

Energy Insider by William Engdahl

Independent oilmen honor Anderson

Arco's chairman, one of the world's most vicious anti-growth strategists, has received the yearly IPAA award.

For some reason, the 6,000 member Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) has just presented its highest annual award to Robert O. Anderson. This is analogous to presenting John Dillinger with a Businessman of the Year award.

The IPAA is an organization of producer-oriented non-multinational oilmen, many of whom consider themselves dedicated defenders of the American economic system and ardent opponents of Malthusian zero growth and related "environmentalist" policies.

Strictly on the basis of his track record on issues affecting the development of their own industry, these independents should have killed the Anderson nomination.

Robert O. Anderson among other evils sits as chairman of Atlantic Richfield (Arco). This struggling little "independent" operation is a \$16-billion multinational energy conglomerate. That's neither here nor there, as such. It's only that the strange Mr. Anderson rose like a meteor after the war through some fortunate friendships; it appears that "friends" within the notorious Kennedy Department of Justice facilitated circumstances which allowed the head of the tiny Hondo Oil Company to acquire the assets of Richfield Oil in the 1960s. Two years later, in 1968, Anderson's new Richfield leases were the site of what became the largest single oil find in U.S.

history: the 10-billion-barrel Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska.

There is also Anderson's public track record in turning the knife against possible independent competitors by backing repeal of the controversial domestic Oil Depletion Allowance in the early 1970s. The duplicitous Anderson and his Arco crony Thornton Bradshaw are also on public record supporting Jimmy Carter's notorious \$227 billion Windfall Profits Tax on domestic crude oil production. Of course, Anderson and his friends at Exxon and British Petroleum had first secured an amendment largely exempting their Alaskan wealth from the tax!

But were this all, we could simply dismiss Robert O. Anderson as one of recent history's more successful crooks. When we peel away the "business" facade, we find that Robert O. Anderson prides himself on being one of the world's leading architects of the genocidal zero growth attack on industrial and scientific development, euphemistically called "environmentalism".

If any reader thinks I exaggerate, I challenge him to look up the public records of funding by Anderson's own Aspen Institute for Humanistic (sic) Studies. What the inquiry will reveal is the fact that Anderson personally bankrolled every major anti-growth environment policy since the launching of the Club of Rome project in 1969. While his Aspen Institute was busy

holding policy seminars in Colorado which shaped what became the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act, Anderson gave \$200,000 of his own money to set up the so-called Friends of the Earth. This group played an instrumental role in keeping millions of acres of potential oil and mineral lands in Alaska and the West undeveloped.

The Aspen Institute energy strategy was produced by John Sawhill, who also coordinated energy control policy for Henry Kissinger's Trilateral Commission and architected for the Carter administration the 1980 passage of the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax.

As an activist in the Republican Party, Anderson is linked to the attempt to subvert the pro-growth inclinations of many in the Reagan administration into a catastrophic anti-energy high-cost alternative, including the Arco-owned coal slurry pipeline project in Wyoming, the vast Arco oil acreage in the Rockies, their major share in the absurd synfuels boondoggle, and their share in the \$40 billion Alaska natural gas pipeline operation.

But the ultimate tip-off is his complicity in what can only be termed genocidal population-reduction policies. Robert O. Anderson personally chairs the Carter-Cyrus Vance Global 2000 "Committee for the Year 2000." This is the group that is known to be trying to sucker Interior Secretary Watt into becoming a member, in order to transform the Reagan administration into something far more hideous than Carter's insane backers ever dreamed of. Sound implausible? Ask "Republican" Russel Train of the World Wildlife Fund. He is working on this with Robert O. Anderson.