

American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting

Why Is the ANS Tolerating Malthusianism?

by Cloret Ferguson

“Precisely, because we face dangers that go far beyond what we readily imagine, the spectre of global warming still remains, for many people, too nebulous to contemplate. But what is not nebulous is the human condition that lies behind global warming....

“This crisis, it bears emphasis, originates not in human evil, but in *human success*.... It is this success taking the form in agriculture, industry, commerce, and medicine that has spawned the growth in human population and the gathering *threat* to our environment.”

—John Ritch, Director General of the World Nuclear Association, in his speech to the ANS President’s Plenary session, in Boston, June 25, 2007

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The President’s Plenary panel, titled “It’s All About the People: The Future of Nuclear,” opened the American Nuclear Society’s Annual Meeting, held in Boston June 24-28. This panel also included similarly sophisticated arguments delivered by U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, and the expressly pessimistic views of Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO President Edward Sullivan.

Why did the American Nuclear Society lend top-billing to a message which constructs a *Feindbild* (enemy image) of population growth and human progress? Why is it banking on fear of “global warming” to sell nuclear energy to the general public? Will such an unscientific posture derail the full-steam-ahead nuclear energy, and high-technology infrastructure projects currently under way around the world?

From day one of the ANS conference, it was evident that a vortex of epistemological contradictions existed between the published objectives of both the ANS and the WNA, and the ideological underpinnings of the speeches made by their designated representatives in the



British Nuclear Energy Society

John Ritch: A Malthusian who should know better.

keynote panel.

Yet, in private discussions, few individuals readily denied the need for action to be taken in the direction of these aims, and many expressed interest in the organizing activity of Lyndon LaRouche’s political movement to achieve the appropriate results.

Two LaRouche associates, representing *21st Century Science & Technology*, were at the ANS conference as reporters, and talked to many of the conference participants. We found a curious interest, especially among the graduate and undergraduate students in attendance, about the scientific work of the LaRouche Youth Movement. Several students had presented aspects of their own research projects before smaller groups attending the technical sessions.

Renaissance Vs. Malthusianism

The ANS conference was convened as a constellation of newly emerging opportunities unfolded, set into play only months earlier in Russia. These initiatives

seek to tilt the political, economic, and strategic configuration of power toward the course of strategic partnership for mutual infrastructure development and war-avoidance. The proposed Bering Strait Tunnel project, part of the LaRouche proposal for a Eurasian Land-Bridge, is one example of this. Another is Russian President Putin’s proposals for a joint Russian-U.S. sharing of ABM systems.

Under the World Nuclear Association-World Nuclear University umbrella are gathered the national research labs of sovereign governments, government energy agencies, government-sponsored universities, private energy consortiums, research facilities, individual scientists and engineers. These interests are representative of the nuclear energy and nuclear energy-related industry in 30 nations on four continents, which account for 90 percent of the world’s activity in mining and production of nuclear fuel and two thirds of the world’s nuclear-generated electricity, according to WNA’s public literature.

But the overriding atmosphere of the conference, despite reports of a nuclear renaissance, was WNA John Ritch’s carefully designed attack on population growth, laying bare his own personal outlook respecting the nature of human beings. He judges mankind entirely as a biological creature.

Quite the contrary, the history of civilization instructs us to employ a qualitatively distinct yardstick in measuring the upward progress of humankind. The measure of man resides in the realm of cognition. Upon mankind’s creative progress, within Vernadsky’s Noosphere, the repetitive aping behavior of animals, and the sun-worshipping of plants both depend. In pitching the overpopulation myth in this Wellsian mode, even to scientists, these nuclear associations betray an allegiance to the anti-science mafia’s militant policing of the scientific community, and its stranglehold over science, in general.