were not a test, and that the exercises helped NORAD respond quicker that day. The Jersey Girls rightly dismissed Eberhart's statement as entirely unsupported. Van Auken stated:

"General Eberhart's claim that the military exercises somehow made the military better prepared on 9/11 does not ring true. Instead, it appears that the concurrent military exercises completely confused everyone."

This is precisely *FTW's* position.

Ruppert asked the first question of the day to the Jersey Girls. He made note of the fact that the commission report refers only to one exercise, Vigilant Guardian, leaving out (at least) four other confirmed, named, and concurrent Air Force exercises running that day. He also pointed out that Vigilant Guardian was not a Cold War exercise as the report states, but rather a hijack drill and reminded everyone that the official NOARD web site posting for an exercise named Northern Vigilance flatly contradicted the Commission's findings. Then he mentioned Vigilant Warrior, which was named in Richard Clarke's book *Against All Enemies* and pointed out that it had been confirmed as a *live-fly* hijack drill⁴ which, again, was not mentioned in the commission's final report.

Ruppert commented on the Jersey Girls' choice of words, which has changed considerably since last year. They have gone just a little bit further. Where they used to leave the question as to the intent of government officials who they said "failed us" on 9/11, they now used the words "intentional" and "deliberate" in describing actions of the FBI and CIA, and in describing the misleading public statements of Condoleezza Rice.

Ruppert asked what brought about these changes.

There was a long pause as Van Auken cleared her throat, then said, "We didn't want to jump to any conclusions. It took a long time to read the report."

She was aware that Clarke's book mentioned the Vigilant Warrior exercise and that the Kean report did not, which she said was "upsetting." If the Kean Commission couldn't get such a basic point of fact correct, what did that suggest about the entirety of their findings?

This was a huge difference from what the American people heard

almost a year ago, when the Jersey Girls [endorsed the 9/11 commission's recommendations](#) including the creation of a National Director of Intelligence position now held by John Negroponte.

Mindy Kleinberg gave us all a glimpse into the turmoil the Jersey Girls (and likely most 9/11 survivors and family members) are now grappling with when she described their passage through each successive round in their search for truth through official channels by stating, "We've learned to lower our expectations."

Monica Gabrielle later left the conference room with a copy of *Crossing the Rubicon* under her arm. This reporter has since learned the Jersey Girls are currently very interested in renewable energy. When asked what she thought of Peak Oil, Lorie Van Auken responded by email saying:

"I think that peak oil is probably a dangerous reality."

Thompson, Ahmed, Newman

Critical presentations were given by Paul Thompson, author of *The Terror Timeline*, Nafeez Ahmed, author of *The War on Freedom* and *The War on Truth*, and John Newman, professor at the University of West Virginia and former NSA analyst.

Paul Thompson provided a detailed account of Air Force response to the hijacking of Flight 77. When questioned by Ruppert about the war games happening simultaneously with the real hijackings, Thompson revealed new research confirming that there was yet another war game occurring called "Global Guardian."

This was a scenario imagining "world-wide Armageddon." According to Paul Thompson, this exercise was normally scheduled for October or November, but for some unknown reason it was moved up to September.

Ruppert asked Thompson if it made any sense to reschedule war games to a time that ended up diverting air assets across the continent and the globe when the Summer of 2001 has come to be known as "the Summer of threat." This is when DCI George Tenet was running around "with his hair on fire" due to incoming threats of terrorists hijacking aircraft to use as weapons against American targets. Thompson said that this was a good question that needed to be further examined.

Nafeez Ahmed gave an excellent presentation on the fact that Mohammad Atta and the Hamburg cell of terrorists did not exhibit the behavior of radical Islamic fundamentalists. Rather there were multiple reports of them drinking heavily, using cocaine, gambling in Las Vegas, and frequenting strip clubs. None of this accords with the behavior of genuine Islamists, allied with Al Qaeda, who believe in the strictest interpretation of the Koran as to how a Muslim should live his life.

Further, Ahmed referenced multiple published reports indicating that the alleged hijackers had trained in secure military installations in the United States. While Ahmed remained reserved about the implications of the documentation he was referencing, the truth of the matter is that this information shakes the very foundation of everything we've been told about what happened on 9/11 and why.

John Newman's testimony was a detailed account of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who is reported to be a trusted paymaster of

the Al Qaeda network as well as an agent of Pakistan's ISI. Newman said Saeed Sheikh made the now infamous \$100,000 wire transfer to Mohammad Atta just before the 9/11 attacks at the order of General Mahmoud Ahmad - then head of Pakistan's ISI. Newman raised the question as to whether Saeed Sheikh was a British informant since he was inexplicably allowed to roam free in Britain even as a wanted man. He stated that Saeed was likely a triple agent.

After complimenting Newman's past research into the assassination of President Kennedy, Mike Ruppert credited Ottawa University's Michel Chossudovsky with the discovery that *the Director of Central Intelligence personally approves the head of Pakistan's ISI*. This has led both Chossudovsky and Ruppert to conclude that the \$100,000 wire transfer could only have occurred with the approval of DCI Tennen. Ruppert asked what Newman's "feel" of that was.

"I don't know," responded Newman.

Since questions were limited to one per questioner, Ruppert didn't get to point out that General Ahmad was having breakfast with congressional leaders in Washington on the morning of September 11th.

Mel Goodman and Mike Ruppert - Showdown!

Mel Goodman, a professor of International Studies at the National War College and former CIA and State Department analyst, opened his testimony on a high note, and closed on a low note. In his opening remarks he stated, "Congresswoman McKinney is viewed as contrarian, but I hope that someday her views will be considered conventional wisdom."

It went downhill from there.

Goodman noted that the 9/11 Commission did not have a single person familiar with the intelligence community. When mentioning people he felt should have been appointed to the commission, Goodman asked, "Where was Brent Scowcroft, or Gary Hart?"

Ruppert could be seen trying to conceal his laughter.

Goodman went on to claim that the one exception was the commission's co-chair, Lee Hamilton. He praised Hamilton's past work, including his membership on the infamous Iran Contra Commission that investigated the illegal exchanges of arms, drugs, and hostages during the 1980's. Goodman stated that Hamilton "didn't show up" to make the 9/11 Commission what it should've been, though he had done "great work" investigating the Iran Contra affair. Goodman spoke to the fact that there was no accountability, and that the failures of 9/11 were the personal failures - the incompetence - of those in power whom the commission never sought to expose.

Wayne Madsen asked Goodman why the commission didn't "follow the money." Why did they first put up Henry Kissinger to chair the commission, then Hamilton (picked as co-chair), choices which led to a conscious decision to avoid investigating the origins of the Mujahideen, the milieu of BCCI, or any of several highly relevant areas whose proper examination might have uncovered the truth. Such an approach would constitute "following the money."

Madsen recounted his public confrontation of Lee Hamilton about the [mysterious put options purchased on United and American Airlines just prior to 9/11](#). He had asked Hamilton about the possibility that those puts were purchased by individuals - *outside* the Al Qaeda network - who had foreknowledge of the attacks. Hamilton objected to the premise of this question, even though Chairman Kean had said the put options were still "on the table." In Madsen's view, the commission was intentionally set up to fail from the beginning.

Goodman largely agreed, but he completely avoided Madsen's portrayal of Hamilton, which starkly contrasted with Goodman's earlier praise for this man. He also avoided Madsen's direct reference to the incriminating put options that were never thoroughly addressed in the commission's report.



The Intelligence Panel: I to r, Mel Goodman, David MacMichael, Ray McGovern and author John Nutter.

Goodman shocked many in the room (including this reporter) when he said he had "great respect" for Henry Kissinger "in some ways." He quickly qualified that by saying anyone familiar with Kissinger knows he uses information to his strategic advantage as opposed to uncovering the truth. Goodman agreed that this initial appointment was a clear sign that Bush - who never wanted a commission in the first place - was planning on "stacking the deck" from the get-go.

At this, former FBI translator and whistleblower Sibel Edmonds, seated in the section reserved for family members and VIPs, began to applaud thunderously, which spread throughout the audience. Mike Ruppert was up next to question Goodman.

He laid all his cards on the table saying he had authored a book showing the Bush Administration was fully complicit in the events of 9/11, and that he knows he and Goodman will never in a million years agree on that. He referenced the book [Day of Deceit](#), by Robert Stinnett, which documented that the Americans had broken the code to Admiral Yamamoto's communiqués of the impending attack on Pearl Harbor.

"They knew it was coming and allowed it to happen." Whereas the U.S. government's involvement in the Pearl Harbor attack amounted to little more than foreknowledge, Ruppert explained, his own analysis of 9/11, convinced him that in this case the gov-

ernment was an active participant, planner and facilitator of the most destructive attack on U.S. soil since the Civil War. Ruppert's book [Crossing The Rubicon: The Decline and Fall of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil](#) has become the largest selling critical book on 9/11, second only to the Commission's report.

Goodman replied by agreeing with Ruppert that the two of them would never see eye-to-eye on this point.

But where Goodman claimed the problems within the intelligence community were lack of personal accountability for incompetence, Ruppert said the problems were deliberate, both personal and institutional.

Before Ruppert could finish setting up his question, Sibel Edmonds had walked out of the conference room for unknown reasons. Goodman repeated that he did not believe there was a conspiracy behind Pearl Harbor or 9/11.

"Most charges of conspiracy are really dealing with what the British call cock-ups," said Goodman, espousing the all-too-familiar "incompetence theory." Mel Goodman would be on one last panel before the day was through, but the second time around, he stepped down right before he would have had to face Mike Ruppert again.

This was a smart move, because former CIA employee and whistleblower David MacMichael was on the very panel from which Goodman had stepped down. MacMichael asked why, having cracked the Japanese codes revealing an attack on Pearl Harbor was imminent, American officials failed to bring that information to the attention of the Pacific fleet in time for it to defend itself.

Funding Terror

Loretta Napoleoni, author of *Modern Jihad* shared a panel with Dr. Peter Dale Scott, author of *Drugs, Oil, and War: The United States in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Indochina*. Its focus was the funding of terrorism. The speakers presented evidence from opposite sides of the terror financing phenomenon.

Scott spoke of the sponsorship of terrorism by the Western Intelligence agencies and their proxies: "America's sponsorship of drug-trafficking Muslim warriors, including those now in Al Qaeda, dates back to the Afghan War of 1979-89, sponsored in part by the CIA's links to the drug-laundering Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI)... It was part of CIA Director Casey's strategy for launching covert operations over and above those approved and financed by a Democratic-controlled Congress."

Scott's entire statement can be read online at the following link: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pdscott/911Background.htm>

Napoleoni offered a detailed look into legitimate and illegitimate sources of funding for terrorism. She estimates the worldwide total of terror funding at \$1.5 trillion dollars. \$500 billion is criminal (largely drug money), \$500 billion is capital flight, and \$500 billion is "the new economy of terror" which comes from legitimate businesses.

Most of the illegal money was laundered through U.S. banks prior to 9/11, but that is no longer the case according to Napoleoni, largely because of the Patriot Act. She also claims that interna-

tional bankers hate the Patriot Act since it has greatly restricted the movement of capital.



In the audience, Nafeez Ahmed and Barrie Zwicker taking careful notes as always. (photo: Michael Kane)

Interestingly, Napoleoni claimed that Osama bin Laden has suggested the use of gold instead of currencies for funding terror activities. Gold can be used in [hawala](#) transactions just as currencies can. Hawalas are banks that leave no paper trail. Because of this, Napoleoni suggests that an international system should be in place to document the country of origin of gold to prevent it from being smuggled out of certain key countries (like the Congo) to fund terrorist acts.

The use of hawalas was briefly discussed in *FTW's* two-part series on [Ptech](#). Note that no one at the briefing ever mentioned Ptech.

Challenging Congress and the Panelists

One of the last panels focused on the loss of civil liberties since 9/11. Two of the featured panelists included C. William Michaels, author of *No Greater Threat*, and Jumana Musa of Amnesty International.

Musa spoke to the lawlessness perpetrated by the U.S. government in its so-called "war on terror." She spoke of kangaroo courts that try so-called "enemy combatants," where hearsay evidence from an anonymous witness is brought in a secret session that is closed to the accused and his civilian attorney, and the military attorney for the accused is forbidden from discussing this "evidence" with the accused.

Such "evidence" could be enough to sentence one to death.

C. William Michaels spoke about the Patriot Act, and how the provisions that were poised to sunset at the end of 2005 were likely to be reauthorized by Congress. Even as Michaels spoke, Congress was doing just that. Mr. Michaels' most frightening revelation was that there is currently a lawyer for the Justice Department arguing in federal court that since all of America is now a battlefield, an individual can be picked up anywhere in America, at any time, and charged as an "enemy combatant" in the "war on

terror" if the government has "evidence" that the accused is a terrorist.

But remember what Jumana Musa said now constitutes "evidence."

When it came time to question these panelists, *FTW* Publisher Michael Ruppert could no longer conceal his frustration. He asked, historically, when have we ever seen an empire stop dead in its tracks when it had reached the point where we now find ourselves here in America, and simply turned back and restored the rule of law to its citizenry?

Ruppert noted that the powers the executive branch is seizing now are only granted when a "state of emergency" is declared, and as former Special Forces Master Sergeant Stan Goff has [written](#) in the pages of *FTW*, once a state of emergency is declared (by the legal method), it must by law undergo a Congressional review and approval for any extension *every six months at minimum*.

"Why has Congress not once lived up to its statutory obligation to review the emergency status? It's been almost four years." Ruppert demanded. "And why is Cynthia McKinney the only member of congress in this room?"

"Since September 11th we have seen the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th amendments to the Constitution abrogated either in whole or in part. What has been done about it?"

"And what about the right to declare war? The executive branch *does not* have that right; only Congress is given that power by our Constitution." As Ruppert said this, Cynthia McKinney nodded her head side to side and rolled her eyes."

At the end of his question the approximately 200 spectators in the room burst into a long standing ovation for the six-term Georgia Congresswoman who even now suffers because she was illegally denied her seniority after winning her seat back in 2004.

Ruppert saw no sign of hope that any of the efforts, of any of the panelists, were going to pay off in any significant way, especially if all they could get into the room was one member of the House. But he was giving a large panel of experts in civil liberties and human rights a chance to prove him wrong. What could the American people *really* do to stop our descent into totalitarianism?

C. William Michaels responded to the question first by saying that there is "not much" we can do, and that he is rather pessimistic. However he continued past his pessimism to give a rather inspiring speech on how the founding fathers argued our rights are inalienable. He quoted the Declaration of Independence when he said it is the people who have the right to abolish the government when it reverts to tyranny. Therefore it is the government that should be on the run, not the people.

Unfortunately that is not what we are seeing.

Jumana Musa followed this up by effectively saying we still have freedom of information. When Amnesty International called Guantanamo Bay the "gulag of our time," their website's hits went through the roof. Musa believes that there is much power in the freedom of information we have through the Internet.

But freedom of information isn't as cut-and-dry as drag-and-click. Nor does it translate into congressional action.

In 2002 at the National Press Club, Unansweredquestions.org held a press conference that C-Span taped but refused to air. Why did they refuse? Because at that time if the truth about 9/11 had gotten out, it may have actually made a real difference. That was well before the invasion of Iraq.

But now in 2005, almost four years later, C-Span not only showed up to record this congressional briefing for broadcast at a later date, they have also previously recorded, and aired, David Ray Griffin's lecture on 9/11.

Why? Because it can't make a difference now, that's why.

As of publication of this article, although C-SPAN had two cameras in the room it has not aired a minute of Representative McKinney's 9/11 congressional briefing. In all, *FTW* counted approximately 15 cameras in the room, some appearing to be from networks or local TV stations. To our knowledge, all of this footage has been suppressed.

Many 9/11 truth seekers have failed to see the forest for the trees. 9/11 is no longer a current event. It is no longer an issue that can galvanize everyone to see that the emperor has no clothes. It is now history; another entry into the Congressional Record that may (someday) get some airtime on C-Span, likely after Mike Ruppert's and Wayne Madsen's hardest hitting questions have been edited out. As per *Crossing the Rubicon*, there is no turning back now. This is why *FTW* is honing our focus on surviving what is to come, as opposed to looking back at what already has come to pass.

America owes Cynthia McKinney an enormous debt for her fearlessness and all her unflinching effort, despite all that has been thrown at her. She redeems America with her courage and *FTW* hopes that she will be available for a time when it may need her courage and leadership even more.

But it is too late to expect justice for the crimes of 9/11. America is not going to voluntarily turn around now any more than Peak Oil is going to go away because we want it to. After the nine-hour event was over, Mike Ruppert observed, "I didn't come here expecting justice. 9/11 isn't re-opened by this briefing. Officially, it's just as dead as it ever was. I came here because I was asked to by my friend Cynthia McKinney. She was concerned about what would be presented and I know how important it is to preserve and defend the real record of 9/11. I know how important that is, even if it's just symbolic, to show that there are still leaders and citizens willing to speak truth to power without fear.

"Washington is a dark place now. The only real light on here is Cynthia McKinney and I pray to God that she is not a candle in the wind."

¹ This was according to a sign in sheet specifically for Congressional Staffers provided by Cynthia McKinney's staff to this reporter.

² *FTW* Vol. VII, No.4, August, 2004: republished in *Crossing the Rubicon*.

³ See *Crossing the Rubicon*, chapters 19, 20, 21 and *CooperativeResearch.org* at http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&before_9/11=militaryExercises which documents the 6th exercise occurring on 9/11, "Global Guardian."

⁴ *Crossing the Rubicon*, chapter 20.

IT HAPPENED IN AMERICA

Personal Observations of the Congressional Briefing on the September 11th Attacks - July 22, 2005

"Sideways" - The Briefing

by
Michael C. Ruppert

[Back from the strange briefing in DC on the anniversary of the 9/11 cover-up commission's report, Mike Ruppert has filed this story. As the months and years elapse, the Big Lie continues to expand while rotting from within, and the truth remains unwelcome but indestructible. With this 07/22/05 event, Cynthia McKinney's heroism and the vigor of a few dedicated activists give us a glimpse into the workings of a desperate establishment. -JAH]



Some of the testimony was a little hard for Mike Ruppert and Wayne Madsen to listen to. (photo: John

July 29, 2005 1300 PST (FTW) - Asking what exactly happened in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building on July 22nd, and why it happened that way, raises a host of unanswered questions - as many as were brought into the room to be asked about the attacks of September 11th.

One year after the public release of the Kean Commission report, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) sponsored an all-day briefing for members of congress and their staffs on those attacks and the enduring and mounting criticism of the final report of the Kean Commission which had supposedly resolved it all. It was not, in the official sense, a congressional hearing. Hearings are called by various committees and subcommittees and they indicate that the subject matter is part of a committee agenda; that there will be follow up. Only one other House member (Carolyn Kilpatrick, D-MI) attended the briefing, and then only for about a half an hour. A few members sent staff to attend but that was it. Once a briefing is done, it's done. Information only.

9/11 is not, as some have reported, "reopened." Cynthia McKin-

ney cannot, herself, reopen 9/11. Officially it is just as dead as it was before this briefing. Still she does what she can to reward 9/11 activists who helped her recapture her old seat last year and to remind anyone listening on the Hill that many Americans don't buy the official line and never will. She made a telling observation to me after the event. "I'm not supposed to be here. I wasn't supposed to come back but I did."



Paul Thompson, author of *The Complete 9/11 Timeline* testifies about newly discovered wargame exercises as Cynthia McKinney pays close attention. (photo:

I had not been aware of the event until about two weeks before it took place. Even then there was great confusion as to what was planned. It had been organized, according to McKinney, by Unanswered Questions co-founder John Judge, now a member of her Washington staff. Cynthia and I had been communicating about what she and I both thought was to be a much larger and more important event: a 9/11 briefing for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to be held in September. I had already been invited to present at the September event and wasn't fully aware of the July briefing until just before it took place. From what I had heard, July 22nd was to be small and inconsequential.

As McKinney explained it to me, the July 22nd briefing was to have little or no public attendance whereas the September event would already have large crowds attending the larger CBC annual convention. It was there that she hoped to have the most impact.

But 9/11 activists and researchers, some of whom I and many others have serious issues with, had also scheduled a public rally in DC on July 23rd and a press conference on July 22nd that coincided with the briefing. A large body of credible 9/11 researchers (cited repeatedly in *Crossing the Rubicon*) had serious issues with the public-event presenters.

Our issues had to do with quality and credibility of some 9/11 "research" as well as - in one or two cases - activist researchers

who had affiliations (some admittedly attenuated) with supremacist groups, Holocaust denial groups and/or suspected disinformation activities. Long-time serious researchers, well familiar with "the poison pill" method of sabotaging good research, recognized a minefield when we saw one. We were not invited to the public events and we steered well clear of them. Some good researchers did attend the public functions and those of us who had been at this game of challenging government corruption could only hope that they emerged untarnished.

Of particular concern to many of us was the involvement in the public events of supporters of the DVD *In Plane Site* which has been thoroughly and publicly discredited as shoddy and misleading research that would weaken or destroy the credibility of anything presented with it. There were other problematic presenters but that is not the issue here and this is a battle I no longer engage in. My task is to preserve the integrity of *Crossing The Rubicon* and to help protect the really trustworthy 9/11 research. My book remains a tight legal case on 9/11 that could be taken to a prosecutor tomorrow, if there were a prosecutor anywhere who would take it, or a court that would try it.

The public events took on a life of their own and this had an impact on the scheduled briefing which was suddenly becoming what looked to be a major media event - quite possibly a three-ring circus. I was one of many who suspected it was being hijacked. By July 18th, after seeing that former CIA officer Robert Baer had been included as a presenter, I was truly alarmed. The presence of another former high-ranking CIA speaker, Mel Goodman, who is now a professor at the National War College, also gave me pause.

Through two books Baer had sown a great deal of disinformation about 9/11, Pakistan, the Saudis and especially the murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. He had become the media's "go-to" guy for faux spin on events. Controlled and planted opposition. The wolf in sheep's clothing. Baer had done a pretty nasty hatchet job on David Ray Griffin (*The New Pearl Harbor; The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*) in *The Nation* (something I have experienced) and the buzz was flying all over the net as to why McKinney would have invited Baer to the hearings and not Griffin. McKinney was losing support and the hearing hadn't even happened yet.

I had not been invited to present and since I had authored the second best selling book on the attacks after the Kean commission report, I thought this emerging format looked pretty strange. This had nothing to do with my previous (and current) belief that to expect any governmental action on the subject was a lost cause. This briefing was a matter of protecting the historical record, preserving it for history and for a possible "miraculous" window of opportunity should it appear sometime in the future.

Just as much as it was right for Americans to have addressed (for example) the issue of the POWs and MIAs who were abandoned in Southeast Asia even though there is no hope of getting that issue formally raised again (or the POWs returned), there will always be the perennial challenge of never endorsing or accepting the lie. Same with JFK, RFK, MLK, Iran-Contra and a half dozen other crimes and scandals.

Also not invited was Jim Hoffman, who has done probably the best analyses of how the buildings (especially WTC7) did or didn't collapse on 9/11.

I was concerned enough that on July 18th I sent McKinney an

email. She was seeing problems as well and on the 19th she responded by asking both me and investigative journalist Wayne Madsen to come to the briefing and act as questioners. Madsen lives in DC. On the 21st, I boarded a plane from Los Angeles, armed only with my copy of *Rubicon*, some documentation intended to impeach the statements and credibility of Bob Baer, and a desire to act as a "bulls-t detector" during the hearings.

The third questioner that day was retired CIA analyst Ray McGovern of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. McGovern has been a long-time critic of the Bush administration and, although he has not directly pointed to government complicity in the attacks, he has not (to my knowledge) shot that concept down either. I have no way of knowing when he was asked to participate but his presence as a questioner did lend some gravitas to the event.

Just before the hearing started I asked John Judge why Baer had been placed on the panel and he offered a plausible response: that in Washington, to get the right rooms and staff cooperation, it was necessary to "balance" the panels and present all sides. The fact that McKinney actually secured the room and House permission was quite an achievement in itself. There wasn't time to ask Judge any more questions. The opening gavel struck at nine and we didn't stop until well after 6 PM.

Bob Baer was to have been on the first panel but turned out to be a last minute no-show. Someone I knew advised me that this was because he had been told I was coming and that I was gunning for him. I have no way of verifying this but a great many people in Washington do recall my public encounter with CIA Director John Deutch at a Los Angeles town hall meeting in 1996. I did get some good licks in with Goodman however (see related story by Michael Kane).

McKinney did right. There was a lot of b.s. that was not spun out from a few of the panelists because Madsen and I were there and would have stomped all over it. Madsen and I will always watch Cynthia McKinney's back.

There were many things moving under the carpet that day. It's interesting to note the websites of 911citizenswatch (co-founded by John Judge and Kyle Hence) and unanswered questions were hacked on July 21st. Their home pages showed a picture of a couple fornicating under blankets. All I had time to do was to pick up the phone and leave urgent messages before I left for the airport at 6:30 AM. The web sites were repaired by the time the briefing began.



Cynthia reacts to standing ovation from the entire room
(photo: Michael Kane)

The room itself was full of as many as 15 cameras. C-SPAN apparently had at least two cameras there. Nothing has been aired. I recognized at least two local TV stations and what I suspect was one network camera recording every word. Nothing has been aired. Cynthia McKinney had her own videographer there. Pacifica Radio Network covered the proceedings from gavel to gavel and helped moderate the briefing. We were told it went out live across the network but I have yet to receive any reports of what kind of coverage Pacifica actually provided or where.

It's pretty clear to me that widespread coverage was planned and that my last-minute presence caused a lot of that to be scrapped. I am not "approved" for widespread coverage. I did not give an inch on my well-known positions and Wayne Madsen also did a great job of countering spin. I was actually able to plug a few of the great unheralded 9/11 researchers like Professor Michel Chossudovsky of the University of Ottawa during my questions.

David Ray Griffin was in the audience and I finally got to meet him. We only had time for about a three minute conversation as he rushed to the press conference and I rushed back for the next panel. I also finally got to meet former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds and we exchanged high-fives in the hallway.

There were two memorable moments for me that day.

The Jersey Girls (sans Kristen Breitweiser) are turning around on the 9/11 Report and have read *Rubicon*. I was amazed at how angry they're getting. They almost quoted my chapter on FBI Agent Dave Frasca. It's also apparent to me that these victimized women are in excruciating agony as the lights go on for them. They had trusted the Kean Commission because they were already devastated by the loss of their spouses. As it is for everyone who discovers the corruption of the American government and economy there are many layers of painful, raw, exposed nerves that get exposed as reality sets in.

The second memorable moment came after I had asked a question about congressional oversight responsibilities, civil liberties, and the Constitution which brought the audience to its feet in a show of support for Cynthia McKinney and the question itself. Rhetorically, I asked whether any nation that had so descended into lawlessness and totalitarianism had ever voluntarily reformed itself. From my experience only war and defeat or collapse had ever ended such regimes. Every panelist agreed that September 11th was the watershed event which had opened the door to repression, fear, and violations of the constitution and human rights from Guantanamo, to Iraq, to Iowa.

It was a large panel comprised of experts on domestic and foreign policy. The best answer to my question came from former 8-term Congresswoman from Ohio Mary Rose Oaker who is now the President of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. She pointed out that the McCarthy era ended when a lone U.S. Senator, Margaret Chase Smith, stood up on the Senate floor and basically told McCarthy he was full of crap.

Just for a moment it made me feel good about America again. But it was a short moment as I realized we are much, much further down the road than we were with Joseph McCarthy. Peak Oil was not a screaming reality then and the US was not at the time embroiled in undeclared wars. The McCarthy era did not see drastic new legislation such as the Patriot Act, the Homeland Security Bill or - most importantly - a US congress that had openly abdicated its constitutional prerogatives and obligations.

There were traps laid all over the place for more than one target on July 22nd. There was more than one agenda and many more than one contest. Most of the traps aimed at the real truth of 9/11 were successfully avoided. My cop instincts have never failed me and they didn't here. A few days after the event Cynthia McKinney emailed and said she was truly glad that I had come at the last minute.

I really cannot and must not get too specific but she and I are both very pessimistic, yet very clear, that Washington DC is now kind of a living "pod person." The lights are on but...

Truly, this briefing reminded me of what Rome must have been like when its rulers and elites first started to realize that it was in permanent and terminal decline. And if history holds true, many old alliances are breaking up and new ones are being formed quickly in the "middle management" ranks around Washington. What I also saw was a lot of "suits" moving in and out of the caucus room. There were many private huddles. People circulating. Furtive conversations. It seemed that with all of the looming scandals descending on the Bush administration, Plamegate, the rising discontent over the Iraqi war, and dissatisfaction over the economy, the career bureaucrats were looking for new protectors, but without much luck.

What those people heard in the Cannon house office building as the truth got fearlessly told to power that day must have unnerved them even more. That was Cynthia McKinney's greatest achievement on July 22nd. She rattled cages.

Fear, on almost every level, is the lingua franca in Washington. For others it seems, the mood is resignation. The U.S. Government is about as dysfunctional as a family of inbred meth addicts and I for one hold little hope for a miracle cure. That last thing I expect is for the government to behave sanely.

Probably in Rome, as the stench of decay and death became apparent, there were noble and decent Romans who held aloft high standards and principle, and urged a return to sanity. Some of Rome's finest thinkers appeared in those last days of Empire. But I'll bet they were also looking for someplace to take their families just so they could get out of the way when the end came.

As for me, I'll look forward to the CBC event in September. I might have another chance to get a few licks in for all of us and make sure that what we have documented about September 11th is not corrupted by opportunists, cointelpro swine, or profiteers.

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