

Trick or Treaty?

One-world socialists want to save the planet by spreading the wealth and collapsing the economy.

By Tim Findley.

After computer hackers exposed the attempt by British scientists to hide the truth on global warming, people all over the world used familiar terms to describe what they think about Al Gore's phony doomsday scenario. "Fraud," "hoax," and "swindle" were among the milder descriptions as thousands of delegates still made their way to Copenhagen for what was meant to be the history-making, or -breaking, U.N. Conference on Climate Change.

They waited in that charming Danish capital for President Barack Hussein Obama to set it all right, some saying "the polluters" were actually behind the exposures that have already cost one chief scientist his job and will likely do more damage, deserving or not, throughout what they call "the scientific community." Copenhagen is Hans Christian Andersen's town, full of fairy tales, but serious at heart, the same town that only that past September rather rudely rejected Obama when he came with a delegation from Chicago seeking an International Olympic Committee designation for a future site of the games. The committee gave it to Rio de Janeiro.

But now there were delegates from over 190 nations and hundreds of others from non-government organizations (NGOs), not to mention some 2,000 media reps waiting for Obama with their hands out, and apparently not eager to trash the cash cow that global warming gave them by the billions over the last 10 years when it didn't exist. In the United States, there was also disgusted resentment at having been "had" by cooked science, but very few Americans saw into the depth of what happened and pondered whether such toxic terms as subversion and conspiracy might be applicable.

What was being asked of Obama in the treaty being drawn for Copenhagen would amount to something close to national surrender in turning over a substantial portion of what is left of the U.S. economy, as well as resources and control of energy use to an international commission. At base line it could require him to relinquish a significant portion of U.S. sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable, and unseen U.N. authority already tainted by corruption. All at the expense of "free" Americans sold or not on the idea and all in the fraudulent name of human-caused global warming. (See "Lies and Damned Lies," by Dr. Michael S. Coffman on page 44.)

This is not a story of black helicopters and blue helmets that the radical left persistently uses to mock the concerns of "conspiracy nuts." It is, however, the story of more than 40 years of secret planning, infiltration, and propaganda that included strange and nefarious international agents, power-driven politicians, and greedy, corrupt organizations willing to destroy the fundamental wealth and freedoms of the United States. Harsh as that story seems, it is what began emerging from the hundreds of emails and data "hacked" from Britain's University of East Anglia Climate Research Unit. Ironically, we might never have known the truth but for what former Vice President Al Gore still claims (falsely) to have been his invention of the Internet. The hack-



Maurice Strong, left, chairman of the Earth Council talks with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during a press meeting at the Rio-Plus-Five Conference in Rio de Janeiro, March 18, 1997. Gorbachev presented a draft of a proposed Earth Charter at the week-long environmental conference to assess the progress in the five years following the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.



Dazed and confused? U.S. President Barack Obama with First Lady Michelle Obama and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley in Copenhagen, Oct. 2, 2009. The president's power of personality was supposed to tip the scales in Chicago's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics but the U.S. didn't make the first cut. Obama's power of personality was hoped to lead to a climate treaty in the same city 10 weeks later. Results: Zero for two.

ers have not been identified, but early reports said they were Russian: Ian Fleming and James Bond stuff.

The real hero of the story isn't the still-unknown hacker, it's writer Henry Lamb, frequent contributor to *RANGE*, who first took notice 40 years ago of an oddly mole-like Canadian named Maurice Strong who was slipping in and out of the Canadian and U.S. oil industries on his way to taking surprising control of the United Nations as "the real father of U.N. environmental concern."

Strong is no scientist and not a real diplomat. He ran away from home in Manitoba at the age of 15 and began an adventurous, often mysterious, life among some of the most powerful people in the world. For all that is known, he doesn't have a knife edge of formal education, but he's slick. Everybody who ever met him seems to agree on that—Strong is very slick.

Through all his maneuvering in and around power in the 1960s, Strong convinced U.N. Secretary-General U Thant to let him help plan the world's first conference on the environment in Stockholm in 1972. The United Nations was still in the treacherous years of the Cold War, and its most important

business was in New York, trying to prevent the major powers from engaging in what was then termed the Third World. Elected or appointed government delegates had little free time for saving the whales or other good

The environmental movement was expanding in 1972 with new adherents from the protests to war in Vietnam. Saving the rain forests and ending pollution began taking on a more militant tone.

ideas, but Strong had impressed the U.N. authorities with his work on behalf of the international YMCA and the Canadian International Development Agency. He knew people, and he knew how to raise money. It was while he was doing the invitations for the conference that some believe Strong noticed the increasing number of independent non-profit organizations eager to participate in global action on the environment.

The conference in Stockholm did little

more than establish a U.N. interest in the environment and provide some encouragement to what Strong himself would coin as the NGOs to seek grants and even U.N. credentials for their work. But to assure it would not stop there, Strong invented the U.N. Environmental Program, with himself as chairman.

Al Gore was not yet in Congress. Barack Obama was just 11, living in Indonesia as Barry Soetero. They had a long, converging trail ahead of them on the way to Copenhagen in 2009. According to Gore, he first developed his passion for the environment when his mother gave him a copy of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," which attacked the use of insecticides. Gore was the son of a powerful southern senator raised almost entirely in Washington, D.C., where biographers have said he was repeatedly told by his mother that she expected great things from him.

He did well enough at Harvard, served in Vietnam, worked briefly for a Tennessee newspaper, and won his seat in Congress at

the age of 28, a “comer” in Democratic circles. By 1985, he held his father’s old Senate seat and was contemplating a run for the presidential nomination in 1988, which he lost to Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis.

The environmental movement, as it soon called itself, was also expanding in 1972, with new adherents recruited from the protests to war in Vietnam. Saving the rain forests and ending pollution began taking on a more militant tone. It was about then that Paul Ehrlich published the first best-selling doomsday book, “The Population Explosion.” Ehrlich held the theory that earth was entering a new ice age that would wipe out civilization before

the end of the 20th century, but it didn’t matter much since he predicted in *Ramparts* magazine that hundreds of millions would perish of smog in the big cities, that oceans would die from chemical pollution in 1979, and that by 1980 life expectancy would fall to 42 years because of a cancer epidemic.

It could be that other scientists checking Ehrlich’s data came across indications that the earth was not cooling, but warming, although not enough to cause alarm. In fact, several scholarly papers were written at the time suggesting that the modest rise in temperature of the planet would favor agriculture and regrowth. Maybe, but some scientists were not

interested in transiting so easily from Ice Age to Eden. The way the true believers saw it, there just had to be an apocalypse in “the data” somewhere.

Strong still held the keys to the U.N. coffers when he returned to Canada in the wake of OPEC oil shortages, although he continued to travel in high circles. In 1978, he and his future wife, Hanne, acquired the Baca Ranch, sprawling out from New Mexico over some 100,000 acres. It had been owned by Saudi gunrunner Adnan Khashoggi, one of the richest men on earth who, by the way, lent his yacht—the world’s largest—for use in the James Bond movie “Never Say Never Again.” The Stronges wanted the ranch to establish a New Age center for use by “seekers” such as Hindus, Buddhists, Zen masters, certain nuns and Navajos. They said a mystic told them “the Baca would become the center for a new planetary order which would evolve from the

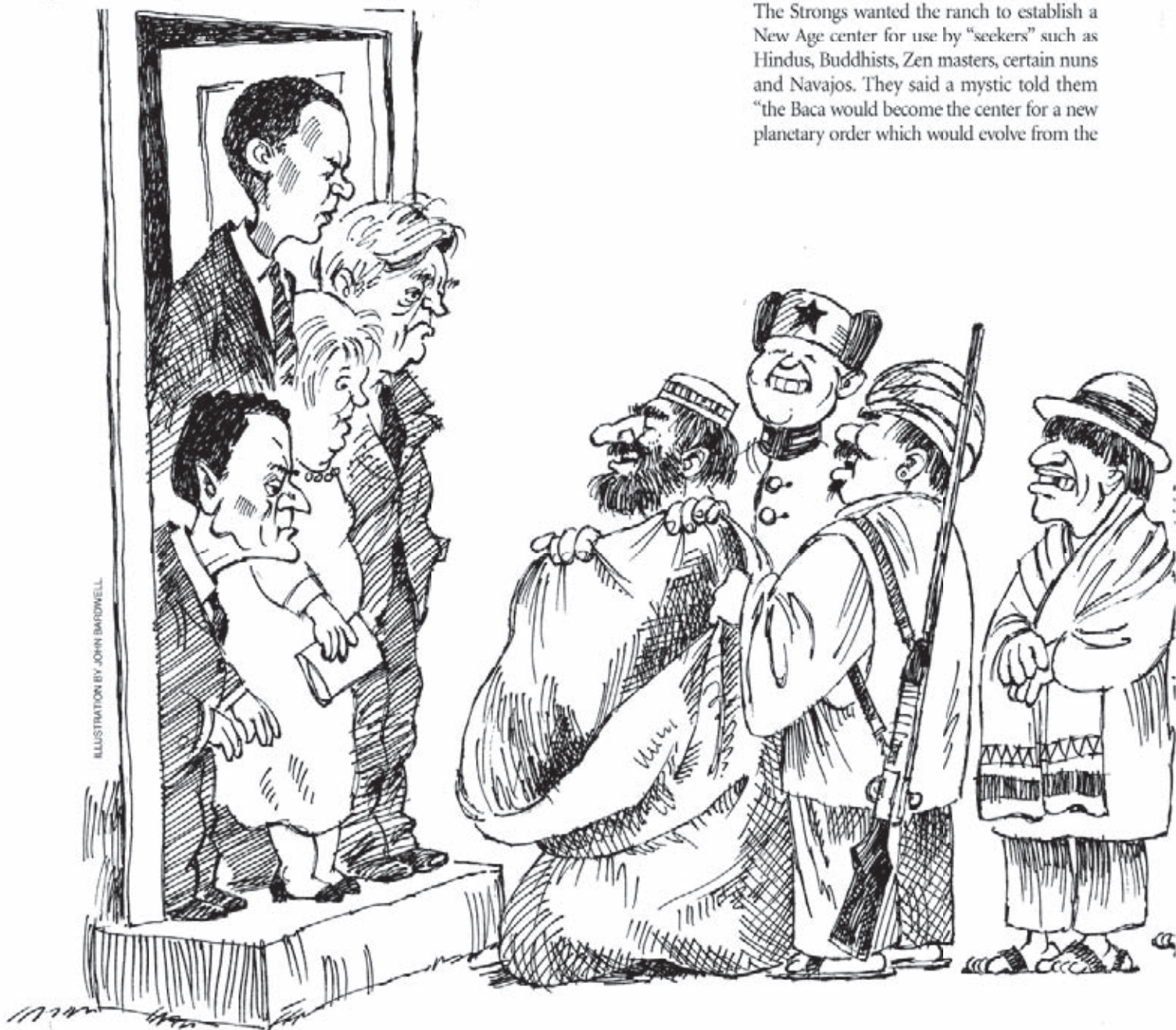


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL

Trick or Treaty! The “poor nations” came with great expectations, which had nothing to do with climate change.

economic collapse and environmental catastrophes" about to sweep the world. When that didn't quite work out, they turned it over to one of those NGOs Strong had discovered—The Nature Conservancy. TNC soon flipped it to the federal government for at least \$31 million and it is now part of Sand Dunes National Monument.

Meanwhile, Strong's long list of contacts and friends kept expanding. On the strength of close friendships established by a journalist cousin during her two years of working with Mao Tse-tung, he was welcome in China and advised the Chinese leadership on what to expect from the historic visit by President Richard Nixon. He knew the Rockefellers from their sponsorship of his Stockholm conference. He knew many in the Middle East from his associations with oil producers, and he knew Al Gore, who was already presenting himself as an environmental champion.

By 1985, the United Nations had given Strong the job of directing the \$3.5-billion

famine relief program in Somalia and Ethiopia. Mindful of his work at Stockholm, the United Nations appointed him as secretary-general for the next Earth Summit, scheduled for Rio in 1992. Though he would serve nominally under Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, it was understood that his chief benefactor was the future Nobel Prize-winning Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

That had to be a high point for the little Manitoba runaway and world-class wheeler dealer. He told one interviewer at the time that he considered himself "a socialist with capitalist sympathies." In Rio, he was king of the world. He spent three years assembling the conference that would bring together more NGOs (thousands as opposed to Stockholm's 100 or so) than the world had ever seen—each one personally approved by Strong. He did it that way, he told his compatriots, because the NGOs gave the appearance of representing something the people—rather than their governments—wanted. In a two-week festival of free thinking and future trading, he was in effect training a whole officer corps of envirocrats, funded by, but not responsible to, governments and richly endowed foundations. Global warming was on Strong's mind, he said, but the objective and the eventual agenda at Rio wasn't just the environment.

"This is not a single-issue conference," he told the delegates. "Rather it deals with the overall cause-and-effect system through which a broad range of human activities interact to shape our future." That included overpopulation in developing nations and growing wealth in the United States.

Strong, and certainly most of the eco-idealists there, could see the advantage of the entire world together confronting an environmental enemy that threatened them all, but, with his guidance, they quickly concluded that it couldn't be done without first addressing the economic imbalance in the world. The haves would have to help the have-nots in ways they never had before, the big powers had to bear responsibility, and the biggest power, the only superpower, would have to sacrifice the most. Americans would have to adjust to Agenda 21 by scaling back on their consumption and learning to live within internationally set "sustainable" limits. It was shaping up to be a perfect deal. Who could

oppose saving the environment? What nation would dare resist a plan to save the planet on grounds of protecting its sovereignty?

Sources close to their administration said Al Gore would only agree to become Bill Clinton's running mate if he were given full charge over environmental matters. He had a staff ready for it; he even had an Interior secretary in mind—Bruce Babbitt. And he had his book, "Earth in the Balance," which did not concentrate on global warming, but set the stage for identifying the major powers, especially the United States, as most responsible for looming environmental crises. Like

Ehrlich, Gore took note of population growth as the driving force.

They were on a parallel course, Strong and Gore, as the Clinton-Gore campaign and Agenda 21 headed for the White House on different paths. Barack Obama, meanwhile, had finished Harvard and was lecturing on constitutional law in Chicago.

Some scientists were not interested in transiting so easily from Ice Age to Eden. There just had to be an apocalypse in there somewhere.

Gore, in charge of the environment as promised, did his part to scale down American production. He managed the sale of naval oil reserves at Oak Hills, Calif., to Occidental Petroleum, run by his father's old friend—and self-professed Soviet spy—Armand Hammer. His staff helped Babbitt quietly prepare for the seizure of Utah's Grand Staircase mesas in 1996 as a new national monument without even informing Utah officials. The Staircase wasn't really all that much as mesas go, but it contained one of the world's largest deposits of clean-burning high-grade coal. The only deposit larger was in Indonesia, where the Chinese were mining it.

And in 1995, the vice president made a special case out of visiting a recycling plant using government grants to produce what he said were remarkable results. That turned out to be an exaggeration when, despite a stock jump triggered by Gore's visit, the company was unable to continue without government grants. One of its board members who then sold out his stock was Maurice Strong. The lobbyist for the plant was a former Gore staff member.

Strong was close to all he ever wanted. His whole framework for the new world order he dreamed of was on its way to Kyoto, Japan, to be adopted and turned into an international protocol for reduction of greenhouse gases.



There were rumors inside the United Nations that he would be named the next secretary-general after Kofi Annan left office. But then Annan found himself in the middle of the “food for oil” scandal with Iraq, and he was forced to step down, taking Strong with him. Strong put \$100,000 into Gore’s run for president and went back to China, where he was understood to be helping to establish new development within the protocol.

He had missed out on directing Kyoto the way he had Stockholm and Rio, but his influence was there as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which he created, produced a document that would require nations, and especially the United States, to begin reducing carbon emissions immediately. Trouble was, when the U.S. Senate realized that developing countries like China and India wouldn’t be contributing just yet, and that the United States would be forced to pay what amounted to reparations for its own development, it instructed the delegation to reject the protocols. Gore pleaded with the Senate, to no avail. So Gore went to Kyoto on his own to accept the protocols. Clinton signed them, but still refused to send them to Congress.

Gore did not have the great start to a new millennium that he expected. First, he lost by an eyelash in the presidential campaign, then his son was severely injured in an accident, causing him to forego even an attempt at the White House in 2004. But it was during that period that he wrote “An Inconvenient Truth.” If he couldn’t be president, he could sure emerge as chief of propaganda for Strong’s IPCC. Children in the United States and all over the world were virtually forced to watch the movie based on his book as if it were new science on the level of Copernicus or Newton. Kids and parents alike wept at the plight of polar bears stranded by melting ice caps, and shuddered at what might happen to them by 2050.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Nobel Committee rejected Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity three times before finally awarding him the prize for his unrelated theory on quantum physics. This new century, it seems, the Nobel Committee didn’t want to miss another chance, awarding Gore the prize to match his Oscar in 2007. They didn’t know or didn’t care that those polar bears were filmed just off the coast of Alaska and were never in danger, or that many scientists were saying Gore had it backwards in claiming that CO₂ causes global warming. Never mind, Gore went on flying all over the world on his pri-

vate jet and hosting gatherings in his big mansion—both big carbon burners that paid their own way in the environment through Gore’s own Generation Investment Management, which he established in 2004.

There aren’t yet many places in the world that can handle the swaps on cap-and-trade and carbon exchanges, but maybe the biggest



When some said it appeared he was preaching religion rather than science, Gore just smugly smiled.

is the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), first formed in 2003 in part with a million-dollar grant from the Joyce Foundation in Chicago. (Barack Obama was then a member of the board of directors.) The Joyce Foundation is known as antigun with an occasional interest in Chicago environmental matters. Chosen to get CCX going and serve on its board was Maurice Strong, and also to help get it going, Al Gore referred all his carbon-footprint costs to CCX. For administrative use, CCX brought on board former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who before that had run Goldman Sachs investments and was chairman of the board of The Nature Conservancy. If we’re going to save the planet, it may as well be among friends.

For all his sense of personal destiny, Gore could never quite manage to achieve it with the false humility he attempts in his film. He angrily insisted there could be no criticism of human-caused global warming. He waved a handful of paper like Chamberlain just back from Munich in 1938 and proclaimed there

was an absolute “consensus of scientists” on the issue. Anyone who questioned it or doubted the conclusions was a denier or a “flat earther,” unworthy even of response. When some said it appeared he was preaching religion rather than science, Gore simply smiled.

Obama, meanwhile, was beginning his incredible rise through political leadership, first in Illinois state politics, then a couple of years in the Senate, and before anybody outside of Chicago even knew who he was, to the presidency. The first black U.S. president in history (though even some of his friends say he lacks sufficient “slave blood” or background in the Civil Rights struggle to be really “black”). The first president from Hawaii (though he told people in Japan he is the first Asian president, based on his childhood in Indonesia). And the first president to be awarded the Nobel Prize after barely eight months in office (Oslo was taking no chances). Obama promised change, and got the worst economy since the Great Depression. He wanted health-care reform and got a bitter new partisan battle in Congress. He was going to end the war in Iraq, but not before he expanded it into Afghanistan. But while the major media concentrated on forgiving him for all that, they ignored the gallows being built in Copenhagen. “The greatest moral issue of our time,” as Gore called it, was now up to Obama alone.

President Obama prefers to term his administration not as “firsts,” but as “unprecedented.” So, when he went on his world tour, it was seen as unprecedented when he genuflected to a Saudi king, or when he sent the British prime minister a collector’s box of video movies (which don’t play on the British system). It was even unprecedented to the Japanese when Obama took their emperor’s hand and bent at the waist as if to kiss his shoes. In China, observers saw it as just plain odd when Obama came before Chinese leaders like a tenant seeking a break on the lease. And what clearly was a first was noted by many Americans who saw their president offering more apologies than pride in his own country or even in democracy. No other president had traveled the world saying he was sorry for American success. That was definitely unprecedented.

But was it also part of a plan for Obama to present the U.S. position to a world of nations and NGOs waiting in Copenhagen? One news report on Obama’s first year in office noted in November that one of his most frequent visitors seemed to be Al Gore.

After the tussle over emails, Gore canceled his speech at Copenhagen, leaving some who had been sold \$1,000 tickets to shake his hand and get his autograph a little upset. And Strong, after being honored in Geneva on his 80th birthday as the "father of environmentalism," was reportedly back in China helping to create a carbon exchange.

Obama would have to be alone on a deal that several world leaders said would be no deal at all without U.S. participation. He covered his backside by directing the bureaucrats he inherited from Gore at the Environmental Protection Agency to proclaim CO₂ an endangerment and thus liable for lawsuits from foundation-funded greens. But the president stalled. In the neighborhood of the conference while picking up his Nobel in Oslo, Obama still chose to come back home until the last day of the conference when other world leaders would be there.

In Copenhagen, things were coming apart. "Poor" nations got wind of "rich" nations meeting in secret and took their protests to the street, club-swinging cops and all. They wanted the developed nations, the United States in particular, to cover their costs in reducing carbon emissions. Even the delegates from the United States and China tangled after the U.S. delegate said China was rich enough to go it on its own. In one conference session, Venezuelan President (for life) Hugo Chavez drew what some said was the only standing ovation of the conference by saying he smelled evil capitalism in the room. Murderous Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who somehow avoided travel restrictions imposed on him, asked the delegates: "Why is the guilty north not showing the same fundamentalist spirit it exhibits in our developing countries on human-rights matters on the more menacing threat of climate change?" Even Gore still wandered around, claiming the polar ice cap would melt in five years, until the scientist he quoted for that suggested the former vice president was a little off his nut.

The little village they built just for the conference was meant to hold 15,000. Forty thousand showed up, many coming in so many private jets that the pilots of latecomers had to fly somewhere else to find a place to park. The streets outside raged with rioting protesters demanding to be let in to what was

no longer a conference on global warming, but a meeting on climate change. They all waited for Obama; one group like Hebrews expecting Moses to give them the rules, and the other like swarming wolves eager to take a bite of a fumbling caribou. Obama was alone. And then it started to snow.

Air Force One followed the four other private jets House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had arranged to take her and a congressional delegation to Hans Christian Andersen's town, which had not seen a snowstorm like it in 15 years. Nevertheless, she happily said the meeting was all about jobs, perhaps indicating a bit of jet lag. Hillary Clinton meanwhile was offering \$100 billion in help to poorer nations by 2020, though she didn't say where the money would come from. Mugabe said it wasn't enough, soon enough, anyway. And here came President Obama, landing in a snowstorm, to attend what was rapidly becoming something less like an international conference than the Marx brothers in "A Night at the Opera."

At first, they wouldn't let him in. Snubbed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Obama went to the closed door of a room where developed nations were meeting and said, "Don't you want to see me?" Finally, after virtually forcing his way in, he discovered there was no chair. This was the forum in which Obama credited himself with working out a compromise.

"Unprecedented," Obama called it in his speech to the conference. He was followed by Chavez again who said he still smelled sulfur in the room. Obama, however, didn't linger, flying straight home to another blizzard making records in D.C. (Was somebody trying to tell us something?) What he has is a nonbinding agreement of nations to report what they are doing to lessen carbon emissions, and a vague promise to help poorer nations financially, although the U.S. offer of \$3.6 billion between 2010 and 2012 pales against the European Union's promise of \$10 billion and Japan's contribution of \$11 billion.



The bellicose Hugo Chavez claims to smell sulfur when Americans are in the room, but he might check under his own nose for the source.

In Copenhagen, things were coming apart. "Poor" nations got wind of "rich" nations meeting in secret.

The "failure" of Copenhagen will be talked about in solemn tones at least until the next conference in Mexico City later this year. But the truth is that it might not have been such a failure without Al Gore's arrogance and refusal even to hear other evidence. Gore deserves the blame. Whether you can blame Maurice Strong depends somewhat on whether you trust what he says, and dreams. In an interview with *West* magazine in 1990, before he had quite reached his peak, Strong described the plot of a novel he wanted to write:

"What if a small group of world leaders were to conclude that the principal [environmental] risk to the earth comes from the actions of the rich countries? So, in order to save the planet, the group decides: Isn't it the only hope for the planet that the industrialized civilizations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to bring that about? The group of world leaders form a secret society to bring about an economic collapse."

There are now more than 20,000 NGOs that owe their existence to Maurice Strong. They represent holdings which, analysts say, if combined, would be the 11th largest economy in the world. ■

In 1992, before joining RANGE, Tim Findley produced and directed a video documentary featuring scientists who questioned human-caused global warming. It was called "The Big Green Lie," but was not nominated for an Oscar or a Nobel Prize. Findley's other efforts for RANGE did bring him two top investigative awards from the Nevada Press Association last year.