

Jack R. Venrick

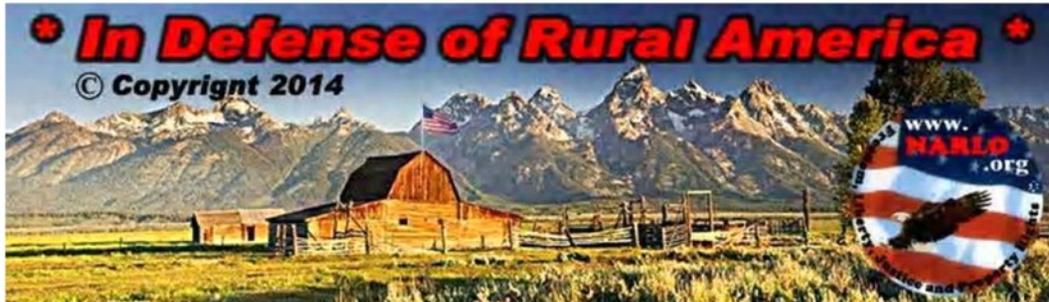
From: Ron Ewart [r.ewart@comcast.net]
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To our readers of our weekly column:

This issue of the Nevada rancher was all over the news since last week and ended with the BLM pulling out. The event reflects the growing anger in America over government abuse of power and overreach. We decided the issue was so "hot" that it could not wait for our weekend column to express our take on the event.

Take care,

Ron Ewart, President
NARLO



"Millions of Americans Are Just Itching To Lock And Load"
from "In Defense of Rural America"
A Weekly Column By Ron Ewart, President
National Association of Rural Landowners
and nationally recognized author and speaker on freedom and property rights issues.

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Sounding the Call to Freedom on the Nevada Desert!



This article is also available on our website at:
<http://www.narlo.org/idarchives/041614.html>

"When a 'forest fire' is lit, there is no telling which way it will go. It depends on the 'wind', the 'fuel load' and the 'humidity'. The 'wind' is about to blow real hard, the "fuel load" is huge and the humidity is dropping rapidly. It just takes the right 'match', a lightning strike, or spontaneous combustion. The question is, what (or who) will set it off? Could it be Obama Care, illegal aliens getting amnesty, Cap and Trade, the one-world-order, radical environmentalism, the brainwashing of our kids, trashing the Constitution by politicians, or

a confrontation with a maverick rancher in Nevada? Was Jefferson right? Does a society need a revolution every hundred years? Messy, but could it be necessary if freedom is to be defended and maintained?" Ron Ewart

For now, the dust is settling, the crowds are dispersing and the hot passion of open revolt is slowly waning, as the warm winds of the coming summer begin to blow across the Nevada desert and the cows come home to their range, released to their owner by a government that turned tail and ran when the wild American spirit of the west raised its head in righteous anger. Whether Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was right or wrong under the law, they came by thousands, loaded for bear, to confront what they considered to be a government gone mad with power.

Here is one such account, allegedly by a Los Angeles attorney who tried to get there:

"I rolled into Laughlin really early, like 5:30 am. So many people had shown up, that we decided to leave in groups. A second group to leave at 8 AM as scheduled. Ours was a big group too. About two dozen cars, loaded with passengers."

"The highway was almost empty until near Mesquite. Then it was a traffic jam. Motor homes, campers, ATVs running along side the freeway, motorcycles, vehicles, everything you could possibly imagine. Everyone on their way to Bunkersville. Then it about stopped, just inching along. Word traveled down the traffic line that the feds had blocked the road just out of Mesquite and were searching vehicles for weapons and cell phones. Cell phones were confiscated and smashed. The people were given a chit for \$30.00 redemption value. I left my phone at home. Some of us that had four wheel drives decided to just leave the road and head overland. As we got closer to the ridge, we were stopped by armed militia. We could not go any further. We could wait, or turn around and go back to the road. Men, that I suspect were special forces, had climbed the ridge from the back side and captured the snipers. They were at that moment coming down the ridge to take them to Mesquite where they would be let go. They weren't prisoners, they were just going to be replaced by friendlies."

"Because of the roadblock on I-15, people refused to be searched, and refused to turn back. They just pulled off the road and parked. It was like a dam backing up a river. Soon the feds were trapped between the Americans who had already gotten through, and the Americans that had been stopped on the highway. The BLM agents went into full panic mode and called for help. LVPD which had REFUSED to show up to help Americans HAD to show up to rescue BLM that was now trapped and helpless. The blockade was SEVEN MILES LONG! That's a pot load of people."

"A group of armed Americans along with local cowboys went to Mesquite to liberate the cows that had been confiscated and held by BLM. They were being driven back home in an old fashioned cattle drive. The feds say it was voluntary, don't believe it."

"I was basically standing around twiddling my thumbs when the word came down that the Director of BLM had surrendered and all forces would be withdrawn. I could not go on. The road was blocked and would be blocked probably for the rest of the day at least. A bunch of us turned around and left. It was over. There were THOUSANDS of people there, and more arriving every minute. The ranch, Gold Butte, the entire area was completely surrounded by Americans. The highway was completely blocked in both directions of people trying to get through. Everyone was very peaceful and friendly. No fights or anything. There was a rumor in the line, that some of the mercenaries hired by the feds had defected and were now on the side of the Americans."

"I came back and immediately saw this pack of lies and half truths in the news media."

"At one point, I-15 was closed in both directions, about seven miles south of Mesquite, because protesters had blocked the freeway. Nearly two-dozen police officers and a SWAT unit were at the scene to keep the peace and assist the BLM enforcement officers to safely leave the area. We could tell that they were visibly scared!"

We have no reason to doubt this account but we cannot independently verify it. Nevertheless, you won't see this part of the story on the news.

The question remains, why would thousands of Americans come to the aid of a grizzled, range-weary old rancher who had come to grief with a federal bureaucracy known as the Bureau of Land Management? Why would they purposely put themselves in harms way with a federal government that had no compunction of shooting down the wife of Randy Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho and besiege a compound full of men, women and children with an army tank at Waco, Texas and set them ablaze. When these Americans came to the desert on behalf of rancher Cliven Bundy, did they know that other Americans would out number the heavily armed government agents by 4 to 1, thus making a shooting war much less likely? Did they know that the event would be covered by Fox News and ratcheted up to an international story? Did they naively think that these government agents wouldn't shoot back if provoked by the crowd? Did they realize that they could have died right there on the desert, leaving loved ones and siblings grieving all over the Western United States? What brought these people to the Nevada desert to fight a fight that wasn't theirs, a fight that could have ended in a blood bath? Or maybe they thought that the fight was theirs.

What brought these Americans to the desert was a match struck for freedom. What brought them to the desert was a man who, right or wrong, stood up against tyranny with a straight back and an iron will. What brought them to the desert was a principle "**that men are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**" What brought them to the desert was "**that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its power in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.**" Ladies and gentlemen, these Americans were willing to sacrifice their lives on these fundamental principles. How absolutely refreshing, but what is even more refreshing is that in the face of true Americans, the government showed their backsides and ran. It isn't the first time these bureaucratic cowards shrank into the shadows when real Americans stood their ground.

Cliven Bundy started a forest fire with one match. He ignited the flame of freedom in the hearts and minds of millions of Americans, some of whom decided to put their money and their lives where their mouths were. They voted with their feet in positive action and some of them were willing to vote with their guns if it became necessary. They rose up and the

government backed down. It is not an unfamiliar scene. It happened with the Klamath Bucket Brigade and the Jarbidge Shovel Brigade, both in the wild and woolly west of America. This time the Nevada Mounted Rifle Brigade sent the FEDS packing. We have even witnessed government backing down locally as well, when the people rose up in large numbers. The people have power if they will only choose to exercise it with courage.

Yes, there are millions of Americans itching to lock and load. We hear from them almost daily. But why? Because government and especially the federal government, has pushed, abused, harassed, cajoled and intimidated too many people for far too long and the hair on the backs of the necks of some Americans itching for a fight, is rising. The outcome in Clark County, Nevada was fully predictable to anyone with any knowledge of the true American spirit let freedom ring, or we will punctuate our strongly held beliefs of liberty with guns. Why did the government back down? Because they were surrounded by a superior force where a fight could have ignited a much wider, but politically devastating war with the potential of the dead bodies of American men and women pasted all over the news.

And it's not just the BLM, it is the entire federal bureaucracy. It is the Department of the Treasury and the EPA and the NSA and the IRS and the FDA and the FCC and the FTC and the FBI and the INS and the USDA and the DOE and Social Security and the HHS and the DHS and the Department of Education, all literally drunk on the addiction of federal power. It is the Executive branch and the Legislative branch and the Judicial branch that have lost all allegiance to the Supreme Law of the Land, that blueprint for freedom, the U. S. Constitution. Is it any wonder that Americans came to the Nevada desert to challenge an out-of-control government head-on and call their bluff?

Is the standoff at the Bundy ranch over? Not likely. This is just the beginning in a battle of power between East vs. West, North vs. South, rich vs. poor, rural vs. city, black vs. white and liberal vs. conservative, in a fight that will pit Americans against Americans in what appears to be a hopelessly divided nation.

Good God ladies and gentlemen, we pray that cooler heads will prevail. We truly and sincerely don't want it come to violence and hopefully, this race to the precipice by some brave Americans in Nevada will force government to halt the direction they are heading before America, once again, sets on the unknown and unpredictable path to civil war, or revolution. It is coming whether we like it or not because **"... the 'wind' is about to blow real hard, the "fuel load" is huge and the humidity is dropping rapidly. It just takes the right 'match', a lightning strike, or spontaneous combustion"** to start a fire that will be nigh near impossible to put out when freedom cries out for retribution. Did Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy strike that match, or did the socialist president Barack Hussein Obama beat him to it? We will see!

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SCHOLAR ISLAND

World War I

"It was a happy time, those last few years before the First World War. The air was soft, and it was easy for a young man to believe in the inevitability of progress, in the perfectibility of men, and in the sublimation of evil."

-Walter Lippmann

"What an extraordinary episode in the economic progress of man that age which came to an end in August 1914!"

-John Maynard Keynes

"The conflict forced the further development of the income-tax principle. Aiming, as it did, at the one great untaxed source of revenue, the income-tax law had been enacted in the nick of time to meet the demands of war. And the conflict also assisted the putting into effect of the Federal Reserve system, likewise in the nick of time."

-Cordell Hull 1916 (remarks in his memoir)

"it is difficult for the generations born after 1914 to appreciate to what extent this war shattered the foundations of Western civilization. This war

broke out against the will of everybody, yet with the connivance of most participants or, rather, of special interest groups in each country which exercised sufficient pressure to make the war possible. By and large, Europeans, after almost one hundred years without major and catastrophic wars, and almost fifty years after the German-French war, were prone to think that "it can't happen." The powerful Socialist International seemed to be resolved to prevent war. The antiwar and pacifist movement was a potent force. But even the governments, whether that of the Czar, of the Kaiser, or of France and England, seemed to be resolved to avoid war. yet it did happen. Reason and decency seemed suddenly to have left Europe. The same socialist leaders who only months before had pledged themselves to international solidarity now hurled at each other the vilest nationalistic epithets. The nations that had known and admired each other, suddenly broke out in a mad paroxysm of hate. The British became cowardly mercenaries to the Germans; the Germans became vile Huns to their enemies; the music of Bach and Mozart became tainted; French words in the German language were ostracized. Not only that, but the moral rule against the killing of civilians was broken. Both sides bombed helpless cities and killed women and children; it was mainly the lack of development in aviation that restricted the scope and intensity of these raids. But the fate of the soldiers were equally in contrast to all demands of humanity. Millions on both sides were forced to attack the enemy trenches and were killed in the process, although it should have been clear that such tactics had come futile. But perhaps worst of all the slaughter was based on a lie. The Germans were persuaded that they were fighting for freedom, and so were their Western enemies. When the chips were down, especially when, after 1916, a possibility for peace arose, both sides refused to settle because both insisted on gaining the territories for which the war was really being fought-regardless of the cost. At one point millions of men recognized the great deception. They rebelled against those who forced them to continue the slaughter, In Russia and Germany successfully, in France sporadically, by means of mutinies which were severely punished by the generals.

What had happened? The belief in continuing progress and peace had been shattered, moral principles which had seemed secure were violated. The unthinkable had happened."

Erich Fromm

Beyond the Chains of Illusion

"Every war is ironic, because every war is worse than expected. Every war constitutes an irony of situation, because its means are so melodramatically disproportionate to its ends. Eight million people were destroyed because two persons, the archduke Francis Ferdinand and his consort, had been shot."

-Paul Fussell

PAUL FUSSELL, CRITIC AND LITERARY SCHOLAR, IS DEAD AT 88 *The New York Times* may 24,2012

"...The essential fact of the history of 1919 which does not figure in official chronicles, consists in the singlemindedness of the ruling classes of every country to arrest the march of humanity towards socialism. In this way a new problem was added to all the national and international problems of the world: the problem of class. Within a few years that problem dominated all others. It upset all the traditional national policies of the preceding century."

-Pierre Van Paassen

Days of Our Years

"It killed twenty million people, ignited the Russian Revolution, and paved the way for Hitler. it remade our world for the worse."

-To End All Wars by Adam Hoschschild

"The socialism of Marx, Fourier, Kropotkin, Owen, Jaures, Rosa Luxemburg, and Gorki was the most important genuine religious movement of the last hundred years. The breakdown of the humanistic tradition, beginning with the World War of 1914, almost completely destroyed this nontheistic "religious" movement. Nietzsche said that God was dead; what happened after 1914 was that man was dead. Only in small circles and among a few individuals did the humanist spiritual tradition continue; its greatest representatives in our times are men like Gandhi, Einstein, and Schweitzer."

-Erich Fromm

Beyond the Chains of Illusion

"Out of the oil-smooth spirit of the two last decades of the nineteenth century, suddenly, throughout Europe, there rose a kindling fever....people were enthusiastic adherents of the social creed of the Man in the Street; one had faith and was skeptical....one dreamt of ancient castles and shady avenues....but also of prairies, vast horizons, forges and rolling-mills....Some people hurled themselves....upon the new, as yet untrodden century, while others were having a last fling in the old one."

Robert Musil

"What shall we say of the Great War of Europe, ever threatening, ever impending, and which never comes? We shall say that it never will come."

Humanly speaking, it is impossible....The bankers will not find the money for such a fight, the industries will not maintain it, the statesmen cannot....It comes to the same thing in the the end. There will be no general war."

-David Starr Jordan ,M.D. Ph.D. LL.D. (President of Stanford University) ,Feb 27,.1913

"No one expected the shooting would result in war. Initially, there was collective outrage at the deed and sympathy for Austria. Even if the murder could be traced back to Serbia-the nineteen-year-old assassin, Gavril Princip, had said he'd killed "an enemy of the Southern Slavs" to "avenge the Serbian people" everyone expected it to blow over. "Kaiser Wilhelm will show his teeth," the former Russian foreign minister, Alexander Izvolsky, told Nicholas's cousin Sandro. "And everything will be forgotten by the fifteenth of the next month!" Wilhelm did show his teeth, in his characteristic way. On a memo from the German ambassador in Vienna, he wrote that the Serbs must be dealt with "now or never....The Serbs must be disposed of *and* that right *soon*."

--Miranda Carter

George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal Cousins and the Road to World War I

"...the throne of human reason itself was temporarily over-whelmed by the mightiest tornado which had ever risen to the surface of men's minds from some remote atavistic depths to sear and blast humanity.'

-Philip Magnus *Kitchener, Portrait of an Imperialist*

"As the losses mounted and morale collapsed, the army was, as one historian has vividly put it, "gradually turned into one vast revolutionary mob." Nine million men were called up in the war's first year. Officer casualties were enormously high-not least because of their habit of leading charges dressed in their brightest uniforms. The soldiers who survived found themselves divested of their traditional aristocratic leaders, alienated and very angry at the vast, pointless losses, and began to ask themselves why there were fighting at all. The new Russian officer corps of 1915-those below the rank of captain who actually fought with the men-were soon the biggest meritocracy Russia had ever seen: young men from peasant backgrounds with a talent for survival and leadership, all too aware of the army elite's lack of interest in the men's conditions and their losses."

-Miranda Carter

George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal cousins and the Road top World War I

"The most harrowing sight, a vast stretch of land that had once been fertile and smiling with crops, but was now only a tumbled mass of blackened earth fringed by sparse and splintered trees.... We climbed over a mound composed of German dead.....all that was left of a whole regiment who had died in wrestling a strip of land from Our troops, only to lose it again.... We stood there speechless. it was impossible find words. The queen's face was ashen and her lips were tightly compressed. I felt that like me she was afraid of breaking down."

-The Countess of Airlie

"Here is where words fail...The vast dimensions of suffering, stupidity, and folly. . .the sheer numbers involved. It was grotesque, impersonal, obscene, ghastly. The war was, quite simply the worst thing that had ever happened . . .

And yet . . . "

William Manchester

"In the spring of 1918 death was no stranger to the world. Indeed, by then the bodies of more than five million soldiers had already been fed into what was called "the sausage factory" by generals whose stupidity was matched only by their brutality.

German generals, for example, had decided to bleed France into submission by matching it death for death at Verdun, believing that Germany's greater population would leave it victorious. The French later replied with their own massive offensive, believing that their *elan vital* would triumph.

Only slaughter triumphed. Finally one French regiment refused orders to make a suicidal charge. The mutiny spread to fifty-four divisions, stopped only by mass arrests, the conviction of twenty-three thousand men for mutiny, with four hundred sentenced to death and fifty-actually executed."

-John M. Barry

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History

"All of Europe was weary of the war. Only in the United States Anglophiles and Francophiles, most of them concentrated on the East coast and many of them holding positions of power or influence, were not weary. Only in the United States Anglophiles and Francophiles still regarded war as glorious. And they put intense pressure on President Wilson to enter the war. "

-John M. Barry

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plagues in History

Wilson campaigned for reelection in 1916 on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War." And he warned, "If you elect my opponent, you elect a war."

"The World War was a matter of economic rivalry."

-Woodrow Wilson

"Do you think if Germany had committed no act of war or no act of injustice against our citizens that we would have gotten into this war?":
Senator Macumber

"I do think so," Wilson replied

"When the U.S. president, Woodrow Wilson, came to London in December 1918, George took an instant dislike to him. Wilson, who was

even more awkward and shy than George, had become, with his talk of free states, the flag-bearer of republicanism and independence. The king also felt the president was high-handed, gave America too much credit for winning the war and failed to acknowledge the sacrifices that British troops had made. Perhaps he could feel the initiative in world affairs shifting quietly and permanently from Britain to America as they spoke. When he suggested that Wilson march his troops to Russia to "protect the country from Bolshevism," Wilson told him the American army had come to Europe for one purpose only, "After that I never thought much of the man....I could not bear him, an entirely cold academical professor-an odious man."

Miranda carter

-George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal cousins and the Road to World War I

"Woodrow Wilson is a type of Pecksniff who was disappeared amid universal execration."

-Italian Minister Pentaleoni

"On April 2, three weeks after the disclosure of the note*, after his cabinet unanimously called for war, Wilson finally delivered his war message to Congress. Two days later he explained to a friend, "It was necessary for me by very slow stages and with the most genuine purpose to avoid war and to lead the country on to a single way of thinking."

And so the United States entered the war filled with a sense of selfless mission, believing glory still possible, and still keeping itself separate from what it regarded as the corrupt Old World. it fought alongside Britain, France, Italy, and Russia not as an "ally" but as an "Associated Power."

Anyone who believed that Wilson's reluctant embrace of war meant that he would not prosecute it aggressively knew nothing of him. he was one of those rare men who believed almost to the point of mental illness in his own righteousness.

Wilson believed in fact that his will and spirit were informed by the spirit and hope of a people and even of God. he talked of his "sympathetic connection which I am sure that I have with" all American citizens and said, "I am sure that my heart speaks the same thing that they wish their hearts to speak." "I will not cry 'peace' so long as there is sin and wrong in the world," he went on "America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture."

He is probably the only American president to have held to this belief with quite such conviction, with no sign of self-doubt. it is a trait more associated with crusaders than politicians. "

John M. Barry *The Zimmerman note

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History

"The war went on, The trenches extended from the Swiss border north to the sea. One spoke with soldiers and learned about the life they were leading boxed up in the trenches and dugouts, exposed to concentrated artillery fire which initiated an enemy attack, then trying again and again to break through, and never succeeding. Year after year the healthy men of each nation, living like animals in caves, killed each other with rifles, hand grenades, machine guns, bayonets; the slaughter continued, accompanied by false promises of a speedy victory, false protestations of one's own innocence, false accusations against a devilish enemy, false offers of peace, and insincere communications for peace.

The longer this lasted, the more I changed from a child to a man, the more urgent became the question "How is it possible?" How is it possible that millions of men continue to stay in the trenches, to kill innocent men of other nations, and to be killed and thus to cause the deepest pain to

parents, wives, friends? What are they fighting for? How is it possible that both sides believe they are fighting for peace and freedom? How as it possible for a war to break out when everybody claimed that they did not want it? How is it possible that the war continues when both sides claim they do not want any conquests, but only the preservation of their respective national possessions and integrity? If, as the following events showed, both sides wanted conquests and fame for their political and military leaders, how was it possible that millions allowed themselves to be slaughtered on both sides for the sake of some territory and the vanity of some leaders? Is the war a result of a senseless accident, or is it a result of certain social and political developments which follow their own laws and which can be understood-or even predicted-provided one knows the nature of these laws?"

-Eric Fromm

Beyond the chains of Illusion

(The War) shook me out of my prejudices and made me think afresh on a number of fundamental questions....I had supposed until that time that it was quite common for parents to love their children, but the War persuaded me that it is a rare exception. I had supposed that most people like money better than almost anything else, but I discovered that they liked destruction even better. I had supposed that intellectuals frequently loved truth, but I found here again that not ten percent of them prefer truth to popularity."

-Bertrand Russell

"It's raining my soul, it's raining, but it's raining dead eyes."

Guillaume Apollinaire

There died a myriad,
And of the best, among them,
For an old bitch gone in the teeth,
For a botched civilization."

Ezra Pound

"The First World War, taken as a whole, is a gigantic parable of the war that mankind is trying to avoid. It was a war of peculiar ugliness, fought with exceptional stupidity and brutality. It destroyed permanently a great part of European civilization. It was started for reasons that in retrospect seem almost trivial. The damage and loss suffered by all parties were utterly out of proportion to the pettiness of the initial quarrel between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. In all these respects, the history of the First World War holds up a mirror to the present, showing how small follies lead to great disasters, how ordinarily intelligent people walk open-eyed into Hell."

Freeman Dyson

"On June 28, 1914, the archduke Franz Ferdinand, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife were shot and killed by a malcontent

named Gavrilo Princip. No one in America particularly cared. For all it mattered out on the prairie, they would have had the duke stuffed and used as a parlor ornament. Few people had any idea why the Europeans were at war. They had been warned by the Founding Fathers to mind their own business. America had the most dynamic economy in the world. America had plenty of business to mind. To sensible people in the United States minding your own business still seemed like the best foreign policy.

But the editorial pages fulminated with reasons to get into the fight. Nationalism, economic competition, militarism, secret treaties, Lofty ideals, low-down secret deals, treachery, rivalry-the answers flew out of the frontal lobe like plastic bags out of a welfare high-rise. Pretty soon they were hanging from every tree and electric pole."

Even today, you could go from one end of the country to the other asking historians why the United States decided to enter the war or why it entered on the side of England and France instead of on the side of Germany and Austria. You would get plenty of answers, but not a single reason that comes close to justifying the deaths of nearly half a million Americans. You would not, because they don't exist."

-Bill Bonner

Empire of Debt

"I never thought that after the assassination there would be a war"

Princip *in court*

"What did the unknown Soldier of the Great War think he was doing when

he died? What did we, we people who got him into the Great War and who are still in possession of this world of his, what did we persuade him to think he was doing and what is the obligation we have incurred to him to atone for his death, for the life and sunlight he will know no more?"

H.G. Wells (1918)

"We are not fighting, we are defending ourselves from annihilation....We are maddened with fury....we can destroy and we can kill to save ourselves, to save ourselves and to take revenge....We have lost all feelings for others, we barely recognize each other when somebody else comes into our line of vision....We are dead men with no feelings, who are able by some trick, some dangerous magic, to keep on running and keep on killing."

-Remarque *All Quiet*

"All this madness, all this rage, all this flaming death of our civilization and our hopes, has been brought about because a set of official gentlemen, living luxurious lives, mostly stupid, and all without imagination or heart, have chosen that it should occur rather than that any one of them should suffer some infinitesimal rebuff to his country's pride."

Bertrand Russell (Letter written 12 Aug, 1914, eight days after the outbreak of war.)

""We are fighting in the quarrel of civilization against barbarism, of liberty against tyranny. Germany has become a menace to the whole world. She is the most dangerous enemy of liberty now existing."

Theodore Roosevelt

"when every autumn people said it could not last through the winter, and when every spring there was still no end in sight, only the hope that out of it all some good would accrue to mankind kept men and nations fighting. When at last it was over, the war had many diverse results and one dominant one transcending all others: disillusion."

Barbara Tuchman

The Guns of August

"All of you young people who served in the war. You are a lost generation...you have no respect for anything. You drink yourselves to death."

Gertrude Stein

"Every writer who has dealt with that last summer before the Great War has felt compelled to comment on the uncommon perfection of the weather the endless days of ardent blue skies across which fair-weather clouds toiled lazily, the long lavender evenings freshened by soft breezes, the early mornings of birdsong and slanting yellow sunlight. From Italy to Scotland, from Berlin to the valleys of my native Basque Pyrenees, all of Europe shared an exceptional period of clear, delicious weather. It was the last thing they were to share for four terrible years—save for the mud and agony, hate and death of the war that marked the boundary between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, between the 'Age of Space', and the Era of Efficiency. "

Trevelyan

"The last war, during the years 1915, 1916, 1917, was the most colossal, murderous, mismanaged butchery that has ever taken place on earth. Any writer who said otherwise lied."

Ernest Hemingway

"Abraham. . . stretched forth the knife to slay his son. When lo! an angel called him out of heaven saying, lay not thy hand upon the lad, never do anything to him. Behold, a ram, caught up in the thicket, by its horns; offer the ram of Pride instead of him. But the old man would not do so, Slew his son and half the seed of Europe, one by one."

Wilfred Owen

':My heart-leapt as I saw our youths of twenty going into the furnace of Verdun.. .But how depressing it was when they returned Their expressions...Seemed frozen, by a vision of terror; their gait and their postures betrayed a total dejection; they sagged beneath the weight of horrifying: memories."

General Petain

"The war? Until the end of last month, it was nothing but a word, enormous, stretching across the pages of the lethargic newspapers of summer. The war? Yes, perhaps, very far away on the other side of the world, but not here. . .How could anyone imagine that even the echo of a war could make its way through these rocky ramparts , forbiddingly wild, the wildness accentuating the quiet calm at the foot of the cliffs--the waves, the sparse dune grass, the sand embossed by the tiny claws of birds.. .?"

Earthy Paradise

Collette' s Autobiography

Robert Phelps

Sunburst Books

"The land where we had stayed groaned with destruction. Where once peaceful villages stood, was only soot, ashes and burning embers after we passed. We kindled a funeral pyre, and more than dead material burned there--there burned our hopes, our longings, there burned the burgerlich tablets, the laws and values of the civilized world, there burned everything. . .And so we came back swaggering, drunken, laden with plunder."

(written by a Freikorps volunteer)

Robert Waite

Vanguard of Nazism

" There was one spectacle so horrible, so devastating, that it has haunted me ever since. As one of the trains drew in from the front there looked out of a window some four or five women, disheveled, bedraggled, with contorted and obscene faces, utterly inhuman in appearance, so that we started back from the sight in horror. I asked an officer who descended from the train who these terrifying creatures were. He answered: "These harpies are Frenchwomen who were caught on the field of battle robbing the dead!" My little boy was frightened out of his wits by the awful sight, and the image sank deep into my mind. "

Chaim Weizman

Trial & Error Harper

"Poor little devils, "his wife would answer, "they know they are going to their death." Then she would hug the cat convulsively to her and kiss it all over its face."

The Best Times

John Dos Passos

"In the pictures, the snapshots hurriedly made, a little faded, a little dog-eared with the thirteen years, they swagger a little. Lean, hard, in their

brass-and-leather harness, posed standing beside or leaning upon the esoteric shapes of wire and wood and canvass in which they flew without parachutes, they too have an esoteric look, a look not exactly human, like that of some dim and threatful apotheoses of the race seen for an instant in the glare of a thunderclap and then forever because they are dead, all the old pilots, dead on the 11th of November, 1918....They are thick men now, a little thick about the waist from sitting behind desks, and maybe not so good, with wives and children in suburban homes almost paid out, With gardens in which they putter in the long evenings after the 5:15 is in, and perhaps not so good at that either; the hard, lean men who swaggered hard and drank hard because they had found that being dead was not as quiet as they had heard it would be."

All. the dead Pilots

William Faulkner

Collected stories of

William Faulkner

Random House

Humanity. . . must be mad to do what it is doing.

what scenes of horror and carnage . . . hell Cannot be so terrible,"

(from the diary of a French Lieutenant)

"This western-front business couldn't be done again, not for a long time. The young men think they could do it, but they couldn't. They could fight the Marne again but not this. This took religion and years of plenty and tremendous sureties and the exact relation that existed between the classes. The Russians and Italians weren't any good on this front. You had to have

a whole-souled sentimental equipment going back further than you could remember. You had to remember Christmas and postcards of the Crown Prince and his fiancée, and little cafes in Valence and beer gardens in Unter den Linden and weddings at the mairie, and going to the Derby, and your grand-father's whiskers. . . . This kind of battle was invented by Lewis Carroll and Jules Verne and whoever wrote "Undine", and country deacons bowling and marraines and girls seduced in the back lanes of Wurtenburg and Westphalia. Why, this was a love battle--this was a century of middle-class love spent here. This was 'the last love battle.'

F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Within the walls of the old Vauban fortress of Montreuil, where G.H.Q. were established, Kiggel (General Kiggel-Chief of Staff under General Haig World War I) meditated like a Buddhist bhikku; revolved the prayer wheel of his doctrines, and out of them concocted Napoleonic battles on paper, which on the ground turned out to be slaughter-house dramas. He was essentially a cloistered soldier; he never went near a battle, and--if reports are correct--only once visited a battlefield, and then long after the battle had been fought. Spiritually he was the twin brother of Flecker's Mandarin general in the "Golden Journey of Samarkind,"

Who never left his palace gates before,
but hath grown blind, reading great books on war.

J.F.C. Fuller

"They went drumming down the old road of blood. "

Liddell Hart,

paraphrasing T. E. Lawrence

"Oh, I don ' t know what this war ' s about, But I bet , by gosh,
I'll soon find out."

popular song WWI

"But there was a strange temper in the air. Unsatisfied by material prosperity the nations turned restlessly towards strife internal or external. ..Almost one might think the world wished to suffer."

Winston Churchill

"But war was something different; no one was ever in favor of war-- indeed, it seemed so completely unthinkable in an age of advanced civilization that there was no time to prepare for "it" There was only one accepted attitude toward war--that it was a sin. It was easy enough to hold this view without putting it to the test; but now the first test had suddenly come, and on the peaceful, wide-open steppe lands beneath cloudless skies it was a hard one to understand."

Sanya in August 1914

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"When fate, for four whole years, played out a war of monumental frightfulness on the stage of Europe-a war that nobody wanted-nobody dreamt of asking exactly who or what had caused the war and its continuation. Nobody realized that European - man was possessed by something that robbed him of all free will. And this state of unconscious possession will continue undeterred until we Europeans become scared of our ' god-all-mightiness. ' Such a change can begin only with individuals, for the masses are blind brutes, as we know to our cost."

C. G. Jung

Psychology and Alchemy

cw 12

"The madness of it, Nicholas. Standing in holes in the ground, thousands of men, English, Scots, Indians, French, Germans, is that. Not flames, not pitchforks. But a place without the possibility of reason, like Nueve Chapelle that day."

John Fowles

the Magus

"Can there be in the world of real men anything more shadowy than an Archduke?"

Conrad

"That it was an insane waste of lives the combatants realized early, but no one knew what to do. The waste of honor, love, courage, and selfless devotion was the cruelest of all; at the first Battle of Ypres, in the opening days of the war, the young German Schoolboy volunteers 'came on like men possessed,' a British historian records. They were sent in against picked battalions of British regulars who shot them to pieces on the slopes of Ypres with the trained rifle fire for which they were famous. The incident has gone down in German history as the 'Kindermord von Ypres' 'the slaughter of the Innocents at Ypres.' No other phrase will do."

From an article

"The End of Innocence"

Horizon Summer 64

Edmund Stillman

"A life so frightfully bestial....Even pigs are better off."

Louis Mairé

"The storm has died away, and still we are restless, uneasy, as if the storm were about to break. Almost all the affairs of men remain in a terrible uncertainty....But among all these injured things is the mind. The mind has been cruelly wounded...it doubts itself profoundly."

Paul Valéry (Lecture in Zurich in 1922)

"Here chivalry disappeared for always. Like all noble and personal feelings it had to give way to the new tempo of battle and to the rule of the machine. Here the new Europe revealed itself for the first time in combat."

Ernst Junger

"Wilson's talk of making the world safe for democracy was nothing more than gas. He was proposing to go into the war on the side of the English, who were at that very moment suppressing democracy all over the globe. The Irish, the Indians, the Egyptians-the American president didn't even mention them. Had the upper brain been allowed to do its work, surely it would have told him that if he wanted to make the world safe for democracy, he ought to ask some questions of the nation that held it in check. As a mater of logic he might just as well have entered the war on the side of Germany against England."

-Bill Bonner

Empire of Debt

"We are at the dead season of our fortunes....Never in the lifetime of men now living has the universal element in the soul of man burnt so dimly."

-John Maynard Keynes (in a letter to President Wilson after quitting Paris and calling Wilson "the greatest fraud on earth.")

"I am sorry that you did not fight our fight to the finish and that you had so little faith in the millions of men, like myself, in every nation who had faith in you. Our government has consented now to deliver the suffering peoples of the world to new oppressions, subjections and dismemberments-a new century of war."

-Berle (later an assistant secretary of state, settled for writing Wilson a blistering letter of resignation)

"Our one agreed aim in the First World War was to break up German militarism. It was no part of our original intention to break up the Hapsburg and Ottoman Empires, to create Czechoslovakia or resurrect Poland, to make a Russian revolution, to treble the size of Serbia and double that of Rumania, to create Iraq and Estonia and Lithuania and a Jewish National Home, or to give the keys of the Brenner and the Adriatic to Italy. Yet, in the outcome, all these-and much else-sprang from the war....while the one thing which we promised ourselves, the destruction of German militarism, we failed to achieve."

-H.N. Fieldhouse

""As I say in this new book of mine, not merely did I learn to kill...But I learned to enjoy the prospect of killing...You learn that you have much wider dimensions than you had imagined before you had to fight a war.

That's salutary. It's well to know exactly who you are, so you can conduct the rest of your life properly."

-Paul Fussell

"The plunge of civilization into this abyss of blood and darkness by the wanton feat of those two infamous aristocrats is a thing that so gives away the whole long age during which we have supposed the world to be, with whatever abatement, gradually bettering, that to have to take in all now for what the treacherous years were all the while really making for and *meaning* is too tragic for any words."

-Henry James

'Hostilities Will Cease at 1100 Hours Today ,11

November

"The war is lost. the armistice ending the unfaithful war is signed. No gunfire anymore. Many feel at a loss. Almost 3 million German soldiers are dead, over 4 million are disabled because of war wounds, and have to be supported at public expense. Berlin is littered with unemployed, drugged war veterans who have left behind homes, families and jobs. They are high on opium and morphine, sold in the streets of Berlin to relieve the persistent pain in their shot-off limbs. A blockade imposed by the Allies cuts the German Empire off from most of its overseas markets and plunges the country into deprivation. There is a casualty list in Berlin of 700,000 children, old people and women. The country is plunged into political and economic chaos. Germany is sitting on a gigantic mountain of debt, and has no access to raw materials. The bottom has fallen out of the world. A demand grows that the Kaiser should abdicate. A general strike breaks out in Berlin. Demobilized soldiers cannot find jobs; with nothing else to do, they become revolutionaries as a pastime."

Stan Lauryssens

The man who invented The Third Reich

"...The devastating "Spanish Flu" that appeared in 1918 wasn't really from Spain. It began in American pigs and was spread worldwide by American servicemen who had gone to fight in World War I. It killed more than 40 million people worldwide, including more than 650,000 Americans in eighteen months-more Americans than were killed in all of the twentieth century wars combined. In comparison, the Black Plague epidemic in the fourteenth century killed 25 million people in four years."

"They asked," What did we get out of the first world war but death, debt and George M. Cohan?"

The question being difficult to answer, it was asked repeatedly in the late 1930s by those Americans afraid of being tricked, deceived, stampeded into joining another war to bail out the British and the French. They were called isolationists, but like most sociopolitical labels this one said both too much and too little.

Isolation in the form of a haughty and disdainful withdrawal from a world thought to be unworthy of American attention did appeal to some. Ellis Island had been closed for only fifteen years. many Americans and the parents of many others had only recently come to the United States to escape the class-based arrogance, the vanities and corruptions of the European kingdoms and their ceaseless wars-wars so stupid that during World War I, when Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II was asked why his country was at war with half of Europe, he responded "If only I knew."

Wasn't that war so massively brutal it had planted white crosses row on row across European fields and wiped out most of a generation of young European men? Had not the next generation of Americans learned in grade school to recite the verses "In Flanders fields the poppies blow/Between the crosses, row on row"? Wasn't it a war that had sent Americans home to

die in veterans' hospitals with lungs burned out by mustard gas? And the Kaiser didn't even know why it started? And now Americans were expected to join in his madness again?"

-David Brinkley

Washington Goes To War

Book: "The First World War" by R. Prior & T. Wilson

Book: "The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague In History" by John M. Barry

Book: "Dynamic Of Destruction: Culture and Mass Killing in the First World War" by Alan Kramer

Book: "The First World War" by Hew Strachan

Book: "Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?" by David Fromkin

Book: "The First World War" by Michael Howard

Book: "The First World War" by John Keegan

Book: "To End All Wars" by Adam Hochschild

Book: "Harry's War: Experiences in the 'Suicide Club' in World War One" by Harry Stinton

Book: "Forgotten Voices Of The Great War" by Max Arthur

Book: "The Great War Generals On The Western Front, 1914-1918" by Robin Neillands

Book: "Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?" by David Fromkin

Book: "The Illusion Of Victory: America in World War I" by Thomas Fleming

Book: "War 1914-Punishing The Serbs: Uncovered Editions"

Book: "The Illusion of Victory: America in World War I" by Thomas Fleming

Book: "14-18: Understanding the Great War" by S. Audoin-Rouzeau & A. Becker

Book: "Yanks: The Epic Story Of the American Army in World War I" by John S.D. & Joanne T. Eisenhower

Book: Paths of Glory: The French Army, 1914-1918" by Anthony Clayton

Book: "Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World" by Margaret MacMillan

Book: "The Road To Verdun: World War I's Most Momentous Battle and the Folly of Nationalism" by Ian Ousby

Book: "Over Here, Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition: The First World War and American Society" by David M. Kennedy

Book: "War Underground: The Tunnellers of the Great War" by Alexander Barrie

Book: "Hall of Mirrors" by David Sinclair

Book: "Citizen Extraordinaire: The Diplomatic Diaries of Vance McCormick in London and Paris, 1917-1919, Ed by Michael Barton et al.

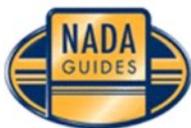
Book: "Dynamic of Destruction: Culture and Mass Killing int he First World War" by Alan Kramer

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8/6/2014

2012 Sandpiper by Forest River M-356RL

M-356RL

NADAguides.com Price Report

	Suggested List Price	Low Retail	Average Retail
Base Price	\$50,323	\$32,440	\$39,090
Options:			
15,000 BTU Central/Ducted		\$640	\$770
Microwave Oven		\$165	\$200
Gas Grill Cook Top		\$750	\$905
Water Heater 10 Gallon Gas/Elec. w/DSI		\$270	\$325
32" LCD TV		\$1,195	\$1,440
Electric Jacks		\$525	\$630
Cabinetry Upgrade (Luxury)		\$1,660	\$2,000
Ceiling Fan		\$90	\$110
Electric Awning 12-14'		\$820	\$990
Fireplace		\$645	\$780
TOTAL PRICE	\$50,323	\$39,200	\$47,240

Standard Equipment Details

RV Type: Fifth Wheel
Length: 39' x 8'6"
Axles: 2
Weight (lbs): 8722
Self-Contained: Yes
Slides: 3

RV Type
Fifth Wheel

Length
39' x 8'6"

Axles
2



New Prescription

YOUR PATIENT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THEIR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION BY MAIL.

34202

Please complete ALL information below.

STEP 1 Prescriber Information

Questions? Call 888.327.9791

Note to Prescriber	
--------------------	--

Prescriber Name _____ DEA _____
Required for CIII-CV medications

Secure fax number _____ NPI _____

STEP 2 Member Information

Member No.

3	9	5	0	3	2	2	9	1	6	2	2
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

(Include all characters. Leave box blank for spaces.)

Member Name(card holder): _____

STEP 3 Patient Information

Patient Name	
DOB	Tel
Ship to address	

Allergies

None Sulfa Penicillin
 Aspirin Codeine Iodine

Other _____

Medical Conditions

Heart Failure Hypertension
 Heart Attack/Angina Asthma
 Glaucoma Ulcer

Other _____

STEP 5 Return Fax

NO COVER SHEET REQUIRED
**Fax this page ONLY to
800.837.0959**

▶ We cannot accept CII prescriptions via fax.
▶ Fax forms will only be accepted when sent from a prescriber's office.
▶ The printed fax confirmation is proof of receipt.
Most patients can receive a 90-day supply plus refills up to 1 year (as appropriate).

STEP 4 Prescription Information

Please complete or attach prescription below

Prescriber Name Address City, State, Zip Telephone	
Patient Name _____	
DOB _____	Issue Date _____
Rx	
Refills _____	
Substitution Permissible _____	Prescriber Signature _____
Dispense as Written _____	Prescriber Signature _____

(We cannot accept Signature Stamps)



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Thursday, 10 February 2011

Your Hometown & the United Nations' Agenda 21

Written by [William F. Jasper](#)

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In March 2010, Nor-Cal Produce, a family-owned produce business in West Sacramento, was fined \$32,500 by the California Air Resources Board (ARB, or CARB). The company was not charged with, or even accused of, illegal emissions; like many other businesses, it had merely failed to notice a new regulation posted by CARB requiring all semi-trailers, shipping containers, vans, and rail cars with diesel-powered refrigerators to file a report with the agency.

"We had no knowledge of the law," Nor-Cal's Chief Financial Officer Todd Achando told CalWatchDog, a news blog that monitors California government. "My operations manager happened to see it mentioned in a trade magazine about a year and a half after the deadline passed." Because Nor-Cal reported itself to CARB and "cooperated," the agency reduced the \$200/day fine from \$86,600 to \$32,500.

Kit Enger and his fellow dune buggy manufacturers also cooperated with CARB, but found it was like dealing with a mob "protection racket." Enger, president of the Compliant Car Builders Association in Oceanside, California, said association members attended the agency's "implementation outreach workshop" for OHRV (off-highway recreational vehicles) and worked "diligently with CARB certification staff to devise a program whereby all industry members could efficiently and effectively certify their vehicles and engines." Despite the increased costs and inconvenience of complying with CARB's new regulations, association members thought things were going pretty well — until January 2008 when CARB hit them with \$3.6 million in penalties for alleged violations. The association's lawyers worked the fine down to \$600,000, but Enger says even that penalty was unconstitutional, amounting to an ex post facto prosecution for engines modified and sold before the new CARB regulations went into effect.

"My lawyers said it would cost more than \$600,000 to fight it, so we might as well pay it. It's like a protection racket — government out of control," said Enger. When he testified before CARB in November 2009, Enger told the board that one of their CARB enforcement officers had told him on two occasions, "If you guys don't get on with this settlement, it doesn't matter to us if you go out of business, change your name, move to another state, or die, we will find you and attach your assets."

Thousands of businesses have already fled the "protection racket" of government in what was once known as the Golden State; thousands more are following, taking with them hundreds of thousands of jobs. The state's tax and regulatory policies have driven the cost of energy, as well as every other business expense, sky high. Yet, despite facing \$25 billion in debt, a huge current budget deficit, and default on its bonds (not to mention sky-high unemployment, over 12 percent), the state's politicians and bureaucrats continue to chase the productive tax base — and jobs — out of California. Joseph Vranich of Irvine, California, known as "The Business Relocation Coach," keeps a running tab on companies leaving the state. His December 6, 2010 blog carries this headline: "New Record for Calif. Companies Departing or Shifting Work Out: 193 — Nearly Four Times Last Year's Level."

The jobs that are leaving or shutting down are not only the manufacturing and resource jobs in companies that greenies love to denigrate as "old, has-been" industries; they include many of the highly touted "green" companies that are now seeking greener pastures elsewhere. One of them is Solyndra, the solar panel maker from Fremont, which announced layoffs of 170 workers in December. Only a few months earlier Solyndra had hosted a much publicized press conference with President Barack Obama and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, both of whom lauded the company as an exemplar of the "green economy" that would provide many thousands of new "green jobs." Solyndra received a \$535 million loan from the Department of Energy to build a new state-of-the-art, robotics-run factory, which it calls Fab 2. In November 2010, Solyndra announced it was mothballing Fab 1 and postponing earlier plans to expand Fab 2, citing weak sales and the weak economy.

Other California "green-tech" firms have closed or are shifting much of their operations out of the state. For example:

- Barefoot Motors, maker of electric ATVs, moved to Oregon.
- Mariah Power, a manufacturer of small wind turbines, moved to Nevada and Michigan.
- Sonatype, Inc., which services many high-tech companies, moved to Maryland.
- Adobe Systems, Inc., the software giant, is building its huge new campus in Utah.

Other companies that have jumped ship from California include Fidelity National Financial (moved operations to Florida); CalPortland Cement (closed its Riverside County plant); Buck Knives (moved to Idaho); Multi-Fineline Electronix, Inc. (moved to China); and Thomas Brothers Maps (moved to Illinois and India).

These are only a fraction of the "primary companies" that have made the news; thousands of secondary companies — restaurants, service outlets, retail stores, construction companies, trucking companies, farms, ranches, mom-and-pop businesses — have vanished with no media notice.

And the picture will only get uglier for California, as the state government pushes forward with implementing Assembly Bill 32, or AB 32, formally known as the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. According to a 2009 study by Dr. Sanjay B. Varshney, dean of the College of Business Administration at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), and Dr. Dennis H. Tootelian, professor of marketing and director of the Center for Small Business at CSUS, the impact of the bill's cap-and-trade and regulatory features could be horrendous. They found:

On average, the annual costs resulting from the implementation of AB 32 to small businesses are likely to result in loss of more than \$182.6 billion in gross state output, the equivalent of more than 1.1 million jobs, nearly \$76.8 billion in labor income, and nearly \$5.8 billion in indirect business taxes.... Accordingly, the total cost of AB 32 is \$49,691 per small business in California.

As would be expected, the Varshney/Tootelian study has drawn heated criticism, especially from academics, activists, and politicians still ardently supporting the discredited alarmist "consensus" regarding anthropogenic (human-caused) global warming. The critics have produced studies claiming to show that any economic and/or job losses due to AB 32 will be negligible; some even predict positive growth as a result. Of course, many of these critics are the same ones who predicted the massive new "green jobs" that never materialized. Whether or not the Varshney/Tootelian study may have been "defective" in methodology, its predictions appear to be more firmly grounded in reality than those of its critics. The exodus of capital, technology, talent, and jobs from California has been accelerating, and as the CARB "racketeers" begin enforcing the draconian measures provided under AB 32, it will almost certainly pick up more speed.

California's losses will mean more gains for Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and many other states — but perhaps only temporarily. Many of the states and communities that California companies are fleeing to are headed in the same direction as California. If they do not change course, they soon will see the same economic forces driving the erstwhile California refugee businesses on to Mexico, India, China, and the other usual destinations.

ICLEI, the Hidden UN Component

There is a hidden component to the saga of California's ongoing woes that is gradually coming to light, hopefully in time to enable other states to avert the same calamity. That hidden component is becoming more visible as we near 2012, which the United Nations will celebrate as the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit. Known officially as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the eco-confab in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was unprecedented in size and scope, bringing together some 35,000 government officials, diplomats, NGO activists, and journalists. Rio became the launch pad for a number of huge initiatives that have been gradually gaining force and wreaking havoc on the planet in the intervening decades. The five main documents to come out of the UNCED process are:

- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- The Statement of Forest Principles
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
- Agenda 21

The Climate Change and Biological Diversity conventions were posited as "hard law" treaties that impose binding obligations upon the ratifying parties; the other three are referred to as "soft law" documents, instruments that commit the parties to a path of pursuing later "hard law" commitments. President George H.W. Bush signed the Climate Change Convention in 1992 and the U.S. Senate ratified it the same year. However, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which was negotiated to implement specific greenhouse gas reductions under the convention, has not been signed or ratified by the United States Senate. Although President Obama declared his commitment to securing a new binding Climate Convention, the November 2010 elections have pretty much sunk chances for any Kyoto replacement passing in the Senate.

Realizing the difficulty in getting some national governments — and especially the United States — to go along with a climate-change treaty that would require massive government intrusion into and regulation of all aspects of energy production and consumption, the UNCED leaders launched simultaneous efforts to build political support for ratification by also initiating efforts aimed at winning enactment of global-warming legislation at the state and local levels. One of the primary instruments that has been used by the UN and globalist advocates to advance their plans is an NGO known as ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability.

"ICLEI was founded in 1990," its website states, "as the 'International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives,'" and the organization "is an association of over 1200 local government Members who are committed to sustainable development. Our Members come from 70 different countries and represent more than 569,885,000 people."

ICLEI-USA boasts of its members: "Their populations range in size from 832 people in Cimarron, New Mexico, to more than 8 million in New York City." And they "consistently top the rankings of the Greenest Cities," it adds. "They have led the effort in recent years to envision, accelerate and achieve strong climate protection goals, creating cleaner, healthier, more economically viable communities."

More than 130 of those ICLEI members are California counties and cities that have led the efforts that now have California mimicking the economic "viability" of Greece and Spain, both of which, by the way, are longtime model supporters and members of ICLEI. Spain, which has been one of the biggest promoters of "green jobs," has learned the folly of its ways the hard way: It killed more than two existing jobs for every green job created. To make matters worse, many of the green jobs proved to be temporary, vanishing after the subsidized solar panels and wind turbines were constructed. Trodding the same path are California's ICLEI cities, among which are virtually all the major metro areas — Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco — as well as smaller cities from Alameda to Yountville.

ICLEI's website informs us:

The Council was established when more than 200 local governments from 43 countries convened at our inaugural conference, the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future, at the United Nations in New York.

It notes that in 2003 it changed its name to "ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability," no doubt to place more emphasis on the "local" and to diminish concerns about its "international" influence and its political and financial ties to the United Nations. As we will show, ICLEI and other UN-affiliated NGOs and government officials have come under increasing suspicion in recent years from more and more American citizens, and have taken to camouflaging their UN-driven environmental agendas, even to the point of denying obvious and easily documented connections.

On its web page entitled "ICLEI: Connecting Leaders," ICLEI explains some of its networking strategies. They include:

Connect cities and local governments to the United Nations and other international bodies. ICLEI represents local governments at the United Nations (UN) Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Conventions on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification and co-operates with the UN Environment Programme and UN-HABITAT.

That seems pretty clear: ICLEI's mission is to "connect" local government to the UN and its affiliates. It goes on:

Mobilize local governments to help their countries implement multilateral environmental agreements such as the Rio conventions through Cities for Climate Protection, Local Action for Biodiversity and other initiatives.

Again, fairly straightforward: Get the locals to lobby and pressure the national government to hop on board the global programs that will transfer more money, authority, and power to the UN. ICLEI continues:

Forge multi-stakeholder partnerships such as Resilient Cities, a global framework on urban resilience and climate adaptation where local governments, international agencies, development banks, ministries, institutes, and others, collaborate.

Translation: bribe, entice, seduce, flatter local officials, NGOs, and corporations to join the green lobby.

Agenda 21's Stealth Agenda

The ICLEI web page also states that its Local Agenda 21 Model Communities Programme is "designed to aid local governments in implementing Chapter 28 of Agenda 21, the global action plan for sustainable development." Although the Climate Change Convention has dominated the media headlines and political landscape for many years, Agenda 21 is even more far-reaching and dangerous. As we approach the 2012 Earth Summit, to be convened once again in Rio, this massive environmental, economic, and social "master plan" for the entire planet is being promoted with new intensity.

However, as we have already mentioned, some of the leading proponents of empowering the UN in the name of protecting the global environment counsel their fellow activists to hide their true intentions. That's exactly what J. Gary Lawrence, an advisor to President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development and to US AID, advised in a seminar in London, England, entitled, "The Future of Local Agenda 21 in the New Millennium," sponsored by the United Nations Environment and Development Forum, UK (UNED-UK). After complimenting his British audience for their success in getting the UK to adopt much of the UN's Earth Summit program, Lawrence lamented, "Other places have been much slower to adopt LA21 [Local Agenda 21]."

"In some cases," he noted, "LA21 is seen as an attack on the power of the nation-state." Which, of course, it most definitely is, as we will show. The former Clinton advisor continued:

Participating in a UN advocated planning process would very likely bring out many of the conspiracy-fixated groups and individuals in our society such as the National Rifle Association, citizen militias and some members of Congress. This segment of our society who fear "one-world government" and a UN invasion of the United States through which our individual freedom would be stripped away would actively work to defeat any elected official who joined "the conspiracy" by undertaking LA21. So, we call our processes something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth.

Yes, over the past two decades much of Agenda 21 and the rest of the Earth Summit program have been enacted piecemeal at the state and local levels, but as "Smart Growth Initiatives," "Resilient Cities," "Regional Visioning Projects," "STAR Sustainable Communities," "Green Jobs," and "Green Building Codes." After going through charades labeled as "local visioning," "community in-put," and "consensus building," one community after another has found that it has enacted a "local" program that is virtually indistinguishable from every other "local" program, whether across the country or across the planet. The more important point, though, is that these initiatives that have been enacted ostensibly to save the environment, invariably destroy economic vitality, erode property rights, undermine liberty and constitutional government, impose soviet-style rule through "stakeholder councils," subvert local control — and usually devastate the natural environment to boot.

But desperate measures are necessary to "save Mother Earth," and only a comprehensive, global plan will do, argue the alarmists. The UN's Agenda 21 is definitely comprehensive and global — breathtakingly so. Agenda 21 proposes a global regime that will monitor, oversee, and strictly regulate our planet's oceans, lakes, streams, rivers, aquifers, sea beds, coastlands, wetlands, forests, jungles, grasslands, farmland, deserts, tundra, and mountains. It even has a whole section on regulating and "protecting" the atmosphere. It proposes plans for cities, towns, suburbs, villages, and rural areas. It envisions a global scheme for healthcare, education, nutrition, agriculture, labor, production, and consumption — in short, everything; there is nothing on, in,

over, or under the Earth that doesn't fall within the purview of some part of Agenda 21. Copies of the 1,100-page document were hard to come by for several years after its debut at Rio, but I was able to bring back a "media copy" of the five-pound "treasure" from the summit. It is now available online at <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/>.

The most accessible version of Agenda 21 to come out following the Rio summit was published under the title *AGENDA 21: The Earth Summit Strategy to Save Our Planet* (Earthpress, 1993). Edited by environmental-activist attorney Daniel Sitarz and enthusiastically endorsed by Earth Summit chief Maurice Strong and then-U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), the book is instructive for demonstrating the completely alien mindset that holds sway in so many influential political, academic, and media circles. Sitarz's edition provides a powerful, albeit unintended, indictment of the UN agreement by offering this candid appraisal of the plan's totalitarian ambition. Incredibly, Sitarz admits with apparent approval that:

AGENDA 21 proposes an array of actions which are intended to be implemented by every person on Earth.... It calls for specific changes in the activities of all people....

Effective execution of AGENDA 21 will require a profound reorientation of all human society, unlike anything the world has ever experienced — a major shift in the priorities of both governments and individuals and an unprecedented redeployment of human and financial resources. This shift will demand that a concern for the environmental consequences of every human action be integrated into individual and collective decision-making at every level.

The admission is so staggering as to require recapitulation: "profound reorientation," "all human society," "every person on Earth," "every human action," "every level," "demand," "require." In short, it is an undisguised call for the total regimentation of all life on the planet.

Nevertheless, editor Sitarz continued his praise for the wondrous text, noting:

There are specific actions which are intended to be undertaken by multinational corporations and entrepreneurs, by financial institutions and individual investors, by high-tech companies and indigenous people, by workers and labor unions, by farmers and consumers, by students and schools, by governments and legislators, by scientists, by women, by children — in short, by every person on Earth.

The tyrannical implications are so stunningly transparent that it seems impossible that any nation not overtly communist could endorse it. Yet it was unanimously endorsed by every nation at the summit, including the United States. Not even Stalin, Hitler, or Mao came close to proposing anything this all-intrusive and all-encompassing.

But the hubris goes much further still. One of the most sacred totems in the UN's green theology is "sustainable development." The *Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide*, published in 1996 by ICLEI, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been an important manual for teaching ICLEI's "local" acolytes and accomplices the "sustainability" game. It boasts a foreword from former Earth Summit chief Maurice Strong, who currently is president of the council of the UN's University for Peace. The *Guide* asks the rhetorical question: "What is Sustainable Development?" It then provides this revealing answer:

The realities of life on our planet dictate that continued economic development as we know it cannot be sustained.... Sustainable development, therefore, is a program of action for local and global economic reform — a program that has yet to be fully defined.

Yes, that is correct; the program that is absolutely *essential* to our very existence "has yet to be fully defined." It goes on:

No one fully understands how, or even if, sustainable development can be achieved; however, there is a growing consensus that it must be accomplished at the local level if it is ever to be achieved on a global basis.

There you have it; even though we don't know what it is, there is a "growing consensus" that it "must be accomplished."

Much has been written in academic terms about the meaning of sustainable development and the need to integrate ecological and economic principles into personal and public decision-making....

However, there is no agreed definition of the concept and perhaps there is no need for one.... Thus, sustainable development is an "emerging concept" in two ways, first, because it is relatively new and evolves as we learn to grasp its wide implications for all aspects of our lives, and, second, because its meanings emerge and evolve according to local

contexts.

In other words, "sustainable development" is a despot's dream-come-true: an emerging all-purpose, open-ended, "enabling act" granting global central planners carte blanche to claim it means whatever they want it to mean.

Think Globally, Act Locally

For the past several decades, environmental activists have embraced the mantra, "Think globally, act locally." And they have been implementing it with religious fervor — along with bountiful assistance, of course, from the United Nations and a multitude of UN-affiliated institutions, U.S. government agencies, NGOs, and tax-exempt foundations. ICLEI, which has helped initiate UN programs in hundreds of U.S. communities, works closely with UN agencies such as UNESCO, UNEP, WHO, UNFCCC, IPCC, IMF, and the World Bank, as well as the U.S. State Department, Department of Energy, EPA, U.S. Agency for International Development, the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, World Wildlife Fund, World Economic Forum, Club of Rome, Rockefeller Foundation, the European Union, and other similar entities. It also receives millions of dollars of funding from many of these same entities, thus enabling it to organize formidable "local" coalitions that often can overwhelm genuine local grass-roots opposition to UN-spawned programs.

However, the correlation of forces in this ongoing struggle may be turning in favor of freedom — though not a moment too soon. When this reporter returned from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and began a national tour with my book *Global Tyranny, Step by Step ... The United Nations and the Emerging New World Order*, far too few people were ready for the message. Even sympathetic radio talk-show hosts found it difficult to believe that the UN's treaties on climate change and biodiversity, or Agenda 21, could be as serious a threat to America's sovereignty, prosperity, and freedom as I alleged. Few could appreciate how these documents and programs crafted in some far-off United Nations conference could ever concretely impact them in their state, town, or neighborhood. That has changed dramatically, as the huge financial costs and oppressive regimentation associated with global-warming legislation, sustainable development programs, and local Agenda 21 projects have skyrocketed.

Tom DeWeese, president of the American Policy Center and a leading expert on Agenda 21 and sustainable development, says there "is definitely a major awakening underway." "These UN stealth programs got by unnoticed and unopposed for many years, but no longer," he told *The New American*. "Patriots in communities all across the country are getting wise to the UN programs and are fighting back. Many of the Tea Party activists have awakened to these issues. Our phones have been literally ringing off the hooks with requests for information and speakers to help in local battles against Agenda 21 and sustainable development. 2011 is going to be a very critical year, and I'm encouraged; our side is going to make some major advances on these battlefronts."

"The growing awareness of the dangers posed by UN programs such as Agenda 21, sustainable development, and the global-warming treaties, is, fortunately causing many Americans to look more critically at the United Nations itself," John F. McManus, president of The John Birch Society, told *The New American*. "These are tentacles, but the UN is the octopus controlling the tentacles. And it is our government that is feeding the UN octopus with our tax dollars, which the UN funnels, through a myriad of fronts, into these efforts aimed at destroying our freedoms and empowering the UN as a global government. It's becoming more obvious each day that The John Birch Society's half-century campaign to 'Get US out of the United Nations — and Get the UN out of the US' — is right on the mark. This should be a major effort of the new 112th Congress."

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CHAD M. NEDRUD, M.D.



Dr. Nedrud received his medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine MD and his B.A. in Biology at the Colorado College. He has worked as the Chief Resident at the University of Arizona, Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Nedrud was awarded a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery at Shiley Eye Center in La Jolla, California, where he also served as an attending MD at the University of California San Diego.

Dr. Nedrud joined the staff at Rocky Mountain Eye Center in August 2008, and specializes in laser refractive and corneal surgery.

EDUCATION

1998-2002 University of Washington School of Medicine MD, June 2002

1991-1995 Colorado College B.A., Biology, May 1995

EMPLOYMENT

8/2008 Rocky Mountain Eye Center, Missoula, Montana, Cornea, Cataract, and Refractive Surgery

7/2007- University of California San Diego, Shiley Eye Center, San Diego, CA., Clinical Instructor Cornea, Cataract, and Refractive Surgery

7/2004- 6/2007 University of Arizona, Department of Ophthalmology, Tucson, AZ. Resident. Chief Resident 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

7/2003- 6/2004 Tucson Medical Center, Tucson, AZ. Transitional Intern

7/2002-6/2003 University of Arizona, Department of Ophthalmology, Tucson, AZ. Research Associate, Post Doctoral Cornea and Refractive Surgery Research Fellowship with Dr. Robert Snyder. Study focus on LASIK/LASEK surgery and intracameral antibiotics

6/1997-6/1998 Oral Surgical Associates, Missoula, MT. Surgical Technician. Utilized conversation and interpersonal skills to comfort and answer patients' questions. Directly assisted surgeon during office procedures and post-operative care

3/1996-6/1997 St. Patrick's Hospital, Missoula, MT. Health Care Assistant. Provided rehab. care and support on a busy orthopedic and general surgery unit. Interacted with physicians and nurses gaining greater insight into the medical profession.

Fall 1995 SOLO Wilderness EMT, Conway, NH. Search and Rescue. Earned EMT certification. Combined medical training and team work skills to successfully complete search and rescue missions.

RESEARCH

2003 Publications. Solomon R, Donnenfeld ED, Perry HD, Snyder RW, Nedrud C, Stein J, Bloom A. Penetration of topically applied gatifloxacin 0.3%, moxifloxacin 0.5%, and ciprofloxacin 0.3% into the aqueous humor. *Ophthalmology*, 2005 Mar;112(3):466-9.

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PERSONAL

Hobbies include golf, skiing, jogging, fly fishing, and hiking with my wife and two children

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The secret environmental cost of US et

By [DINA CAPIELLO \(/author/dina-capiello\)](#) and [MATT APUZZO \(/author/matt-apuzzo\)](#) Nov. 12, 2013 4:59 PM ES

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In this July 20, 2013, photo, a plant that produces ethanol is next to a cornfield near Coon... Read more

CORYDON, Iowa (AP) — The hills of southern Iowa bear the scars of America's push for green energy. Heavy rain has washed away the soil. The polluted streams that dump fertilizer into the water supply.

Even the cemetery that disappeared like an apparition into a cornfield.

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

With the Iowa political caucuses on the horizon in 2007, presidential candidate Barack Obama made his plan to slow global warming. And when President George W. Bush signed a law that year requiring billions of gallons of ethanol to be added to their gasoline each year, Bush predicted it would make the country secure."

But the ethanol era has proven far more damaging to the environment than politicians promised at the time, the government admits today.

As farmers rushed to find new places to plant corn, they wiped out millions of acres of conservation land, polluted water supplies, an Associated Press investigation found.

Five million acres of land set aside for conservation — more than Yellowstone, Everglades and Yosemite — have vanished on Obama's watch.

Landowners filled in wetlands. They plowed into pristine prairies, releasing carbon dioxide that had been stored in the soil. Sprayers pumped out billions of pounds of fertilizer, some of which seeped into drinking water, contributing to the huge dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico where marine life can't survive.

The consequences are so severe that environmentalists and many scientists have now rejected the ethanol policy. But the Obama administration stands by it, highlighting its benefits to the farmers and ignoring the negative impact.

Farmers planted 15 million more acres of corn last year than before the ethanol boom, and the ethanol industry is still expanding in central Iowa.

The hilly, once-grassy landscape is made up of fragile soil that, unlike the earth in the rest of the state, is not so fertile. Nevertheless, it has yielded to America's demand for it.

"They're raping the land," said Bill Alley, a member of the board of supervisors in Wayne County, pointing to the rolling cow pastures shown in postcards sold at a Corydon pharmacy.

All energy comes at a cost. The environmental consequences of drilling for oil and natural gas are being ignored in the president's push to reduce greenhouse gases and curtail global warming, his administration is using the money from the ethanol industry to do not-so-green things.

In some cases, such as its decision to allow wind farms to kill eagles, the administration accepts the environmental damage as a pale in comparison to the havoc it believes global warming could ultimately cause.

Ethanol is different.

The government's predictions of the benefits have proven so inaccurate that independent scientists are questioning whether the ethanol industry can achieve its central environmental goal: reducing greenhouse gases. That makes the hidden costs of ethanol production much higher.

"This is an ecological disaster," said Craig Cox with the Environmental Working Group, a natural resources group. "The ethanol industry, which others, now finds itself at odds with the White House.

But it's a cost the administration is willing to accept. It believes supporting corn ethanol is the best development of biofuels that will someday be cleaner and greener than today's. Pulling the plug or mean killing any hope of these next-generation fuels.

"That is what you give up if you don't recognize that renewable fuels have some place here," EPA in a recent interview with AP. "All renewable fuels are not corn ethanol."

Still, corn supplies the overwhelming majority of ethanol in the United States, and the administrative environmental consequences.

"It just caught us completely off guard," said Doug Davenport, a Department of Agriculture official farmers to use conservation practices on their land. Despite those efforts, Davenport said he was erodible land was turned into corn fields.

Shortly after Davenport spoke to The Associated Press, he got an email ordering him to stop talkin

"We just want to have a consistent message on the topic," an Agriculture Department spokesman

That consistent message was laid out by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who spoke to ethanol and said ethanol was good for business.

"We are committed to this industry because we understand its benefits," he said. "We understand stabilizing and maintaining farm income which is at record levels."

The numbers behind the ethanol mandate have become so unworkable that, for the first time, the the amount of ethanol required to be added to the gasoline supply. An unusual coalition of big oil c and food companies is pushing the government to go even further and reconsider the entire ethanol

The ethanol industry is fighting hard against that effort. Industry spokesman Brooke Coleman disr on a page." An industry blog in Minnesota said the AP had succumbed "to Big Oil's deep pockets .

To understand how America got to an environmental policy with such harmful environmental cons field in Iowa.

Leroy Perkins, a white-haired, 66-year-old farmer in denim overalls, stands surrounded by waist-h acres like this, all hilly and erodible, that he set aside for conservation years ago.

Soon, he will have a decision to make: keep the land as it is or, like many of his neighbors, plow it the major sources of biofuel in the United States.

"I'd like to keep it in," he said. "This is what southern Iowa's for: raising grass."

For decades, the government's Conservation Reserve Program has paid farmers to stop farming c Grassy fields naturally convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, which helps combat global warming. P prevent topsoil from washing away.

For Perkins and his farmer neighbors in Wayne County, keeping farmland in conservation wasn't j financial sense.

A decade ago, Washington paid them about \$70 an acre each year to leave their farmland idle. W bushel (56 pounds) back then, farming the hilly, inferior soil was bad business.

Many opted into the conservation program. Others kept their grasslands for cow pastures.

Lately, though, the math has changed.

"I'm coming to the point where financially, it's not feasible," Perkins said.

The change began in 2007, when Congress passed a law requiring oil companies to blend billions gasoline.

Oil prices were high. Oil imports were rising quickly. The legislation had the strong backing of the junior senator from neighboring Illinois, the nation's second-largest corn producer.

"If we're going to get serious about investing in our energy future, we must give our family farmers shot at success," Obama said then.

The Democratic primary field was crowded, and if he didn't win the Iowa caucuses the road to the strong support for ethanol set him apart.

"Any time we could talk about support for ethanol, we did," said Mitch Stewart, the battleground st campaign. "It's how we would lead a lot of discussions."

President Bush signed the bill that December.

It would fall on the next president to figure out how to make it work.

President Obama's team at the EPA was sour on the ethanol mandate from the start.

As a way to reduce global warming, they knew corn ethanol was a dubious proposition. Corn dem using natural gas. What's worse, ethanol factories typically burn coal or gas, both of which release

Then there was the land conversion, the most controversial and difficult-to-predict outcome.

Digging up grassland releases greenhouse gases, so environmentalists are skeptical of any progr corn.

"I don't remember anybody having great passion for this," said Bob Sussman, who served on Oba retired as EPA's senior policy counsel. "I don't have a lot of personal enthusiasm for the program."

At the White House and the Department of Agriculture, though, there was plenty of enthusiasm.

One of Obama's senior advisers, Pete Rouse, had worked on ethanol issues as chief of staff to Sen. Tom Vilsack, a major ethanol booster and now chair of the DuPont Advisory Committee on Agriculture Innovation. Another Obama adviser at the time, Heather Zichal, grew up in northeast Iowa — as a child, she was a farm girl — and was one of the Obama campaign's leading voices on ethanol in her home state.

The administration had no greater corn ethanol advocate than Vilsack, the former Iowa governor.

"Tom understands that the solution to our energy crisis will be found not in oil fields abroad but in our own fields," Obama said in 2008. "That is the kind of leader I want in my Cabinet."

Writing the regulations to implement the ethanol mandate was among the administration's first major actions. The ethanol industry and environmental groups watched closely.

The EPA's experts determined that the mandate would increase demand for corn and encourage more corn production. Considering those factors, they said, corn ethanol was only slightly better than gasoline when it came to greenhouse gas emissions. Sixteen percent better, to be exact. And not in the short term. Only by 2022.

By law, though, biofuels were supposed to be at least 20 percent greener than gasoline.

From a legal standpoint, the results didn't matter. Congress exempted existing coal- and gas-burn power plants from this standard.

But as a policy and public relations issue, it was a real problem. The biofuel-friendly Obama administration's major selling point: that it was much greener than gasoline.

So the ethanol industry was livid. Lobbyists flooded the EPA with criticism, challenging the government's conclusion.

The EPA's conclusion was based on a model. Plug in some assumed figures — the price of corn, how much corn would grow per acre — and the model would spit out a number.

To get past 20 percent, the EPA needed to change its assumptions.

The most important of those assumptions was called the yield, a measure of how much corn could be produced per acre. The higher the yield, the easier it would be for farmers to meet the growing demand without plowing more land against ethanol in the greenhouse gas equation.

Corn yields have inched steadily upward over the years as farms have become more efficient. The EPA assumed that trend would continue, rising from 150 bushels per acre to about 180 by the year 2022.

Agriculture companies like Monsanto Co. and DuPont Pioneer, which stood to make millions off agricultural products, thought government those numbers were too low.

They predicted that genetically modified seeds — which they produce — would send yields skyrocketing. They could produce more corn on less land, reducing the environmental effects.

Documents show the White House budget office also suggested the EPA raise its yield assumption. When the final rule came out, the EPA and Agriculture officials added a new "high yield case scenario per acre.

The flaw in those assumptions, independent scientists knew, was that a big increase in corn prices in less hospitable areas like Wayne County, which could never produce such large yields.

But the EPA's model assumed only a tiny increase in corn prices.

"You adjust a few numbers to get it where you want it, and then you call it good," said Adam Liska, a systems engineering at the University of Nebraska. He supports ethanol, even with its environmental

When the Obama administration finalized its first major green-energy policy, corn ethanol barely scored: 21 percent.

"If you corrected any of a number of things, it would be on the other side of 20 percent," said Richard Howarth, a Sustainability Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley. "Is it a coincidence this is the case makes me wonder."

It didn't take long for reality to prove the Obama administration's predictions wrong.

The regulations took effect in July 2010. The following month, corn prices already had surpassed \$3.22 a bushel. That September, corn passed \$4, on its way to about \$7, where it has been most

Yields, meanwhile, have held fairly steady.

But the ethanol boom was underway.

—

It's impossible to precisely calculate how much ethanol is responsible for the spike in corn prices and the land changes in the Midwest.

Supporters of corn ethanol say extreme weather — dry one year, very wet the next — hurt farmers.

But diminishing supply wasn't the only factor. More corn than ever was being distilled into ethanol.

Historically, the overwhelmingly majority of corn in the United States has been turned into livestock feed. Fuel was the No. 1 use for corn in America. That was true in 2011 and 2012. Newly released data show that, this year, 43 percent of corn went to fuel and 45 percent went to livestock feed.

The more corn that goes to ethanol, the more that needs to be planted to meet other demands.

Scientists predicted that a major ethanol push would raise prices and, in turn, encourage farmers to convert conservation land. But the government insisted otherwise.

In 2008, the journal Science published a study with a dire conclusion: Plowing over conservation land releases carbon dioxide gas that it takes 48 years before new plants can break even and start reducing carbon dioxide.

For an ethanol policy to work, the study said, farmers could not plow into conservation land.

The EPA, in a report to Congress on the environmental effects of ethanol, said it was "uncertain" whether plowing into conservation farmland that had been set aside for conservation.

The Department of Energy was more certain. Most conservation land, the government said in its report, is unsuitable for use for annual row crop production."

America could meet its ethanol demand without losing a single acre of conservation land, Energy Secretary Steven Chu said. They would soon be proven wrong.

Before the government ethanol mandate, the Conservation Reserve Program grew every year for over a decade. Overnight, farmers began leaving the program, which simultaneously fell victim to budget cuts that prevented the program from being set aside for conservation.

In the first year after the ethanol mandate, more than 2 million acres disappeared.

Since Obama took office, 5 million more acres have vanished.

Agriculture officials acknowledge that conservation land has been lost, but they say the trend is reversible. It comes out, they say it will show that as corn prices stabilized, farmers once again began setting a

—

Losing conservation land was bad. But something even worse was happening.

Farmers broke ground on virgin land, the untouched terrain that represents, from an environmental perspective, an important asset.

The farm industry assured the government that wouldn't happen. And it would have been an easy

But rather than insisting that farmers report whenever they plow into virgin land, the government used an oversight method: Washington instead monitors the total number of acres of cropland nationwide, viewed at such a distance.

"They could not have designed a better approach to not detect land conversion," said Ben Larson, National Wildlife Federation.

Look closely at the corn boom in the northern Great Plains, however, and it's clear. Farmers are converting conservation farmland.

The Department of Agriculture began keeping figures on virgin land only in 2012 and determined that year.

But using government satellite data — the best tool available — the AP identified a conservative estimate of virgin land in Nebraska and the Dakotas alone that have been converted to fields of corn and soybeans before the ethanol mandate was passed.

"The last five years, we've become financially solvent," said Robert Malsam, a farmer in Edmunds in the central and eastern Dakotas who has plowed into wild grassland to expand his corn crop.

The price of corn is reshaping the land across the Midwest. In Wayne County, Iowa, for example, a gravel road once cut through a grassy field leading to a hilltop cemetery. But about two years ago, the road was paved. Now, visiting gravesites means walking a narrow path through the corn.

People have complained. It's too narrow for a hearse, too rutted for a wheelchair, too steep for the alley from the board of supervisors.

"This is what the price of corn does," he said. "This is what happens, right here."

When Congress passed the ethanol mandate, it required the EPA to thoroughly study the effects of ethanol. In a recent speech to ethanol lobbyists, Vilsack was unequivocal about those effects:

"There is no question air quality, water quality is benefiting from this industry," he said.

But the administration never actually conducted the required air and water studies to determine whether ethanol was cleaner than gasoline.

In an interview with the AP after his speech, Vilsack said he didn't mean that ethanol production was simply meant that gasoline mixed with ethanol is cleaner than gasoline alone.

In the Midwest, meanwhile, scientists and conservationists are sounding alarms.

Nitrogen fertilizer, when it seeps into the water, is toxic. Children are especially susceptible to nitrate "blue baby" syndrome and can be deadly.

Between 2005 and 2010, corn farmers increased their use of nitrogen fertilizer by more than one billion pounds. It isn't available from the Agriculture Department, but because of the huge increase in corn planting, the AP suggest another billion-pound fertilizer increase on corn farms since then.

Department of Agriculture officials note that the amount of fertilizer used for all crops has remained steady. The ethanol mandate hasn't caused a fertilizer boom across the board.

But in the Midwest, corn is the dominant crop, and officials say the increase in fertilizer use — driven by ethanol — is having an effect.

The Des Moines Water Works, for instance, has faced high nitrate levels for many years in the Des Moines River, which supply drinking water to 500,000 people. Typically, when pollution is too high in one river, water is diverted to another.

"This year, unfortunately the nitrate levels in both rivers were so high that it created an impossibility for the utility's general manager.

For three months this summer, workers kept huge machines running around the clock to clean the rivers to use less water so the utility had a chance to keep up.

Part of the problem was that last year's dry weather meant fertilizer sat atop the soil. This spring's water along with the remnants of the fertilizer from the most recent crop.

At the same time the ethanol mandate has encouraged farmers to plant more corn, Stowe said, that to limit fertilizer use or regulate the industrial drainage systems that flush nitrates and water into rivers.

With the Water Works on the brink of capacity, Stowe said he's considering suing the government.

In neighboring Minnesota, a government report this year found that significantly reducing the high water would require huge changes in farming practices at a cost of roughly \$1 billion a year.

"We're doing more to address water quality, but we are being overwhelmed by the increase in production of corn crops," said Steve Morse, executive director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership.

The nitrates travel down rivers and into the Gulf of Mexico, where they boost the growth of enormous algae blooms. The decomposition consumes oxygen, leaving behind a zone where aquatic life cannot survive.

This year, the dead zone covered 5,800 square miles of sea floor, about the size of Connecticut.

Larry McKinney, the executive director of the Harte Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, said the ethanol mandate worsened the dead zone.

"On the one hand, the government is mandating ethanol use," he said, "and it is unfortunately contributing to the dead zone in Mexico."

The dead zone is one example among many of a peculiar ethanol side effect: As one government program encourages farmers to plant more corn, other programs pay millions to clean up the mess.

Obama administration officials know the ethanol mandate hasn't lived up to its billing.

The next-generation biofuels that were supposed to wean the country off corn haven't yet materialized. Instead, millions of gallons of clean fuel will be made from agricultural waste. Every year, the government invests billions in the program.

Every day without those cleaner-burning fuels, the ethanol industry stays reliant on corn and the ethanol industry.

The EPA could revisit its model and see whether ethanol is actually as good for the environment as the ethanol industry says it is. The agency says it doesn't have the money or the manpower.

Even under the government's optimistic projections, the ethanol mandate wasn't going to reduce costs with the model so far off from reality, independent scientists say it's hard to make an argument for policy.

"I'd have to think really hard to come up with a scenario where it's a net positive," said Silvia Secchi, an agriculture economist.

She paused a few moments, then added, "I'm stumped."

In June, when Obama gave a major policy speech on reducing greenhouse gas, he didn't mention ethanol, which received a brief, passing reference.

What was once billed as an environmental boon has morphed into a government program to help

"I don't know whether I can make the environmental argument, or the economic argument," Vilsack said. "To me, it's an opportunity argument."

Congress and the administration could change the ethanol mandate, tweak its goals or demand more from Congress and rewriting the law would mean picking a fight with agricultural lobbyists, a fight that would be on the side of big oil companies, which despise the ethanol requirement.

So the ethanol policy cruises on autopilot.

Bob Dinneen, president of the Renewable Fuels Association, the ethanol lobbying group, said the standards. Ethanol still looks good compared to the oil industry, which increasingly relies on environmental hydraulic fracturing or pulls from carbon-heavy tar sands.

Leroy Perkins, the farmer agonizing about what to do with his 91 acres, says he likes ethanol as a farmer because it knows it fuels the corn prices that are transforming his county.

"If they do change the fuel standard, you'll see the price of corn come down overnight," he said. "I know. But when it's too high, it hurts everybody."

Investors from as far away as Maryland and Pennsylvania have bought thousands of acres in Wayne County, with prices skyrocketing from \$350 per acre a decade ago to \$5,000 today.

One in every four acres of in the county is now owned by an out-of-towner.

Those who still own land often rent it to farming companies offering \$300 or more per acre. Perkins says he would rent his land year if he let somebody plant corn on his land. That's nothing to dismiss in a county where typical

But he knows what that means. He sees the black streaks in his neighbor's cornfields, knowing the cause is rain. He doesn't want that for his family's land.

"You have to decide, do you want to be the one to..."

He doesn't finish his sentence.

"We all have to look at our pocketbooks."

—

Associated Press writers Jack Gillum in Washington and Chet Brokaw in Roscoe, S.D., contribute

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