



March 24, 2009

When Theory is Confronted by Reality

News Item: On March 12, 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, hundreds of leading scientists participating in the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change (ISCCC) warned that global warming is accelerating beyond the worst predictions and threatening to trigger irreversible climate shifts on the planet. Their report stated, “The worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories (or even worse) are being realized.”

Lord Nicholas Stern, former chief economist for the World Bank and ISCCC participant, stated, “Hundreds of millions of people would have to move, probably billions. What would be the implication of that? Extended conflict, social disruption, war essentially, over much of the world for many decades.” He then called on the nations of the world to provide \$400 billion in funding to fight global warming.

Question: Are these scientists living on the same Planet Earth as the rest of us?

Reality Check: As noted in last week’s Hot Air Report, global temperatures have not risen in the last decade, in spite of continued predictions of doom and gloom from the climate computer models. But there’s more: Over the last two years temperatures actually appear to be heading downward. Consider the following:

In the summer of 2008, the National Weather Service reported that the state of Alaska experienced their coolest summer high temperatures since the early 1970’s. In December 2008, several cities in the southern United States reported their earliest measurable snowfall on record. Las Vegas reported its heaviest December snowfall on record, and even Malibu, CA, reported an unusual snowfall.

Here at home in Wisconsin, following a winter of record snowfall and chilly early spring temperature, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported that planting in southern Wisconsin was delayed by “at least a couple of weeks” because of cold and wet soil conditions in late April 2008. Last summer, Milwaukee’s official thermometer failed to record a maximum temperature of 90 degrees, only the fifth time that has happened since records began in 1870. Two of those five summers have occurred in the last decade.

This winter (December 2008-February 2009), the National Weather Service reported that the average temperature in Milwaukee was 2.3 degrees below normal, Madison 3.9 degrees below normal and Green Bay 4.5 degrees below normal.

In one of the several severe winter storms to hit Europe this winter, parts of England reported their heaviest snowfall in 18 years. And winter also came early, as London reported its first October snowfall in 74 years.

Let's not forget the Southern Hemisphere, where winter is June through August: In July of 2007, Buenos Aires, Argentina reported its first major snowfall since 1918. This followed a cold snap in late May that brought the coldest temperatures in 40 years.

Of course, a series of weather events doesn't mean a climate change is taking place. On the other hand, the recent events don't exactly show "that global warming is accelerating beyond the worst predictions" either. Common sense should give us pause when theory is contradicted by reality. Unfortunately, global warming zealots seem unable to even consider these types of contradictions.

So here are some obvious questions: Are these ISCCC scientists getting their information from computer models? (See last week's Hot Air Report). Are they only looking at places where they can see some increase in temperatures? Do they actually check weather reports from around the world?

Or, when they make their ISCCC presentation to politicians in Copenhagen next December, are they looking to discuss a new global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012? (Under the Kyoto Protocol, industrial nations agreed to reduce emissions 5.2% below their 1990 emissions.) What will be the price tag of the ISCCC's proposal? Will \$400 billion be enough? Stay tuned for next week's Hot Air Report.

If you wish to remove yourself from the mailing list, please respond back to this email with the subject line "REMOVE".

State Capitol • Room 317 North • Post Office Box 8953 • Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-0486 • District: (262) 240-0808 • Toll Free: (888) 534-0023
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov