

THE COOLING! THE WARMING!! THE POISON IVY!!! Si Frumkin, 860 wrds, ivy.doc,

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If you are younger than 50 or so you probably don't remember the horrible danger that our planet was in about 35 years ago: *Global Cooling!* It was just as threatening and certain as the Global Warming is today. The scientific data were all there – the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado predicted a return to the ice age due to atmospheric manmade pollution blocking the sun!

This dire prediction was immediately picked up by prestigious publications: *Science magazine* (Dec. 10, 1976) warned of "extensive Northern Hemisphere glaciation"; *Science Digest* (February 1973) reported that "the world's climatologists are agreed that we must prepare for the next ice age"; *The Christian Science Monitor* (Aug. 27, 1974) printed that glaciers "have begun to advance", "growing seasons in England and Scandinavia are getting shorter" and "the North Atlantic is cooling down about as fast as an ocean can cool." *Newsweek* (April 28, 1975) agreed that meteorologists "are almost unanimous" that catastrophic famines might result from the global cooling. *New York Times* (Sept. 14 and May 21, 1975) confirmed the return of another ice age and an inevitable major cooling of the climate: "...it was well established that the Northern Hemisphere's climate has been getting cooler since about 1950."

And then, nothing happened! The Global Cooling scare went away, replaced by another scare: the apocalyptic, terrifying and inevitable Global Warming!

This time man-made CO₂ is the culprit. Unless it is immediately reduced, it will create the Greenhouse Effect resulting in warmer temperatures, melting ice packs and glaciers, catastrophically rising sea levels and the termination of life on Earth.

There is just one thing wrong with this scenario and I will put it in capital letters so you don't miss it:

TOTAL HUMAN CONTRIBUTION TO GREENHOUSE GASES ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY ABOUT 0.28% OF THE "GREENHOUSE EFFECT". MAN-MADE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) COMPRISES ABOUT 0.117% OF THE TOTAL, AND

MAN-MADE SOURCES OF OTHER GASES (METHANE, NITROUS OXIDE, OTHER GASES) CONTRIBUTES ANOTHER 0.163%.

OF THE 186 BILLION TONS OF CO₂ THAT ENTER EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE EACH YEAR, ONLY 6 BILLION TONS COME FROM HUMAN ACTIVITY. APPROXIMATELY 90 BILLION TONS COME FROM BIOLOGIC ACTIVITY IN THE OCEANS AND ANOTHER 90 BILLION TONS FROM VOLCANOES AND DECAYING LAND PLANTS

APPROXIMATELY 99.72% OF THE "GREENHOUSE EFFECT" IS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES – MOSTLY WATER VAPOR AND TRACES OF OTHER GASES WHICH WE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT. ELIMINATING ALL HUMAN ACTIVITY WOULD HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE!

CO₂ is odorless, colorless and tasteless. Plants breathe CO₂ and emit oxygen. CO₂ is a nutrient, not a pollutant, and all life – plants and animals – benefit from it.

So is there Global Warming? Yes, there is and we are in the middle of it. It started about 18,000 years ago when most of the earth surface was frozen. Over the last 15,000 years Global Warming has changed our world from an icebox to a garden. The cycles in our planet's temperature are well known and understood: there are the 100,000-, 41,000- and 21,000-year cycles that are caused by the slight wobble of Earth's orbit around the Sun. The shorter cycles – 206 and 11 years – are caused by periodic sunspot activity.

Earth's climate was in a warming period from about 1000 CE to 1350 CE when it started cooling again. This "Little Ice Age" lasted until about 1860 and is likely responsible for the Irish Potato Famine and the demise of medieval Viking colonies in Greenland.

The Poison Ivy study is one of the more absurd examples of Global Warming scare tactics. I heard about it on National Public Radio and read an Associated Press release that was picked up by many publications. The 5-year study involved growing poison ivy in a CO₂-enriched atmosphere that was supposed to mimic post-Global Warming conditions. As a result it grew about 150% bigger and more poisonous than usual. This conjured a picture of yet another Global Warming danger – a planet covered by deadly poisonous plants! I can only

wonder why the experimenters chose poison ivy instead of, say, corn, wheat, pineapples or potatoes – in fact, any plants will grow better in a warm and CO₂ enriched atmosphere. We know that during the past warming cycles, growing seasons lengthened and in some areas there were two or even three harvests, and an increase in food supply.

Finally, the melting glaciers and polar ice caps that will cause humanity to drown in the rising oceans. The Global Warming aficionados predict that sea levels will rise between 1 and 3 feet in the next 100 to 150 years. These figures are disputed by many scientists who believe that the rise – if any – will be a matter of inches rather than feet. But even if the doomsayers are right and water will indeed rise 3 feet within the next century – well, surely this will happen gradually, so that affected populations can be safely relocated elsewhere to enjoy the warm weather and the different ocean views.

And so, enjoy our planet – the sky is not falling. If you want to learn more about it in

greater detail, go to Google and look for “Global Warming: a chilling perspective”