

Reigning In the ESA

The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act all devolved into the Environmental Protection Agency which was born during the presidency of Richard Nixon. Like so many state and federal laws the enthusiasm of law-writing is seldom matched with sane, sensible outlook and analysis. The side-effects and unintended results of such acts of the legislature and congress litter the landscape of the history of our society and that of earlier residents.

Recently, under the common sense approach of Interior Secretary Gale Norton and a clear-thinking disciple in the House of Representatives, Richard Pombo of California, some of the worst features of these "environmental acts" are gradually being mitigated with enlightened approaches to reality. Pombo, a Tracy, California rancher who has personally dealt with many of these issues in a hands-on manner, is chairman of the Congressional Resources Committee.

Under his guidance the committee gained bipartisan support for two major bills last year, the Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) and the Calfed water deal. The HFI promoted fire-reduction action to remove clogging underbrush and allow some forest road maintenance and building for the Forest Service. The Calfed has reallocated water resources to bring water to ranchers, farmers, and for fish preservation.

These actions have not set well with some environmental groups and their champions in congress. "Pombo knew full well when he took the resources job, which deals with some of the most polarizing issues in Washington that

he would have to take incoming fire," said Pombo spokesman Brian Kennedy.

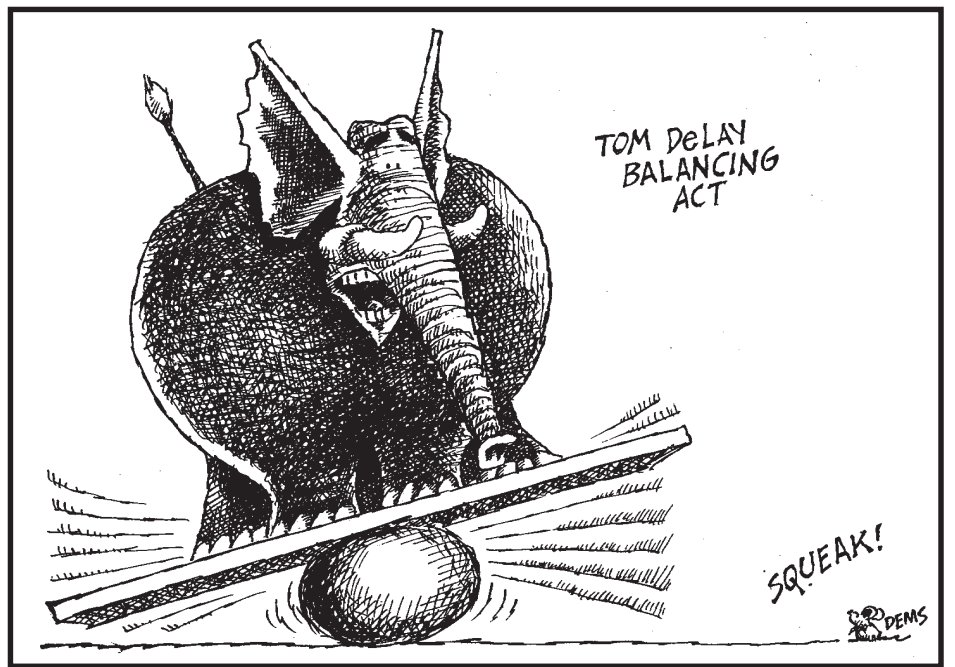
San Jose Representative Zoe Lofgren (D) continues to hammer Pombo in hearings and letters about his decision to grant a month's paid leave to committee staff just prior to the presidential election. Other Pombo attacks concern his wife, Annette Pombo, being paid for clerical and fund-raising work and his brother, Randy, earning some \$280,000 in the past four years as campaign manager and treasurer. None of these activities are illegal nor are the remunerations out of line.

In May, news accounts stated that Pombo's staff, under his signature, asked Interior Secretary Gale Norton to suspend interior rules for wind turbines. Pombo's parents receive royalties from wind turbines on their Altamont Pass ranch. Green activists are unhappy about the number of golden eagles killed by such windmills and have appealed Alameda County's decision to extend wind farm permits.

Pombo broke no laws. There's no proof that the wind farm rules would have affected his parents' income. The law says elected officials may not use their power for personal gain; it does not extend to relatives.

Pombo has stated that his objective in congress is to temper the unreasonable and cutthroat effects of some environmental acts. That he is having some effect on modifying some of these polarizing issues has made him a target of liberals. "If he wasn't so successful at the job, no one would be paying him this much attention," Kennedy says. Make some waves, you'll be noticed.

—Wally Reemelin



Greenhouse Conflicts

The BBC is touting a 2001 study by British scientist Gerry Stanhill, which says the sun's radiation reaching the earth is diminishing as a result of particulate matter in fossil fuel emissions. Does this mean that such emissions may actually cause the earth to cook? Or, would the earth be warming much faster if it were not for the particulates?

The article continues, "During the ice age, a similar rise in CO2 led to a temperature rise of six degrees Celsius. How can that be? In the ice age there were no factories or power plants spewing out columns of pollution and no SUV's puffing CO2. There weren't even any people around to breath out."

The fact is, science cannot predict the weather accurately more than a few days in advance. Any prediction of what the climate may be 100 years from now is, at best, a dart game.

To green activists, science is nothing more than a way to give credence to what otherwise would be ignored as an outlandish claim. If science does not

support the claim there is a tendency to judge or alter results to fit their claim.

These antics have become so numerous over recent years, that the word "environmentalist" has taken on a negative connotation. Focus groups conducted by expensive public relations firms have led to *recommendations that environmental organizations abandon the use of the word "conservationist" instead.*

Greens created environmental organizations to increase the effectiveness of their efforts to clean up the environment. They did good work—in the beginning—but have long since neglected their original missions and are now dedicated to building their financial and political empires.

Having achieved most of their original goals, of cleaning up rivers and streams, reducing air pollution, etc., they looked for bigger goals and scarier scenarios to fund their empires, and global warming is the grandaddy of them all.

—Wally Reemelin

Excerpts, Ecological Powerhouse

Americans Abroad: Example

Enter Mexico illegally. Never mind immigration quotas, visas, international law, or any of that nonsense. Once there, demand that the local government provide free medical care for you and your entire family. Demand bilingual nurses and doctors. Demand free bilingual local government forms, bulletins and everything else.

Procreate abundantly. Deflect any criticism of this allegedly irresponsible reproductive behavior with, "It's a cultural U.S.A. thing. You wouldn't understand, pal." Keep your American identity strong. Fly Old Glory from your rooftop, or proudly display it in your front window or on your car bumper. Speak only English at home and in public and insist that your children do likewise. Demand classes on American

culture in the Mexican school system.

Demand a local Mexican driver license. This will afford other legal rights and will go far to legitimize your unauthorized, illegal, presence in Mexico. Drive around with no liability insurance and ignore local traffic laws. Get in an accident that you caused and don't be responsible for any injuries or damage to others.

Insist that local Mexican law enforcement teach English to all its officers. Good luck! You'll be demanding for the rest of the time or soon be dead or in jail.

Because it will never happen.

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