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“Environmental Hypocrisy”

by
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As I've stated before it's nigh upon impossible to stay away from things political in this column when one reads or hears statements from either side of the political aisle, or from those in the various “special interests” factions as to who's the best man or woman for the position of President of these United States. For years now we have heard, ad nauseum, about former Vice-President Al Gore's great stand on protecting the environment and how he would have done away with all government programs non-environmentally friendly if only he had become President. Of course we all know by now that he won an Oscar for his involvement in producing and pushing the scientifically suspect movie “Inconvenient Truth.” I say scientifically suspect because, despite the nay-sayers' claims that “all” or “most” respected scientists uphold and stand by the “facts” presented in the movie, there are many climatologists and environmental scientists who widely dispute them. I might also add that in many circles winning an Oscar is like being elevated to an intellectual level on par with Confucius. All one needs to do to discredit that theory is to remember who casts the votes for the winners and their normal stand on all things moral and true.

Al Gore was recently quoted as saying to a reporter for a major news outlet that the media should not quote those scientists who oppose his theories that the global warming phenomenon is a calamitous and “catastrophic event,” because to quote them would be tantamount to promoting their beliefs and showing bias in their favor. My take has always been that if someone is trying to quiet a rebuttal of their “facts” it's only because they know your *truth* will disavow their “facts.” Robert Kennedy, Jr., also an environmental “*enthusiast*,” recently called Glen Beck, a radio and TV talk show host with ABC News, a fascist because Beck had stated he needed a lot more proof before he could accept the “catastrophic” theory. Beck later had on his program, John Stossel, an award winning investigative reporter for the same network, and asked him about the severity of the matter and why Gore and RFK, Jr. would be so vehement against those who question the alleged severity of man's contribution to global warming. *“What kind of society are we living in,” he wondered, “to not be allowed to offer differing opinions?”* Stossel's answer was, *“I guess you can't deny that the globe has warmed. Climate changes. It's warmed a little. The issue is, is it a bad thing? It may be a good thing. And is it a catastrophe, where we have to wreck the lives of poor people and turn our freedom over to Al Gore and he'll tell us what we can drive and whether we can air-condition our house? And even if he does that, it's not going to make any difference. So there are seven issues, and the only one where there's clear truth is that, yes, the globe has warmed and probably will keep warming.....”* My thoughts and feelings exactly.

President Bush, unfortunately, has been criticized, heckled and accused of not trying to do anything to forestall the global warming situation... worse yet, contributing to the dangerous situation by allowing the passage of non-environmentally friendly legislation. Of course, those who hate the man for no reason other than he's a conservative, believe every negative word written or spoken about him thereby perpetuate the myth.

A friend of mine sent me the following information hoping I would use it in some way. I try never to re-print anything without checking its validity so I checked my source, Snopes.com, a web-site dedicated to identifying and quashing Urban Myths and/or rumors and found the information to be absolutely true. The information concerns two

private homes and how they conform to suggestions we've all received on how to make our homes more environmentally friendly. I will present the two scenarios given to me, as I received them.

Home #1

A 20-room mansion (not including 8 bathrooms) heated by natural gas. Add on a pool, a pool house, and a separate guest house, all heated by gas. In ONE MONTH ALONE this mansion consumes more energy than the average American household in an ENTIRE YEAR. The average bill for electricity and natural gas runs over \$2,400 per month. In natural gas alone (which last time we checked was a fossil fuel,) this property consumes more than 20 times the national average for an American home. This house is not in a northern or Midwestern "snow belt," either. It's in the South.

Home #2

Designed by an architecture professor at a leading national university, this house incorporates every "green" feature current home construction can provide. The house contains only 4,000 square feet (4 bedrooms) and is nestled on a high prairie in the American southwest. A central closet in the house holds geothermal heat pumps drawing ground water through pipes sunk 300 feet into the ground. The water (usually 67 degrees Fahrenheit) heats the house in the winter and cools it in the summer. The system uses no fossil fuels such as oil or natural gas, and it consumes 25% of the electricity required for a conventional heating/cooling system. Rainwater from the roof is collected and funneled into a 25,000 gallon underground cistern. Wastewater from showers, sinks and toilets goes into underground purifying tanks and then into the cistern. The collected water then irrigates the land surrounding the house. Flowers and shrubs native to the area blend the property into the surrounding rural landscape.

Home #1 belongs to our "Environmental Giant" Al Gore who is out beating the drum trying to tell each of us how we should be living, environmentally speaking, to prevent the world from imploding or exploding, I'm not sure which.

Home #2 is the private residence of our supposed environmentally challenged President, George W. Bush, located in Crawford, TX.

Between you and me... who would you say seems to be the most concerned about our environment? Another question I would like to ask is, "Why haven't we heard about this in our mainstream media? If the facts were reversed don't you just know it would be the headlines and leading story of every major news network in the country?"

Believe the facts folks, not just the rhetoric.

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