

DR. S. FRED SINGER

Is the earth getting warmer? If so, why is it getting warmer? Are the causes of global warming largely anthropogenic or natural? According to the so-called experts on global warming, the answers to these important questions are settled. They blithely assert that the earth is in fact getting warmer and human beings, through wasteful and inefficient uses of natural resources such as coal and natural gas, are the chief culprits in heating up the atmosphere.

The problem with these assertions is that the "experts" have little or no compelling scientific evidence by which to justify them. And worse, they are using pseudo-scientific postulates to scare the public into accepting the disastrous international global-climate treaty that will be debated in Kyoto, Japan, next month.

One of the most respected scientists who debunk this received wisdom is Dr. S. Fred Singer. With a long list of accomplishments--he's a pioneer in the development of rocket and satellite technology and the first man to devise the basic instrument for measuring stratospheric ozone--Singer is taken seriously by knowledgeable scientists with no ideological ax to grind.

He is the author of more than a dozen books, including *Free Market Energy* and his latest, *Global Warming: Unfinished Business*, which will be available late this year through the Independent Institute.

Singer, who received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University, has led a distinguished and varied scientific career both in and out of academia, including 23 years as professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia.

He has also received a number of prestigious awards, among them the White House Commendation from President Eisenhower in 1954 and the first Science Medal from the British Interplanetary Society.

His technical works have appeared in more than 400 scientific, economic and public policy journals. Singer has also written more than 200 articles and editorials for a number of media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times.

For Singer and a good number of genuine scientific experts, the global-warming scare is nothing but a hoax.

"Contrary to what [global]-warming proponents] say, there is no global warming," Singer says matter-of-factly. "And contrary to what [those proponents] say, there is no scientific consensus either."

Atmospheric data collected from weather satellites and balloon instruments show no warming whatsoever, Singer says. In fact, such data reveal a slight cooling trend in the atmosphere over the years.

These data contradict the inaccurate measurements made by computer models, which forecast rapidly rising global temperatures. As Singer points out, these models are still rudimentary and unreliable. Yet these very models provide the scientific basis for the globalwarming treaty that many nations, including the United States, may ratify in Kyoto.

The obvious lack of concrete evidence is what drives the scientific and political shenanigans running through the global-warming debate, Singer says. "Many in this debate simply don't care about the facts. And the politicians and policymakers don't want to hear the facts."

If no real objective criteria point to a global-warming trend, then what is the motivation for claiming that it is a reality? As Singer believes, the global-warming scare has been generated mostly by radical environmentalists who wish to drastically cut back the use of energy and natural resources and, hence, economic growth and prosperity.

"The underlying effort here seems to be to use global warming as an excuse to cut down the use of energy," he says.

"It's very simple: If you cut back the use of energy, then you cut back economic growth. And believe it or not, there are people in the world who believe we have gone too far in economic growth."

Currently, Dr. Singer serves as director and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) and is a visiting fellow at the Independent Institute, based in Oakland, Calif.

SEPP, which was incorporated in 1992, is an independent research group dedicated to the idea that "sound, credible science must form the basis for health and environmental decisions that affect millions of people and costs tens of billions of dollars every year."

The project has been hugely influential. Policymakers on Capitol Hill frequently turn to SEPP for analysis of some of the most vexing and complicated scientific matters of the day, including ozone depletion, global warming and clean air standards.

SEPP has also been leading the intellectual challenges to the "consensus" on global warming. In November 1995, SEPP helped to organize the Leipzig Declaration. That statement, which has been endorsed by close to 100 climate scientists in the United States and Europe, warns policymakers about the dangers of making hasty and uninformed decisions about global warming.

With the help of Dr. Singer and the sound work of SEPP, it is possible that the Kyoto treaty will founder on its own inadequacies. To be sure, the United States must stay far away from it. As Dr. Singer gloomily says, U.S. ratification could mean "the dire fate of economic suicide."

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Letters can be sent to Dr. Singer c/o The Science and Environmental Policy Project, 4084 University Dr., Suite 101, Fairfax, Va. 22030.

PHOTO (BLACK & WHITE): SEPP Director and President Dr. S. Fred Singer

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