

BREAKING THROUGH EDITORIAL



Bringing Cold Fusion Material to the Washington, D.C. Energy Consensus Group, the “Green Salon,” and the Evolving Alliance Between “Tree Huggers” and the DOD

Scott Chubb

This past fall, I became aware of the fact that very influential people in Washington, D.C. are beginning to be concerned about the need for alternative energy technologies, new forms of energy, and global warming. I first began to learn about this towards the end of August after a friend of mine forwarded an e-mail that he had received from the Green Party about a lecture that was going to take place in the middle of September. He suggested that members of the Green Party might be interested in attending this event in order to confront the speaker, a retired Navy admiral, about the topic of his talk, “The Future of Nuclear Power,” and his objectivity about this subject. (The speaker, Admiral Frank L. Bowman, works for the Nuclear Energy Institute and is a known advocate for the nuclear power industry.)

But the message, which included an advertisement about Admiral Bowman’s lecture, contained considerably more information that suggested this particular event was part of a much larger, important dialogue involving the Department of Defense (DOD), the military, and private contractors for the DOD. The e-mail began by stating: “The DOD Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the Office of Force Transformation are pleased to invite you to attend the sixth of a monthly series on ‘Energy: A Conversation About Our National Addiction.’ This Conversation series explores the central role energy plays in achieving national and program goals.”

As John Rudesill mentions in his article (p. 32) reviewing this lecture series, these lectures have been taking place at a Double Tree Hotel located across the street from the Pentagon. For Admiral Bowman’s lecture, there was no admission fee but attendees were required to register for the event through representatives of the group (the Naval Post Graduate School’s Cebrowski Institute for Innovation and Information, <http://www.nps.edu/cebrowski/Institute.html>).

Immediately outside the location of the talk I saw the very clever “Be EnergySmart” sign. During the lecture, I noticed a number of people were wearing buttons that had this same picture on it. Later, I learned that the people who were wearing these buttons were involved with a new organization, The Washington DC Energy Consensus Group (<http://energy.telascience.org/energyconsensus>)—more about this later.



Most of the people in the audience appeared to be either directly involved with DOD policy, the military industrial complex, or the military. This was not a coincidence. As I learned later, this gathering and the others in the series, which were all scheduled to last a considerably longer period of time than most lectures and involved considerable dialogue between the attendees and the speaker, actually had been organized as a direct response to concerns raised at the highest levels of the DOD about the need to develop more efficient forms of energy use and new sources of energy. John Rudesill provides some additional coverage about this series of lectures.

Also in late August, I received a second copy of the same announcement about Admiral Bowman’s talk, from a different source, U.S. Army Capt. Todd Hathaway. I mention this fact because Capt. Hathaway has been directly involved with the people who are responsible for bringing the issue (of the strategic importance of energy and the need to develop alternative energy sources and devices) to the attention of the Secretary of Defense and for organizing the “Energy Conversation.” At the time, I was not aware of this fact at all. But three weeks later, I began to learn much more about this and other events behind the scenes involving increased interest in developing alternative energy solutions, by influential people both inside and outside the government, in the Washington, D.C. area.

I began to learn more about this after I received a second e-mail from Capt. Hathaway which included a copy of an invitation to an event called “The Green Salon.” With this invitation, Capt. Hathaway included a brief note, suggesting that it would be appropriate for me to speak at the event about cold fusion. But, to my surprise, in the note he also said that it would not be necessary for me to RSVP, despite the fact the invitation requests attendees to do this. Ironically, as I learned more about the event and as a result of his saying this, I almost decided not to go to it.

This happened because as time passed, the event started to receive greater publicity and I began to become concerned that the event might not be as important as I had thought, especially since, superficially, I had the wrong impression



that it was not necessary to respond to the invitation in order to attend. For this reason, as seemingly more pressing issues at home came up, on October 14 I seriously considered not attending the event. But, again, ironically, almost by chance, I did decide to attend. My being involved with *Infinite Energy* is an important reason I did this. In particular, I had decided almost immediately after I received the invitation that the event could provide an ideal venue for informing people about *Infinite Energy* and the facts about cold fusion. With this in mind, I had Christy Frazier send additional copies of *Infinite Energy* to me several days before the event. On the morning of October 15, I began to feel guilty about potentially not distributing the copies of the magazine and I decided to bring them with me to church and that I would postpone my decision about going to “The Green Salon” until later.

At church, again by chance, I happened to show the invitation to a good friend of mine, Tom Moss, who is considerably more knowledgeable than I am about important people who live in the Washington, D.C. area. Tom “reminded” me that Jim Woolsey was the Director of the CIA during the Clinton Administration. He also told me that Dr. William Haseltine, the founder of a highly successful biotech company (Human Genome Sciences, Inc.), is a billionaire, and he mentioned that Amory Lovins has made his career writing and thinking about alternative forms of energy (which I already knew). After talking to Tom, I decided at the very least I certainly should make alternative arrangements at home and attend the event.

Because the event took place near a location (Georgetown) in Washington, D.C. with limited parking, I decided to park in the first parking lot that was not full, which was about one half of a mile from the Haseltine home. As I walked along Wisconsin Avenue, carrying my PC and the copies of *Infinite Energy*, I thought to myself how Gene Mallove probably must have gone out of his way, so many times, making similar pilgrimages to unknown locations, to meet new people to tell them the truth about cold fusion. It occurred to me, as well, after thinking about what Tom Moss had told me, that this particular pilgrimage actually might be worthwhile. I also thought about the fact that if I had not requested copies of *Infinite Energy*, I might not

have decided to go to this event at all—that these copies of *Infinite Energy*, literally, had made me feel compelled to attend, and that I really felt compelled to write about my thoughts about this, regardless of whether or not my experience at the “Green Salon” was worthwhile. As these thoughts occurred to me, I felt a sense of awe at the idealism of Gene Mallove and the fact that his creation, *Infinite Energy*, was inspiring me to do something idealistic that I had not planned to do earlier in the day.

As I arrived at the Haseltine home, I began to realize almost immediately that my concerns about the “Green Salon” not being a worthwhile event were quite wrong. The setting was extraordinary: a large, exquisite home (a mansion) located several blocks from the main part of Georgetown, in one of the more exclusive neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. As I opened the door, a charming woman came up to me and introduced herself. “I am Nora Maccoby,” she said. “You must be Scott Chubb. You look like you are probably Scott Chubb.” I said, “I am amazed; how did you know that?” She said, “I’m psychic.” At this point, I realized arrangements had been made in advance concerning my attending the event and that, as Todd Hathaway had suggested, it had not been necessary for me to respond to the invitation that he had sent me.

Next, Nora Maccoby introduced me to a second, charming woman, Mara Haseltine, and her father, Dr. William Haseltine. After we spoke for awhile, Mara and I walked into a salon, immediately adjoining the dining room, where a tall, Middle Eastern-looking gentleman was standing talking to two other people. As I approached the man, I held out my hand and said, “I’m Scott Chubb. I’m here to talk about cold fusion.” (As it turned out, I actually was not able to do this because there was not a sufficient amount of time in the schedule for me to speak.) The man shook my hand and responded, “I am the Ambassador of Saudia Arabia, Turki Al Faisal.” A moment later, while Mara Haseltine stood on one side of Mr. Al Faisal and I stood on the other, a photographer from *Washingtonian Magazine* came up to us and took our picture.

Later in the afternoon, I gave the Saudia Arabian Ambassador a copy of *Infinite Energy* (#69). I also gave copies to the Ambassador of Sweden Gunnar Lund, James Woolsey, and Amory Lovins. I found this especially gratifying because this particular issue has the article I wrote about the important, scientific breakthrough at the Space Warfare Systems Center, San Diego, by Stanislaw Szpak, Pamela Mosier-Boss, and Frank Gordon involving experiments that show it is possible to produce low levels of radioactivity, on demand, and it also has the article by my good friend Dr. David Nagel, in which he summarizes a plan for conducting an in-depth course of research in cold fusion which could serve as a starting point for a multi-laboratory, national program, as funding becomes available.

There were about 30 people at the event. Many of them were potential investors. Dr. Haseltine began the formal program by welcoming us. He praised Nora Maccoby and his daughter Mara for initiating and organizing the gathering, and then each of them spoke passionately and sincerely about their reasons for organizing it. Their message was: Something must be done about global warming and that this will require alternative, renewable sources of energy; it is

essential that this process begin, now.

Next, an official from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office spoke, informally, about global warming. He said that although the Bush administration has released information that indicates global warming may be affecting plant and animal life, the official policy about global warming is that additional research is necessary. But he also said that the existing research that provides the basis for the Bush Administration's claims and their projections about future heating fails to include harmful effects that will occur if methane (which is also a greenhouse gas) begins to be released from the arctic and that this is a serious omission because once this happens, heating from greenhouse gases will intensify. He also said that this could take place if the global temperature, on the average, increases by three tenths of a degree. He said that if nothing is done to combat global warming, some models predict that the oceans will rise 20 meters by 2050 and 50 meters by 2100. If nothing is done, within the next decade, to reverse existing trends, he said the global warming process could become irreversible.

Scott Sklar, James Woolsey, and Amory Lovins gave the keynote speeches. Each of them has now given a similar presentation in the "Conversation about our National Addiction" lecture series program.

Scott Sklar spoke first. In his talk, he gave some background material and history about the use of solar energy. He pointed out that although using solar energy for heating a home requires an initial investment, because of the reliability of the technology and the fact that there is no fuel cost associated with this source of energy, the return on the investment is significant, even in situations involving the older solar heating technologies, where the initial costs (adjusted for inflation) were higher. (Scott Sklar has been using solar energy to heat his home in Arlington, Virginia for more than 20 years.) He also provided some background material about improvements in the efficiencies and reductions in cost of solar cells.

James Woolsey talked about the existing political climate in Washington associated with global warming and energy. He pointed out that an effort was underway in the DOD to use energy more efficiently and in a manner that attempts to minimize pollution, either by changing existing procedures for using energy (which, until now, have been based on the assumption that an unlimited amount of energy will always be available) in a manner that conserves energy or by implementing policies that result in more efficient energy devices, using diversified sources of energy, including alternative forms of energy. I would paraphrase his comments of the existing political climate in the following way: The "tree huggers" and the DOD not only are beginning to talk to each other, but they are beginning to work together to create a political climate where the problems associated with global warming and our over-reliance on oil and other sources of greenhouse gases will be addressed using more efficient, alternative energy technologies and alternative energy fuels. (He did use the term "tree huggers," I think, partly in jest, but also, by implication, to emphasize an important point: Bipartisan support exists for dealing with problems associated with global warming and energy; individuals from both sides of the political spectrum are becom-

ing concerned.) He mentioned the new organization, The Washington DC Energy Consensus Group, which has been organized by Mitzi Wertheim for the purpose of exchanging information about issues related to creating a sustainable environment. He noted that there were a number of individuals in the audience involved with this group and they held up the badge that I mentioned earlier.

Amory Lovins gave the final talk. In it, he summarized *Winning the Oil End Game*, a book that he and members of his staff at the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) have written. (In a later issue of *Infinite Energy*, I intend to review this book. It is available free of charge online in PDF format, at <http://www.oilendgame.com/>.) The underlying premise of the book is that "over the next few decades, the United States can get completely off oil and revitalize its industrial and rural economy—led by business for profit." An important assumption implicit in what he said is that, historically, government intervention has constrained energy development and the development of alternative technologies and that as a result, the prices of oil and oil-based technologies are artificially low.

Lovins pointed out that in the late 1970s and early 1980s, actual oil consumption increased considerably less than was initially projected, partly as a readjustment of supply and demand but primarily as a result of improvements in the efficiencies of oil-consuming technologies (primarily automobiles). Although he believes that the private sector, if allowed to do so, will develop the necessary alternative energy technologies and devices, the government can help to make this happen by creating incentives for creating new technologies. He said an important way to do this could involve the DOD. In particular, by requiring that energy be used more efficiently within the DOD, and by doing this, the DOD can create incentives to develop new technologies. He showed a new, metallic form of carbon that is extremely strong and light, and he pointed out that by using this new material, industry will make it possible to dramatically reduce the weight of an automobile, which can dramatically alter energy consumption.

Through a program supported by the Office of Naval Research, Lovins and his staff have designed an automobile that is 32 times more efficient than the vehicles that are being produced today. He cited other ways that energy could be used considerably more efficiently involving the production and generation of electricity. Here, he emphasized a serious problem in the existing infrastructure: our reliance on centralized, electric power plants and an inefficient power distribution system. An alternative architecture—based on the use of smaller, energy-producing devices in individual homes—would be far more efficient. This form of power distribution also would be less vulnerable than a system based on a large electrical grid, because disruptions to this alternative system from potential power failures would remain localized, which is not the case in the conventional situation.

After Amory Lovins spoke, all of the speakers answered questions from the audience. Then, the formal portion of the program ended. At this point, I learned through several private conversations some additional background information. In particular, Nora Maccoby played a prominent role in initiating interest in the DOD in dealing with problems

related to the strategic importance of energy and the need to develop alternative energy technologies and strategies for using energy by raising these issues in conversations with Donald Rumsfeld. I also found out that the reason it was not necessary for me to respond formally to the invitation that Todd Hathaway sent to me is because Nora and Todd are close friends.

Since the middle of October, I have gone to three additional lectures in the "Energy Conversation" series. These included lectures by Scott Sklar (on solar energy), Brian Appel (on converting waste to fuel), and Amory Lovins (on "Winning the Oil Endgame"). In each of these lectures, new, creative ideas were presented. Amory Lovins, in particular, has a futuristic view of the situation that offers real hope.

As I said, quite literally, *Infinite Energy* played a role in my deciding to attend the "Green Salon" and (as a consequence) in my being exposed to these ideas. *Infinite Energy* is also a venue for expressing new and creative ideas, as well as alternative explanations of scientific phenomena and/or interpretations of scientific theories. In the present issue, we are including three of these types of articles. Two of them deal with alternative, unconventional interpretations of an effect or theory that is not related to a phenomenon associated with low-energy nuclear reactions (LENR). The third ("Coulomb Field for LENR in Solid," Cheng-ming Fou) addresses the problems associated with deuterium (d) fusion in LENR experiments, based on more conventional physics.

Cheng-ming Fou's article (p. 25) addresses the problem of estimating the Coulomb repulsion between two deuterons that are trapped within a void, in a solid. As opposed to the situation in which the problem of overcoming the strong repulsion that occurs as d's start to have appreciable overlap with each other (i.e., the problem of "overcoming the Coulomb barrier"), which can be dealt with through a many-body effect, Cheng-ming Fou has previously suggested that d's that become trapped in a void can potentially fuse through a nuclear effect involving neutron exchange and the formation of a bound deuteron-deuteron state. For this reason, the Coulomb repulsion enters only indirectly, and all that is required for the mechanism he describes to work is that only a modest reduction take place in the Coulombic repulsion, as a result of the d's interacting with the solid. In fact, in his calculation, he finds a modest reduction that he suggests could lead to the kind of effect that he suggested in an earlier paper.

The other articles, "The Genesis of Fundamental Forces Acting at a Distance and Some Practical Derivations" by Peter Grandics (p. 13) and "Con(fusion): An Engineer's Question and a Suggestion" by Harold Aspden (p. 28) deal with an alternative, unconventional interpretation of a known effect (in Harold Aspden's paper) or theory (in the paper by Peter Grandics). Peter Grandics formulates a theory of forces and space-time that is based on a new geometry in which the vacuum has a crystalline structure that is "populated with fundamental energy vortices called Space-Time Array Resonators (STARS). STARS, [which] are units of energy tied into a pulsating spiral vortex called a circumvolution cissoid and are the basis for all particles of matter." He relates his theory to a number of geophysical and astronomical anomalies.

Harold Aspden suggests that the conventional theory that

energy from the sun comes primarily from nuclear fusion appears to be inconsistent with known physical effects (for example, the emission of solar neutrinos) and the assumption that the core temperature can be over 100,000,000 degrees. In fact, there are models of stellar burning (dating from Hans Bethe's seminal work in the 1930s) that do require that the interior core temperature is considerably lower than this value. But details about the mechanisms are debatable. Harold Aspden provides an alternative picture.

In addition to these four articles, we are including the article by John Rudesill which summarizes some of the presentations associated with the "Energy Conversation" lecture series; an article by Akito Takahashi (p. 36) describing his experiences during a recent trip to India (he gave a number of seminars about cold fusion, in front of audiences that primarily included conventional, mainstream physicists—the response in each case was fairly positive); and an important release from the New Energy Movement (p. 11) regarding their work toward drafting legislation for a new energy bill titled Energy Innovation Act of 2007.

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