

Rolling Down to Rio

The Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City, like its counterparts in many other communities, is home to a chapter of the World Federalist Association (WFA), which describes itself as "an international organization dedicated to strengthening the United Nations and supporting it in its efforts dealing with global problems." On February 11th, about 30 global-minded Utahans gathered at the Unitarian Church to munch on oatmeal cookies and prepare for the June global environment summit, when world leaders will congregate in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the purpose of "saving the Earth" — that is, strengthening the sinews of the United Nations.

Stockholm Initiative

In preparation for the summit, the WFA assembled a conference of international insiders in Stockholm, Sweden last April. The conference, which included such luminaries as Jimmy Carter, Robert McNamara, and Eduard Shevardnadze, produced a document called the *Stockholm Initiative*, which recommends the redistribution of the world's resources and a greatly amplified role for the UN in enforcing trans-national environmental protocols.

The *Stockholm Initiative*, which was passed around at the Salt Lake WFA gathering, is presently the subject of interest at globalist coffee klatches across the country. Another document distributed at the Salt Lake gathering was the *Earth Charter*. Meant as a preparatory draft of a global declaration of interdependence, the charter's preamble reads as follows:

We, the peoples of the world and the representatives of the nations, understand that the Earth is a unique, whole, and interdependent system. In the face of our grave planetary crisis, we are conscious that many of our past perceptions

and present global relationships are no longer adequate. Therefore, we declare these principles to recover Earth's integrity, to secure the future of life, and to teach ourselves and our children that whatever we humans do to the web of life, we do to ourselves.

No Challenges

Five principles are listed in the charter: planetary unity, global interdependence, human community, sustainable development, and universal responsibility. This ideological skeleton is fleshed out with some remarkable recommendations. For instance, national sovereignty is to be abolished outright: "No nation shall plead sovereign immunity in light of overriding global emergencies or catastrophes." Furthermore: "Precautionary measures to protect global environmental security should be supported by all nations and local governments, even in the absence of scientific certainty." In brief, the conclusions of the UN ecological dictatorship cannot be challenged, even on scientific grounds; all nations and communities must simply submit and comply.

Of the 30 people present at the Salt Lake WFA meeting, no fewer than a half dozen were university professors, including the speaker, Professor Sam Rushforth of Brigham Young University. Rushforth's topic was "Critical Environmental Issues for the Upcoming Millennium." The root issue in environmentalism, according to Rushforth, is "the growth of the human population." Human population growth supposedly produces the consumption dynamics that trigger such "crises" as global warming, loss of topsoil, species extinction, and ozone depletion (none of which Rushforth bothered to verify with scientific citations). Rushforth tremulously declared, "Many of my professional friends, I must tell you,

believe that we have already come too far, that the Earth is already way beyond carrying capacity, that the carrying capacity on a sustainable basis for the Earth is maybe two and a half billion people...." Accordingly, the first task of the global environmental regime would be to reduce, by whatever means, the human population, or at least to reduce the growth rate dramatically.

Rushforth's ideal global society would be one in which government would use food distribution to control reproduction, and all children (all people, for that matter) would be the property of the state. One WFA member had kind words for the Chinese population control system: "The Chinese government had a limit of two kids and after that you got severe therapy or a vasectomy. As much as I dislike the Chinese form of government, I think at least their leadership seems to have recognized that they can't continue to feed their people and raise the living standard without doing that."

Praise for Big Brother

Rushforth concluded his remarks with additional praise for the *Stockholm Initiative's* call for a strengthened United Nations, stating that "when the United States mined Nicaraguan harbors seven years ago, there should be some worldwide organization that can step in and say, 'you're out of line; we sanction you.'" Rushforth sees the real possibility that the Rio summit may result in the development of just such a global enforcement mechanism.

Such were the events of a mild February evening in conservative Salt Lake City. Thirty would-be supervisors of the global human zoo assembled to munch cookies and speak kindly of a planetary dictatorship. This is a scene that will likely be repeated often around the world as we roll toward Rio. ■

— WILLIAM NORMAN GRIGG