

# Drama from the Viscount of Brenchley

Lord Christopher Walter Monckton is known as “the bane of environmental extremists everywhere...with the hammer of truth.” By Vin Suprynowicz



PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTOPHER WALTER MONCKTON

Christopher Walter Monckton, third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, is a hereditary peer, journalist, Conservative political advisor (including to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher), inventor of the mathematical puzzle *Eternity*, and a British public speaker. Ridiculing the failed computer models of global-warming alarmists, Lord Monckton drew cheers at the 2010 Oxford Union debate on global warming (which his side won, decisively) when he removed his cummerbund and declared: “If I asked this House how long this cummerbund is, you might telephone around all the manufacturers and ask them how many cummerbunds they made, and how long each type of cummerbund was, and put the data into a computer run by a zitty teenager eating too many doughnuts, and the computer would make an expensive guess. Or you could take a tape measure and MEASURE IT!”

Christopher Walter Monckton, former journalist and third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, is a hereditary peer of the British Empire and a skilled public speaker. That means he knows you don’t win over an audience on either side of a topic as technical as global warming by droning away with statistics till they’re snoring into their after-dinner custard.

Although the audiences may still be smaller, the advantage here is increasingly to the skeptics. Let Al Gore and his ilk stomp around like Bigfoot, roaring that doom is at hand. As the decades go by and disaster fails to arrive, they’re stuck rejuvelling their figures and redefining their terms like any other “Repent Now!” prophet who finds both himself and his audience looking inconveniently healthy, several years after his established doomsday deadline.

Monckton knows how to work an audience. The reason the promoters of global warming won’t reveal their true colors is “the Stoplight Syndrome,” Monckton explains. “The Greens are too yellow to admit they’re really Reds.”

He’s not even beneath quoting Monty Python’s “dead parrot” routine, reporting that poor global-warming fans are now stuck trying to get a refund for “a deceased theory. It has expired. It has shuffled off this mortal coil.”

The man-made global-warming zealots know most people’s eyes glaze over when faced with charts full of numbers. The easiest answer for Mr. Common Man, at that point, is to say, “I don’t understand all this gobbledegook; I’ll just trust the experts.” Since literally 95 percent of the experts are on the government payroll, the warming zealots can live with that. What they can’t stand is to be shown up as a bunch of clowns.

Enter Christopher Monckton, who doesn’t mind doing some clowning of his own, so long as the effect is to expose the global-warming circus for what it is.

At the 2011 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, Monckton got hold of a preliminary draft report in which the group was set to call for the reduction of carbon-dioxide emissions in the Western nations “by more than 100 percent.” He waits a moment to let his audience absorb that number. It takes a while for the laughter to start. He publicized that at the time, he says, causing a bit of a stir.

The response of Durban conference management was to try to bar him from the

pressroom when they realized more reporters were showing up at Monckton's press conferences than their own.

When he got to the next U.N. climate conference in Doha, in the little oil satrapy of Qatar in 2012, he asked for a copy of that year's draft report and was told they didn't know what he was talking about. There was no such report. In fact, they insisted they'd never handed out any "draft reports" at the beginning of their conferences, ever.

At his luncheon speech at the Heartland Institute Climate Change Conference in Las Vegas on July 9, where he was introduced as "the bane of environmental extremists everywhere...with the hammer of truth," Monckton gleefully showed slides of himself looking slightly ridiculous skydiving into the climate conference in Doha—where they'd made it known he was not welcome—dressed up in the robe and headdress of an Arab sheikh.

"A lot of desks set aside for member states and organizations sit vacant at these conferences," Monckton confides. "I found myself at the desk set aside for the delegation from Burma, from Myanmar. Presumably they were still out at the pool, or shopping, or whatever. At that point the man at the podium asked if anyone had anything else to say. Well, there I was sitting at a microphone, with a toggle switch labeled On and Off."

Monckton smiles. His audience is already laughing.

"So I turned it on and said I represented the Developing Nations Coastal Commission. I had to make something up, and that sounded pretty good. And then I told them there had actually been no global warming in 16 years."

The laughter grows louder.

"I had expected a standing ovation for informing them there had been no warming in 16 years. I thought they'd be happy to learn we could all go home and stop worrying. Instead you'd have thought we were at a Justin Bieber concert and they'd just announced Mr. Bieber was not going to be appearing that day, after all. It was bedlam."

#### For French TV

No one denies there may have been some modest global warming over the decades, or that mankind's activities may have contributed to some modest rise in carbon-dioxide levels, Monckton says. But the assertion to which the zealots claim to have won such near-unanimous consensus that



Attention-getter Lord Monckton arrived at the 2011 U.N. Global Warming Conference in Durban, South Africa, by skydiving (below). The next year, for the follow-up conference in Doha, Qatar, he arrived on camelback, wearing traditional Arab garb. But he had reverted to his more typical pinstripe suit when he borrowed the abandoned microphone of the delegation from Burma to inform attendees there had been no global warming for 16 years. "There were keening shrieks of rage from the delegates," he reports.

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no more debate should be permitted is: "The activities of mankind are the major cause of an ongoing catastrophic amount of global warming, and mankind has it in its power to slow or stop global warming."



In fact, he states, there's been no net warming in 17 years, 10 months. Sea levels fell from 2003 to 2008. Hurricane levels are at a low. Droughts have declined over the past 30 years. What the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *really* wants to do is "abolish free markets, and impose huge taxes," he says. "Warming" is just the latest excuse for a very old agenda.

After his luncheon talk, Monckton started to work his way through the crowd toward the exit doors. I was chatting with him, briefly, when a gal with short hair and short legs and a French accent came up, reminding him that he'd agreed to be interviewed "for French TV."

Checking later, I determined this was one Laure Noualhat, with the French documentary outfit Phares & Balises (Lighthouse[s] & Beacon[s]). The firm's Web page explains of Ms. Noualhat's planned 52-minute documentary, "Climate War":

*"Il s'agira d'appréhender le courant 'climato-sceptique' particulièrement bien implanté aux Etats-Unis, qui tente d'installer le doute, voire de contester la thèse du réchauffement de*

*la terre, pourtant scientifiquement démontrée..."*

Well, you can look it up yourself, but perhaps you'll allow me to informally translate:

"This [documentary] will involve understanding the current 'climate skeptic' theories,

particularly well established in the United States, which attempt to create doubt about global warming, despite its having been scientifically proven. Industrialists work hard to undermine [the truth of global warming] with intense lobbying in favor of their private interests and against the public interest. They fund 'think tanks' which spread false theories or attempt to invalidate the truth, support politicians who deny the reality of global warming, sponsoring the publication of writings called 'scientific,' which are not.... This approach has borne fruit, with 48 percent of Americans now saying 'global warming is exaggerated.' The 'climate skeptic' movement is proliferating and will tackle France using the same methods as in the United States."

So let's harbor no delusion that Ms. Noualhat and her one-man camera crew were visiting the climate conference to review the skeptics' data with an open mind.

I followed the lady and her cameraman out into the hallway, where they equipped Lord Monckton with a wireless microphone and started rolling. After a few minutes of softball questions, the predictable zinger

came when the charming Miss Noualhat asked Lord Monckton who was paying him to be there.

Monckton responded: "First I just want to know, do you ask this same question of those on the other side, who claim man-made global warming is an ongoing catastrophe? Do you ask who funds them?"

"Absolutely, every time. We ask them every time," Ms. Noualhat replied.

"Well, I'm going to take you at your word on that," he said, "though we'll be checking."

Now, I'm not going to call Miss Noualhat a liar, because I've never watched any of her documentaries and I don't know. But come on. Global-warming true believers don't tend to ask government-funded scientists who's funding them because we all know exactly who funds them: 95 percent of all global-warming "science" is funded by government agencies and tax-funded government grants.

The point is that the true believers can't imagine a government-sponsored scientist ever fudging his data or presenting his results in a selective way designed to please the politicians and bureaucrats who fund him, thus winning approval for his or her next government grant (despite the jaw-dropping data fudging of "Climategate"—look up "University of East Anglia Michael Mann Phil Jones"—which many have called "the science scandal of the century").

Yet these same dewy-eyed Pollyannas then turn around and cynically snarl that anyone on the other side of the debate must be willing to sell—heck, must already have sold—his soul, agreeing to present outright lies as scientific findings in exchange for huge payoffs from the greedy oil and coal companies, because why else would anyone say such disturbing things?

"I witnessed exactly the same thing," in other interviews by the French team that week, Heartland Institute media guy Jim Lakely, who issued Miss Noualhat's media credentials as well as mine, told me when I called him in Chicago to check on her affiliation. "One or two questions about the science," to get the interview subject relaxed and talking, "and then, literally, 'So how much are the oil companies paying you to be here?'"

### No Human Cost?

Laure Noualhat asked the "Who's paying you" question again.

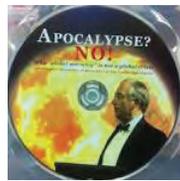
"I'm not being paid to be here at all," Monckton replied. "Aside from providing the

airfare and the hotel room. I'm here on my own dime."

Miss Noualhat continued trying to get him to admit that corporate interests with ulterior motives were funding his travel and talks.

Monckton finally said: "I've already answered that question. No one is paying me anything at all to be here, and frankly if you

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*Al Gore says "terrible tragedies are occurring in the southern Sahara because of drought which he blames on global warming," notes Scottish skeptic Lord Monckton, a mathematical prodigy. "There is no drought caused by global warming. In 2007 there were record rains across the whole of the southern Sahara. In the past 25 years the Sahara has shrunk by some 300,000 square kilometers because of additional rainfall."*

don't have anything else, if you can't raise your game beyond that, I'm done. I won't have anything further to do with you." At that point the peer turned and strode away down the hallway, leaving Miss Noualhat's cameraman to rush after him and ask if they could have their wireless microphone back.

I stopped Lord Monckton, shook his hand and told him I thought it was about time someone got off the defensive and responded that way.

"Well, I've always wanted to do that," he said, "and this seemed the perfect time. I'd already answered the question several times.

In this case it so happens I'm being paid nothing by anyone. Except for the airfare and hotel, I'm here at my own expense."

The Green Extreme tend to imply there will be no human cost if they can succeed in crippling the fossil-fuel industry, somehow magically replacing it with windmills, elves in hollow trees, whatever. In fact, Christian scholar Calvin Beisner points out it will cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$50 billion to comply with new EPA rules on carbon dioxide—while for only \$49.5 billion we could "build fossil-fueled power plants to electrify every home in the world." And meantime, he said in Las Vegas, the EPA admits full compliance will have zero effect on global climate, "so it's all pain and no gain."

Paul Driessen, author of "Eco-Imperialism/Green Power Black Death," calls the Green Extreme "dogmatic, imperialistic and authoritarian. Their ultimate goal is to control the future of mankind... They're shutting down Kentucky, the coal country, at a huge human cost."

They oppose the use of DDT to control mosquitoes and thus malaria because "it has added to the (human) population problem," Driessen asserts. Obama seeks the "de-development" of the United States. Sustainable development, he says, is nothing but the new euphemism for Deep Green.

Driessen says 700 million Africans and 300 million Indians now have no access to electricity or fossil fuels. Two to four million people every year die of lung diseases caused by heating and cooking with wood or charcoal, and another two million die every year of diseases caused by the lack of electricity to preserve food and provide clean water. Yet the goal of the Greens is not to make electricity and refrigeration more affordable, but to put them permanently out of reach for the world's poor.

Retired Canadian geography professor Timothy Ball reported in Las Vegas that in India, the prime minister's Council on Climate Change recently announced that that country "would rather save its people from poverty than from global warming."

Sounds about right to me. ■

*Vin Suprynowicz served for 20 years as an award-winning columnist and editorial writer for the daily Las Vegas Review-Journal. His 4th book, "The Testament of James," will be published in late November. All of his books are available at <http://tiny.cc/kl9pnx>.*