

January 16, 2017 - CLIMATE

While our attention was on the election and its aftermath, Scott Adams of the Dilbert Blog has posted some items on climate. His posts during the campaign season presented an iconoclastic view of the proceedings that proved to be obdurately prescient. His attention to the climate controversy is welcome. [His first post on the subject was December 5th.](#)

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I realize that science can change its mind, of course. Saying something is “true” in a scientific sense always leaves open the option of later reassessing that view if new evidence comes to light. Something can be “true” according to science while simultaneously being completely wrong. Science allows that odd situation to exist, at least temporarily, while we crawl toward truth.

So when I say I agree with the scientific consensus on climate change, I’m endorsing the scientific consensus for the same reason I endorsed Hillary Clinton for the first part of the election – as a strategy to protect myself. I endorse the scientific consensus on climate change to protect my career and reputation. To do otherwise would be dumb, at least in my situation. ...

... You probably are not a scientist, and that means you can’t independently evaluate any of the climate science claims. You didn’t do the data collection or the experiments yourself. You could try to assess the credibility of the scientists using your common sense and experience, but let’s face it – you aren’t good at that. So what do you do?

You probably default to trusting whatever the majority of scientists tell you. And the majority says climate science is real and we need to do something about it. But how reliable are experts, even when they are mostly on the same side?

Ask the majority of polling experts who said Trump had only a 2% chance of becoming president. Ask the experts who said the government’s historical “food pyramid” was good science. Ask the experts who used to say marijuana was a gateway drug. Ask the experts who used to say sexual orientation is just a choice. Ask the experts who said alcoholism is a moral failure and not a matter of genetics. ...

... As I said above, I accept the consensus of climate science experts when they say that climate science is real and accurate. But I do that to protect my reputation and my income. I have no way to evaluate the work of scientists.

If you ask me how scared I am of climate changes ruining the planet, I have to say it is near the bottom of my worries. If science is right, and the danger is real, we’ll find ways to scrub the atmosphere as needed. We always find ways to avoid slow-moving dangers. And if the risk of climate change isn’t real, I will say I knew it all along because climate science matches all of the criteria for a mass hallucination by experts.

His next post we link to was [December 19th](#).

I often hear from people who are on one side or the other on the topic of climate change. And I think I spotted a new cognitive phenomenon that might not have a name. I'll call it **cognitive blindness**, defined as the inability to see the **strong** form of the other side of a debate.*

The setup for cognitive blindness looks like this:

- 1. An issue has the public divided into two sides.*
- 2. You read an article that agrees with your side and provides solid evidence to support it. That article **mentions** the argument on the **other** side in summary form but dismisses it as unworthy of consideration.*
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... Given the wildly different assessments of climate change risks within the non-scientist community, perhaps we need some sort of insurance/betting market. That would allow the climate science alarmists to buy "insurance" from the climate science skeptics. That way if the climate goes bad at least the alarmists will have extra cash to build their underground homes. And that cash will come out of the pockets of the science-deniers. Sweet!

But if the deniers are right, and they want to be rewarded by the alarmists for their rightness, the insurance/betting market would make that possible.

It would also be fascinating to see where the public put the betting odds for climate science. Would people expose themselves to both sides of the debate before betting?

Then [Scott Adams/Dilbert](#) posted on the CO2/warming arguments. Chicken/egg or Egg/chicken?

... Remember how I taught you that Trump's linguistic kill shots had a special quality that allowed them to strengthen over time thanks to confirmation bias? Every time Ted Cruz said something that didn't pass the fact-checking you remembered his Lyin' Ted nickname. And every time someone accused Clinton of crooked dealings you were reminded of her Crooked Hillary nickname. Climate change has the same dynamic. Every time it snows the non-scientists of the world look out the window and experience confirmation bias that global "warming" isn't happening. Sure, it's usually called climate "change" now, and most people know that. But to the under-informed that change in preferred wording just looks suspicious.

Climate scientists might be right that CO2 will cause catastrophic warming. And fear is a great persuader. But this particular fear is a bit abstract. It isn't like a nuclear bomb that can kill us all instantly. Climate worries are in the unpredictable future and won't affect everyone the same

way. Persuasion-wise, the climate scientists only have facts and prediction models to make their case. And what are the weakest forms of persuasion known to humankind? - **Facts and prediction models.**

And how are climate scientists trying to solve this problem? Mostly by providing more facts and more prediction models. And by demonizing the critics. The net effect of all that is to **systematically reduce their own credibility over time**, even if they are right about everything.

I think you see the problem.

A less theoretical and more down to earth approach comes from [James Delingpole](#) in The Spectator, UK.

... he (Trump) was never the GOP establishment's preferred candidate, which means he has the attitude, the independence and the leeway to be much more radical — and effective — than any of his rivals would have dared to be.

Nowhere will this become more evident than in the fields of energy and climate change. It's true that there were other climate-sceptical presidential candidates, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio among them, but it's unlikely that when push came to shove any Republican other than Trump would have had the will to take on the powerful and entrenched green establishment once in office.

Partly it's down to temperament: Trump relishes confrontation and, unlike most conservative politicians, feels under no pressure to moderate his position on the environment lest he be perceived as nasty or uncaring. Partly it's because as a property developer he has much personal experience of the way environmental red tape impedes business. Partly, as one admiring DC insider explained to me, it's because he's the first US president since Reagan who doesn't identify with the 'bicoastal urban elite'. ...

... Take NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: both have been caught red-handed doctoring raw data to make 20th-century global warming look more dramatic, for reasons which probably have more to do with ideology than science. Trump simply won't tolerate this. NASA will likely be returned to its day job of exploring space, while NOAA and its climate data will be put in the hands of a sceptical scientist: someone, perhaps, like John Christy of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, who has long infuriated warmists by noting that the satellite records show much less warming than the (-rather patchy) surface temperature records do.

Until now, green propagandists have been able to point to their tame scientists at NASA, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Science and Technology and so on, and say: 'Look. All the experts agree...' With this option off the table the repercussions will be enormous. I'd go so far as to say it's the beginning of the end of the Green Blob.

Yes, I appreciate some of your squeamishness about Trump, and if you're on the greenie liberal left or part of the smug elite whose nose was put out so badly by Brexit, then you've good reason to be terrified. Not otherwise, though. He's going to be great.

What might a presidency unencumbered by Beltway orthodoxy look like? We reach deep in our files from an article in the [October 5, 1999 WSJ by Ken Adelman](#) who told how the uninhibited Reagan acted at the beginning of his administration.

... The first epiphany came early in his administration, when we gathered in a formal National Security Council meeting in the Cabinet Room. Secretary of State Alexander Haig opened by lamenting that the Law of the Sea Treaty was something we didn't like but had to accept, since it had emerged over the previous decade through a 150-nation negotiation. Mr. Haig then proceeded to recite 13 or so options for modifying the treaty--some with several suboptions.

Such detail, to put it mildly, was not the president's strong suit. He looked increasingly puzzled and finally interrupted. "Uh, Al," he asked quietly, "isn't this what the whole thing was all about?"

"Huh?" The secretary of state couldn't fathom what the president meant. None of us could. So Mr. Haig asked him.

Well, Mr. Reagan shrugged, wasn't not going along with something that is "really stupid" just because 150 nations had done so what the whole thing was all about--our running, our winning, our governing? A stunned Mr. Haig folded up his briefing book and promised to find out how to stop the treaty altogether.

That set the tone for the first Reagan administration. ...

Dems continue to beclown themselves over climate. The latest was a rising star in the party, Kamala Harris, who looked the fool when questioning designated CIA chief.

[Here's PJ Media](#);

This is why the Democrats can't have nice things like the White House, Congress, most state houses or state legislatures. California's new senator grilled CIA director nominee Mike Pompeo about climate change (as well as gay marriage), illustrating just how out of sync with reality Democrats' priorities are when it comes to national security.

More from [Ed Morrissey at HotAir](#).

Confirmation hearings often reveal more about the panelists than they do about the nominee, and that's certainly the case in the exchange that took place between Mike Pompeo and newly installed Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). Donald Trump nominated Pompeo for director of the CIA, a role for which his years as chair of the House Intelligence Committee have prepared him, including an understanding of the role intelligence services play. Harris seems to have a strange set of priorities for intelligence operations, and her obsession with climate change leaves Pompeo almost laughing in bemusement. ...

... Bear in mind that this followed [Harris questioning Pompeo on LGBT policy](#), and you get a sense of the silliness on display:

HARRIS: CIA Director Brennan, who spent a 25-year career at the CIA as an analyst, senior manager, and station chief in the field, has said that when, quote, "CIA analysts look for deeper causes of rising instability in the world," one of the causes those CIA analysts see as the — is the impact of climate change. Do you have any reason to doubt the assessment of these CIA analysts?

POMPEO: Senator Harris, I haven't had a chance to read those materials with respect to climate change. I do know the agency's role there. Its role is to collect foreign intelligence, to understand threats to the world. That would certainly include threats from poor governance, regional instability, threats from all sources, and deliver that information to policymakers. And to the extent that changes in climatic activity are part of that, we'll deliver that information to you all and the president.

That was Pompeo's attempt to acknowledge her concern at climate change while politely reminding her that it's not the CIA's primary focus, or even secondary focus. (If it has been in the past, perhaps that's why we missed the real nature of the "Arab Spring," the rise of ISIS, and Russia's determination to team up with Iran to keep Bashar al-Assad in power.) Harris didn't take the hint, however, which forced Pompeo to become a little more blunt: ...

Dilbert's Blog

[The Non-Expert Problem and Climate Change Science](#)

by Scott Adams

Before I start, let me say as clearly as possible that ***I agree with the scientific consensus on climate change***. If science says something is true – according to most scientists, and consistent with the scientific method – I accept their verdict.

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As regular readers of this blog already know, human brains did not evolve to understand reality in any deep way. If some of us survive and procreate, that's good enough for evolution. It doesn't matter that you live in a movie that says you will reincarnate after you die, while I live in a movie that says reality is a software simulation, and perhaps our mutual friend lives in a movie in which his prophet flew to heaven on a winged horse. Those are very different realities, but it doesn't stop any of us from procreating. This lesson about the subjective nature of reality is one

we learned from watching Trump's march to the election. As the world looked on, everything they thought they understood about Trump's chances dissolved in front of them. And yet the world still worked fine.

This perceptual change in humanity is happening as I predicted it would a year before Trump won. I told you he would change more than politics. I said he would open a crack in reality so you could view it through a new filter. That transformation is well underway. I'll widen the crack a bit more today.

If you have been involved in any climate change debates online or in person, you know they always take the following trajectory: Climate science believers state that all the evidence, and 98% of scientists, are on the same side. Then skeptics provide links to credible-sounding articles that say the science is bunk, and why. How the heck can you – a non-expert – judge who is right?

You probably are not a scientist, and that means you can't independently evaluate any of the climate science claims. You didn't do the data collection or the experiments yourself. You could try to assess the credibility of the scientists using your common sense and experience, but let's face it – you aren't good at that. So what do you do?

You probably default to trusting whatever the majority of scientists tell you. And the majority says climate science is real and we need to do something about it. But how reliable are experts, even when they are mostly on the same side?

Ask the majority of polling experts who said Trump had only a 2% chance of becoming president. Ask the experts who said the government's historical "food pyramid" was good science. Ask the experts who used to say marijuana was a gateway drug. Ask the experts who used to say sexual orientation is just a choice. Ask the experts who said alcoholism is a moral failure and not a matter of genetics.

There are plenty of examples where the majority of experts were wrong. What you really want to know is whether climate change looks more like the sort of thing that turns out to be right or the sort of thing that turns out to be wrong. Let's dig into that question.

It seems to me that a majority of experts **could** be wrong whenever you have a pattern that looks like this:

1. A theory has been "adjusted" in the past to maintain the conclusion even though the data has changed. For example, "Global warming" evolved to "climate change" because the models didn't show universal warming.
2. Prediction models are complicated. When things are complicated you have more room for error. Climate science models are complicated.
3. The models require human judgment to decide how variables should be treated. This allows humans to "tune" the output to a desired end. This is the case with climate science models.
4. There is a severe social or economic penalty for having the "wrong" opinion in the field. As I already said, I agree with the consensus of climate scientists because saying otherwise in public would be social and career suicide for me even as a cartoonist. Imagine how much worse the pressure would be if science was my career.

5. There are so many variables that can be measured – and so many that can be ignored – that you can produce any result you want by choosing what to measure and what to ignore. Our measurement sensors do not cover all locations on earth, from the upper atmosphere to the bottom of the ocean, so we have the option to use the measurements that fit our predictions while discounting the rest.

6. The argument from the other side looks disturbingly credible.

One of the things that always fascinated me about jury trials is that attorneys from both sides can sound so convincing even though the evidence points in only one direction. A defendant is either guilty or innocent, but good lawyers can make you see it either way. Climate science is similar. I've seen airtight arguments that say climate science is solid and true, and I've seen equally credible-looking arguments that say it is bunk. From my non-scientist perspective, I can't tell the difference. Both sides look convincing to me.

As I have described in this blog before, I'm a trained hypnotist and I have studied the methods of persuasion for years. That gives me a bit of context that is different from the norm. In my experience, and based on my training, it is normal and routine for the "majority of experts" to be completely wrong about important stuff. But in the two-dimensional world where persuasion isn't much of a thing, it probably looks to most of you that experts are usually right, especially when they are overwhelmingly on the same side and there is a mountain of confirming evidence.

We like to think we arrived at our decisions about climate science by using our common sense and good judgment to evaluate the credibility of experts. Some of you think you have superior sources of information as well. But both sides are wrong. No one is using reason, facts, or common sense to arrive at a decision about climate science. Here's what you are using to arrive at your decision:

1. Fear

2. Unwarranted trust in experts

3. Pattern recognition

On the question of fear, if you believe that experts are good at predicting future doom, you are probably scared to death by climate change. But in my experience, any danger we humans see coming far in the future we always find a way to fix. We didn't run out of food because of population growth. We didn't run out of oil as predicted. We didn't have a problem with the Year 2000 bug, and so on. I refer to this phenomenon as the [Adams Law of Slow-Moving Disasters](#). When we see a disaster coming – as we do with climate science – we have an unbroken track record of avoiding doom. In the case of climate change danger, there are a number of technologies under development that can directly scrub the atmosphere if needed.

On the question of trusting experts, my frame of reference is the field of influence and persuasion. From my point of view – and given the examples of mass delusion that I have personally witnessed (including Trump's election), I see experts as far less credible than most people assume.

And when it comes to pattern recognition, I see the climate science skeptics within the scientific community as being similar to Shy Trump Supporters. The fact that a majority of scientists agree with climate science either means the evidence is one-sided or the social/economic pressures

are high. And as we can plainly see, the cost of disagreeing with climate science is unreasonably high if you are a scientist.

While it is true that a scientist can become famous and make a big difference by bucking conventional wisdom and proving a new theory, anything short of total certainty would make that a suicide mission. And climate science doesn't provide the option of total certainty.

To put it another way, it would be easy for a physicist to buck the majority by showing that her math worked. Math is math. But if your science depends on human judgment to decide which measurements to include and which ones to "tune," you don't have that option. Being a rebel theoretical physicist is relatively easy if your numbers add up. But being a rebel climate scientist is just plain stupid. So don't expect to see many of the latter. Scientists can often be wrong, but rarely are they stupid.

To strengthen my point today, and in celebration of my reopening of the blog commenting section, please provide your links to pro and con arguments about climate science. This might be the only place in the world you will see links to both sides. If you want to be amazed, see how persuasive **BOTH** sides of this debate are.

As I said above, I accept the consensus of climate science experts when they say that climate science is real and accurate. But I do that to protect my reputation and my income. I have no way to evaluate the work of scientists.

If you ask me how scared I am of climate changes ruining the planet, I have to say it is near the bottom of my worries. If science is right, and the danger is real, we'll find ways to scrub the atmosphere as needed. We always find ways to avoid slow-moving dangers. And if the risk of climate change isn't real, I will say I knew it all along because climate science matches all of the criteria for a mass hallucination by experts.

Dilbert's Blog

[Watching the Climate Science Bubbles from the Outside](#)

by Scott Adams

I often hear from people who are on one side or the other on the topic of climate change. And I think I spotted a new cognitive phenomenon that might not have a name.* I'll call it **cognitive blindness**, defined as the inability to see the **strong** form of the other side of a debate.

The setup for *cognitive blindness* looks like this:

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2. You read an article that agrees with your side and provides solid evidence to support it. That article **mentions** the argument on the **other** side in summary form but dismisses it as unworthy of consideration.
3. You remember (falsely) having seen both sides of the argument. What you really saw was one side of the argument plus a misleading summary of the other side.

4. When someone sends you links to better arguments on the other side you skip them because you think you already know what they will say, and you assume it must be nonsense. For all practical purposes you are blind to the other argument. It isn't that you disagree with the strong form of the argument on the other side so much as you ***don't know it exists no matter how many times it is put right in front of you.***

I noticed this phenomenon when I started blogging about climate change. The citizens who side with the majority of scientists in saying climate change is influenced by humans and the prediction models about doom are accurate have – as far as I can tell – never seen the ***strong versions*** of the argument on the other side. (I know because I ask about it.) They have only seen the weak versions presented by their own side. And the weak version of the argument goes like this: "The other side are science deniers and quacks."

My bottom-line belief about climate science is that non-scientists such as myself have no reliable way to evaluate any of this stuff. Our brains and experience are not up to the task. When I apply my tiny brain to sniffing out the truth about climate science I see rock-solid arguments on ***both*** sides of the debate.

Trained scientists might be able to sort out the truth from the B.S. in climate change science, although I'm skeptical about that too. But non-scientists have no chance whatsoever to discern which side is right. I consider myself to be bright and well-educated, and from my perspective both sides of the debate are 100% persuasive if you look at them in isolation. And apparently that's what most citizens do.

The best way to know if a non-scientist is under-informed is to ask if they have a firm opinion on climate change. If that firm opinion is anything but "I don't know" it probably means they are experiencing cognitive blindness about the existence of a strong argument on the other side.

Some people deal with the uncertainty around the climate prediction models by saying that even if there is only a tiny risk of global catastrophe, we still need to do all we can to avoid it. But that isn't as wise as it first sounds. Your life is full of worst-case scenarios that you ignore because you have to. You can't live a life that manages to the worst-case scenario or else you would never have sex, apply for a job, or drive your car. The worst-case scenario for you ***EVERY SINGLE DAY*** involves you getting zika, AIDS, and bird flu right before the brakes on your car fail and you plunge into a ravine.

Does the worst-case scenario on climate change sound catastrophic to me? Absolutely. But so does the worst-case scenario for EVERYTHING. You can't manage your life to the worst-case scenario. That would be no life at all.

The same applies to governments. Nearly everything a government does has a catastrophic risk in one way or another. Would it make sense to put full effort into avoiding all the imagined worst cases? If we did, we'd be wearing gas masks and protective bubble wrap instead of clothing.

But what if the worst-case scenario is really, really likely, as in the case of climate change disaster? In that case, shouldn't you manage to the worst case? Well, yes, but only if you are sure the risk is as high as you think. And I don't see any way a non-scientist could be exposed to both sides of the argument and assign a risk to it.

Given the wildly different assessments of climate change risks within the non-scientist community, perhaps we need some sort of insurance/betting market. That would allow the climate science alarmists to buy "insurance" from the climate science skeptics. That way if the

climate goes bad at least the alarmists will have extra cash to build their underground homes. And that cash will come out of the pockets of the science-deniers. Sweet!

But if the deniers are right, and they want to be rewarded by the alarmists for their rightness, the insurance/betting market would make that possible.

It would also be fascinating to see where the public put the betting odds for climate science. Would people expose themselves to both sides of the debate before betting?

**It probably does have a name. It's a mix of cognitive dissonance and confirmation bias at the least, but a special case in my opinion.*

Dilbert's Blog

What if Climate Change Causes more CO2?

by Scott Adams

Let me start this post by restating that I agree with the scientific consensus on climate change. I'm not a scientist and I have no tools to evaluate the credibility of those who are. As far as I can tell, the arguments on both sides are totally credible. I can't tell them apart. So I default to agreeing with the experts, not so much because I believe experts are likely to be right in this case, but because there are extreme social and economic penalties for being a climate "denier." So I'm not one. I'm just a non-scientist who would like to understand this situation better.

And one of my ignorant questions is whether we have the causation right. On one hand, basic science tells us that more CO2 in the atmosphere should cause warming. And according to the consensus view of climate scientists, it is. The graphs of CO2 seem to match the graphs of warming. Therefore, logically, CO2 causes warming.

A separate debate is whether the CO2 warming is enough to be a problem or it simply exists. Forget that for now. I'm just talking about the direction of causation.

As a non-scientist, I assume human beings have some sort of temperature range that is optimal for energy and economics. I also assume that there are natural cycles of warming or cooling independent from CO2, at least historically. So we're probably always warming or cooling. We're never staying the same. And that means sometimes we are heading toward optimal human temperatures and sometimes away.

Now suppose the Earth's temperature was already in the good range for humans, but it was getting even better according to a natural cycle. That better temperature would – I assume – increase human activity in ways that (wait for it) contribute to CO2. If the economy is good, we build more industry and create more CO2. If the causation works in that direction, the heat of the world and the CO2 levels would be correlated. But the **cause** in this scenario is the warmth, not the CO2.

None of this means we shouldn't be worried about rising CO2. The science says more CO2 means more warming. That's just physics. And at some point we have to assume the planet gets TOO warm, and economic activity will suffer.

And when the economy suffers, CO2 could drop, assuming the economy goes into decline. At the very least I think you have to agree that the causation is two-way.

When people tell me to “do my own research” on climate change and reach my own conclusions, I think those people have no understanding of how the human mind works. No matter how much research I do on my own, a real climate scientist will still know things that I **don't know I don't know**. If I do my own research on climate science, all I will know in the end is what I **do** know. And that's not enough for any kind of credible evaluation. The stuff I **don't** know could easily be more important than the things I **do** know. One would need to live in a particular industry, the way a climate scientist does, to have any confidence that all the important variables are being considered.

Consider how basic my question is today. As a non-scientist, I can't even tell if scientists have the causation right. My layperson's brain says correlation is not causation, and humans have a long history of confusing the two. And while climate scientists might have perfectly good explanations for why the causation is primarily one-directional, it isn't obvious to me. (You can explain it to me in the comments.)

I realize that people want to know which “side” I'm on. But apparently I'm on my own side. My view is that climate scientists are more likely right than not, but the quality of their persuasion is worse than that of the skeptics on this topic. I don't know the underlying facts. But persuasion-wise, the skeptics have a big advantage.

Remember how I taught you that Trump's linguistic kill shots had a special quality that allowed them to strengthen over time thanks to confirmation bias? Every time Ted Cruz said something that didn't pass the fact-checking you remembered his Lyin' Ted nickname. And every time someone accused Clinton of crooked dealings you were reminded of her Crooked Hillary nickname. Climate change has the same dynamic. Every time it snows the non-scientists of the world look out the window and experience confirmation bias that global “warming” isn't happening. Sure, it's usually called climate “change” now, and most people know that. But to the under-informed that change in preferred wording just looks suspicious.

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And how are climate scientists trying to solve this problem? Mostly by providing more facts and more prediction models. And by demonizing the critics. The net effect of all that is to **systematically reduce their own credibility over time**, even if they are right about everything.

I think you see the problem.

Spectator, UK

Stop worrying about Trump. He's going to beat the Green Blob and be great
Middle America doesn't believe in man-made climate change and it will believe it even less now

by James Delingpole

Just before Christmas I popped over to Washington DC to test the waters of the Trump administration. I spoke to key members of his transition teams; I hung out with thinktankers, journalists, scientists, conservative activists; I wangled an invitation to a top-secret lunch hosted by card-carrying members of the Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy; I drank cocktails, lots of cocktails, from the Four Seasons in Georgetown to the new Trump Hotel in the Old Post Office; I went to that Americans for Tax Reform meeting that Grover Norquist hosts every Tuesday. And I came back feeling very positive indeed.

Why? The fact that I even have to ask this question in a conservative publication speaks volumes about anti-Trump prejudice, even from many right-wing commentators who ought to know better. To read some of my fellow scribes — no, scrub that, most of them — you'd imagine that the world would be a better place if instead of the Donald, the raddled, slippery, mendacious, corrupt, politically correct and hypocritical Hillary were about to be inaugurated as US president.

But they're wrong. Trump is going to be the best US president since Ronald Reagan and for at least one of the same reasons: he was never the GOP establishment's preferred candidate, which means he has the attitude, the independence and the leeway to be much more radical — and effective — than any of his rivals would have dared to be.

Nowhere will this become more evident than in the fields of energy and climate change. It's true that there were other climate-sceptical presidential candidates, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio among them, but it's unlikely that when push came to shove any Republican other than Trump would have had the will to take on the powerful and entrenched green establishment once in office.

Partly it's down to temperament: Trump relishes confrontation and, unlike most conservative politicians, feels under no pressure to moderate his position on the environment lest he be perceived as nasty or uncaring. Partly it's because as a property developer he has much personal experience of the way environmental red tape impedes business. Partly, as one admiring DC insider explained to me, it's because he's the first US president since Reagan who doesn't identify with the 'bicoastal urban elite'.

'The Democrats have been waging a war on rural America for decades. And the Bushes didn't do a damn thing to help them. Trump actually promised he would do something and rural America got that. These are his people and he gets their problem. If you dig up stuff, if you make stuff or you grow stuff, then Donald Trump has got your back.'

How does Trump mean to Make America Great Again? He spelled it out in May last year in a speech in North Dakota. As well as withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, he would allow fracking on federal lands, 'save' the US coal industry, revoke environmental regulations like the 'Waters of the US rule' (a massive assault on property rights by the Environmental Protection Agency), revive the Keystone XL pipeline and put all future regulation to a simple

test: 'Is this good for the American worker?' If it doesn't pass this test, the rule will not be approved.

To sophisticated centrists this might come across as empty populist rhetoric; and to those on the green liberal-left as something worse: a scientifically illiterate, ideological recipe for unfettered capitalist greed and ecological disaster. In truth, though, it's probably the most sensible, courageous and well-informed environmental policy plan articulated by any conservative leader anywhere in the world in decades. If that sounds like hyperbole, you can't have understood the extent to which environmental policy has damaged the global economy in the past few decades. Obama famously boasted that electricity rates would 'necessarily skyrocket' under his rule. The very fact that he thought this a good thing shows just how out of touch the world's governing elites had grown. Why would any sane person — unless presented with an overwhelmingly compelling reason — think it desirable to have their cost of living ramped up by government fiat?

To the 'bicoastal urban elite' the answer might have been a no-brainer: duh, climate change. But middle America doesn't believe in that (not the man-made variety at any rate) and it's likely to believe in it even less once Trump has had his wicked way with the various US government-affiliated institutions which have done so much to prop up the global warming scare story.

Take Nasa and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: both have been caught red-handed doctoring raw data to make 20th-century global warming look more dramatic, for reasons which probably have more to do with ideology than science. Trump simply won't tolerate this. Nasa will likely be returned to its day job of exploring space, while NOAA and its climate data will be put in the hands of a sceptical scientist: someone, perhaps, like John Christy of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, who has long infuriated warmists by noting that the satellite records show much less warming than the (-rather patchy) surface temperature records do.

Until now, green propagandists have been able to point to their tame scientists at Nasa, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Science and Technology and so on, and say: 'Look. All the experts agree...' With this option off the table the repercussions will be enormous. I'd go so far as to say it's the beginning of the end of the Green Blob.

Yes, I appreciate some of your squeamishness about Trump, and if you're on the greenie liberal left or part of the smug elite whose nose was put out so badly by Brexit, then you've good reason to be terrified. Not otherwise, though. He's going to be great.

WSJ (October 5, 1999)

The Real Reagan

He was a leader of impressive skill and stunning vision

by Ken Adelman

... Edmund Morris's "memoir" of Ronald Reagan has raised eyebrows by its use of various fictional devices to probe the former president's inner life. But while Mr. Morris (and his critics) may puzzle over Mr. Reagan's essence, I still marvel at his actions. What I witnessed personally--not quasifictionally, not at a one-step remove--was a leader of impressive skill and stunning vision.

The first epiphany came early in his administration, when we gathered in a formal National Security Council meeting in the Cabinet Room. Secretary of State Alexander Haig opened by lamenting that the Law of the Sea Treaty was something we didn't like but had to accept, since it had emerged over the previous decade through a 150-nation negotiation. Mr. Haig then proceeded to recite 13 or so options for modifying the treaty--some with several suboptions.

Such detail, to put it mildly, was not the president's strong suit. He looked increasingly puzzled and finally interrupted. "Uh, Al," he asked quietly, "isn't this what the whole thing was all about?"

"Huh?" The secretary of state couldn't fathom what the president meant. None of us could. So Mr. Haig asked him.

Well, Mr. Reagan shrugged, wasn't not going along with something that is "really stupid" just because 150 nations had done so what the whole thing was all about--our running, our winning, our governing? A stunned Mr. Haig folded up his briefing book and promised to find out how to stop the treaty altogether.

That set the tone for the first Reagan administration. ...

Pajamas Media

[Kamala Harris Embarrassingly Grills CIA Nominee About Climate Change](#)

by Stephen Kruiser

This is why the Democrats can't have nice things like the White House, Congress, most state houses or state legislatures. California's new senator grilled CIA director nominee Mike Pompeo about climate change (as well as gay marriage), illustrating just how out of sync with reality Democrats' priorities are when it comes to national security.

Hot Air

[Harris to Pompeo: Repent, climate heretic](#)

by Ed Morrissey

Confirmation hearings often reveal more about the panelists than they do about the nominee, and that's certainly the case in the exchange that took place between Mike Pompeo and newly installed Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). Donald Trump nominated Pompeo for director of the CIA, a role for which his years as chair of the House Intelligence Committee have prepared him, including an understanding of the role intelligence services play. Harris seems to have a strange set of priorities for intelligence operations, and her obsession with climate change leaves Pompeo almost laughing in bemusement. (Allahpundit will have more on the rest of Pompeo's hearing in the next post.)

Bear in mind that this followed [Harris questioning Pompeo on LGBT policy](#), and you get a sense of the silliness on display:

HARRIS: CIA Director Brennan, who spent a 25-year career at the CIA as an analyst, senior manager, and station chief in the field, has said that when, quote, "CIA analysts look for deeper causes of rising instability in the world," one of the causes those CIA analysts see as the — is the impact of climate change. Do you have any reason to doubt the assessment of these CIA analysts?

POMPEO: Senator Harris, I haven't had a chance to read those materials with respect to climate change. I do know the agency's role there. Its role is to collect foreign intelligence, to understand threats to the world. That would certainly include threats from poor governance, regional instability, threats from all sources, and deliver that information to policymakers. And to the extent that changes in climatic activity are part of that, we'll deliver that information to you all and the president.

That was Pompeo's attempt to acknowledge her concern at climate change while politely reminding her that it's not the CIA's primary focus, or even secondary focus. (If it has been in the past, perhaps that's why we missed the real nature of the "Arab Spring," the rise of ISIS, and Russia's determination to team up with Iran to keep Bashar al-Assad in power.) Harris didn't take the hint, however, which forced Pompeo to become a little more blunt:

HARRIS: In the past you have questioned the scientific consensus on climate change. Nevertheless, according to NASA, multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals showed 97% or more of actively published climate scientists agree that climate warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities. In addition, most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position. Do you have any reason to doubt NASA's findings?

First off, the 97% claim is a hoax, one that got exposed [almost four years ago](#). In 2015, a team of researchers published [a more extensive debunking of the 97% myth](#) in the peer-reviewed journal *Science & Education*, and found that the consensus on anthropogenic global warming was closer to 0.3%.

That's certainly reason enough to doubt NASA's findings, but the whole line of questioning is one large non-sequitur for the confirmation of *an intelligence director*. Pompeo's response clearly shows his struggle to remain patient:

POMPEO: Senator, I've actually spoken to this in my political life some. My commentary, most all has been directed to ensuring the policies that America put in place actually achieve the objective of ensuring we didn't have catastrophic harm that resulted from changing climate. I continue to hold that view. I, frankly, as the director of CIA, would prefer today not to get into the details of climate debate and science. It seems — my role is going to be so different and unique from that. It is going to be to work alongside warriors keeping Americans safe. And so I stand by the things I've said previously with respect to that issue.

Harris didn't take the hint that the CIA has more important duties than get tied up on energy policy:

HARRIS: So, I'm not clear. Do you believe NASA's findings are debatable?

POMPEO: I haven't spent enough time to tell you that I've looked at NASA's findings in particular. I can't give you any judgment about that today.

And even after *all* of that, Harris insisted that the primary consideration for confirming a CIA director is climate change:

Kamala Harris comes back, tells Pompeo, 'I want a CIA dir who is willing to accept the overwhelming weight of evidence' on climate change.

Well, the rest of us would prefer Senators sitting on the Intelligence committee to actually understand the purpose for having intelligence agencies, and prioritize the safety and security of Americans from external threats of a more acute nature. Perhaps Harris could request a transfer to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. In the meantime, perhaps Harris and other Democrats should take a hint from the results of the last four Congressional elections and spare us the climate-change inquisition. Right now, it's tough to disagree with Sheriff David Clarke:



Climate change - *There's nothing it can't do!*

ACTUAL CLIMATE CHANGE PRONOUNCEMENTS by Scientists: A brief recap

1970

WE'LL
BE IN
AN ICE
AGE BY
2000!



1976

GLOBAL
COOLING
WILL CAUSE
A WORLD
WAR BY
2000!



1989

GLOBAL WARMING
AND RISING SEA
LEVELS WILL WIPE
ENTIRE NATIONS
OFF THE MAP
BY 2000!



1990

WE HAVE
FIVE TO TEN
YEARS TO
SAVE THE
RAINFORESTS!



1999

THE HIMALAYAN
GLACIERS WILL
BE GONE IN
TEN YEARS!



2000

SNOW WILL
SOON BE A
THING OF
THE PAST!



2007

GLOBAL
WARMING
WILL CAUSE
FEWER
HURRICANES!



2008

THE ARCTIC
WILL BE
ICE-FREE
BY 2013!



2012

GLOBAL
WARMING
WILL CAUSE
MORE
HURRICANES!



2014

THE
SCIENCE
IS
SETTLED!

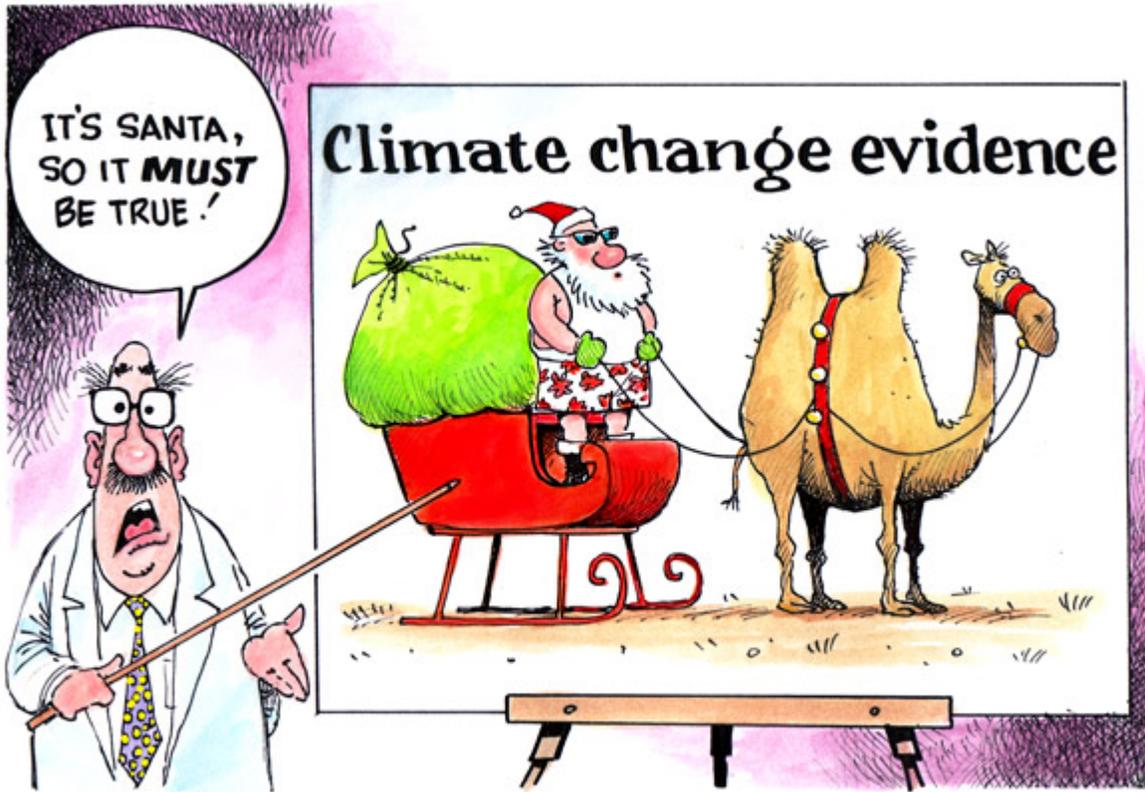


THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IS
SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE...

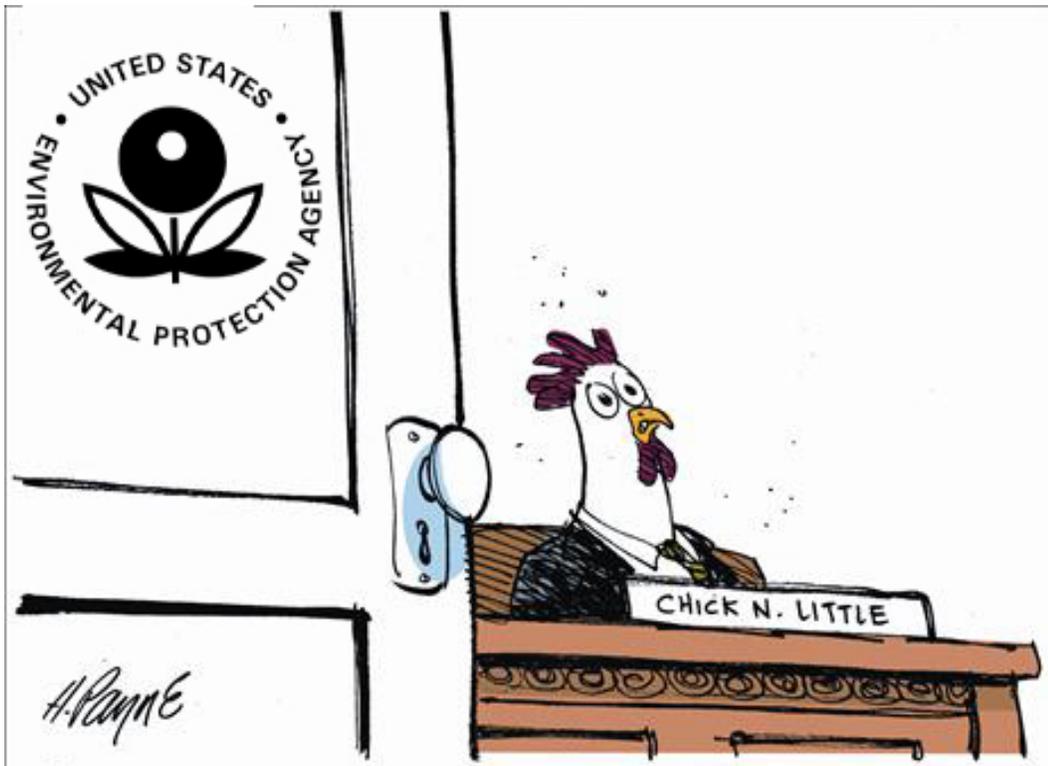
WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

WATCH YOUR
WALLET.





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