

Editorial

Deregulated, or deranged?

A stopped clock is always right twice. And so it is not surprising that the Conservative Revolution gang, in their demonic attack on the powers of the federal government of the United States, has latched on to the monstrosity of environmentalist regulations. Without a doubt it would be a good thing if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were disbanded, and the body of law connected to so-called protection of the environment, adopted over the past 20 years, were simply suspended, pending careful review.

The intent by the crowd of House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), to freeze the government's powers to make rules, would especially impinge on the 20 major environmentalist laws which lay the basis for the myriad of regulations which are in truth a vicious attack upon the U.S. economy. Their proposals would effectively prevent any new regulations—these include requiring an adequate risk assessment on the economic havoc which might be caused by the regulation, and also a plan to compensate landowners whose property would be de facto devalued by such a regulation.

But these Republicans, who are trying to capitalize on anti-environmentalist sentiment to push their own agenda, fail to call attention to the fact that George Bush rightly called himself the “environmental President.” Many of these regulations were put into place during his term in office; and the EPA itself was created by Richard Nixon.

What Gingrich and Gramm never mention is the role of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature in spawning the environmentalist movement; these same forces are orchestrating a campaign in support of Gingrich and Gramm's Conservative Revolution in the United States.

The present “conflict” between the regulatory fascists, who are up in arms against any curtailment of their powers to summarily shut down whole sectors of the U.S. economy in the name of “protecting” the environment, and the deregulatory fascists, who would end all social benefits, including social insurance and pension programs, in the name of decentralizing the economy, is reminiscent of the situation in Germany

right before Hitler came to power. On the one side, there were the radical Nazi street gangs led by Gregor Strasser, and on the other the communist hooligans who opposed them.

Even should the clock be rolled back on environmentalist regulations, there would be no reason to celebrate, if at the same time the entire economy collapses. The Conservative Revolution poses a far greater threat to the economy of America than even the worst excesses of the environmentalists.

We can hope that soon enough, as the number of instances of economic collapse multiply, the insanity of the Contract on America (as President Clinton has correctly amended its name) will become glaringly obvious. After all, how many instances, such as the Orange County bankruptcy, the crash of the peso in Mexico, and now Barings Bank going under, do people need to realize that the whole rotten edifice is about to collapse on their heads?

A year ago, Lyndon LaRouche issued his ninth economic forecast, in which he proved that a crash would be inevitable as long as the financial-speculative game was allowed to continue unchallenged, and to continue to parasitize those areas of the productive economy which still functioned—at least to some extent.

The hypothesis upon which the Conservative Revolution crowd operates, is the Benthamite delusion that all of human existence is regulated by a hedonistic calculus of how to optimize the pleasure one feels, against the pain one must suffer. According to this theory, every individual seeks to maximize his or her own situation at the expense of everyone else. For them, everything is explained simply by answering the question: Who is doing what to whom? Who is cheating whom? Above all, who is cheating on the contract which God made personally with me?

The environmentalist movement is pure evil, and the Conservative Revolution is equally evil; the Gingrich-Gramm crowd denies a necessary role for government to preserve the existence of the national economy. The question before us is not to take sides between evils, but to introduce the rule of reason.