



Unaccountable EPA seeks to rule

ed, a relatively simple process with today's advanced technology.

But AIDS has never been subjected to any such scrutiny by the world's medical community. It is as if they have all been furnished with blinders. Modern mankind has resided on the earth for at least 45,000 years - and primates in various forms for much longer than that - without the introduction of AIDS. To believe that it just now suddenly decided to drop out of the sky - just in me, I might add, for the advent of the false millennium of the year 2000 - should cause thinking men to do just that.

It appears America is destined for nation-health care, another giant socialist bureaucracy which will further enslave us to overwhelming taxes, when all that is needed for hospitals and the rest of our artificial-inflated economy to be returned to reasonable levels which would enable people to pay for their own medical service. The current cost of a small hospital room for one day is as much as the rent of a good apartment for an entire month. Obviously the medical industry looks forward to socialist health care with their captive audience; otherwise they would return to sanity.

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American Fork

Question looms

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The question looms: Why do we maintain nuclear weapons, facing little threat, with power enough to annihilate world inhabitants many times over? Surely we can't do it while claiming to be a peace-loving nation.

While it is not likely in our national interest to speak putatively of the military, most would agree its gluttony should be avoided, at it should be lean and mean. No argument to maintain our gross abilities makes sense.

Perhaps the reason is to allow rich companies to continue to deal in big bucks. They face old bombs while Americans starve for viaducts. While many children are reading their old textbooks to be replaced

In his inaugural address, President Bush declared that "The Day of the Dictator is over." A little more than a year after he uttered this hopeful pronouncement he elevated to cabinet rank the EPA - a department with dictatorial ambitions. Under the direction of William Reilly, the agency is rapidly becoming the world's most intrusive regulatory body.

On November 6, Reilly promulgated new water quality standards that will affect 22 states and territories. As of that date the affected communities had 90 days to develop new standards to govern the discharge of 105 toxic substances into rivers, lakes and streams. The new standards will produce increased spending on water-pollution control by local and state governments.

Reilly may be correct in his belief that toxic pollution of waterways remains a serious problem. But the manner in which the regulatory revision was imposed upon nearly half the country testifies of more significant problems: the unchecked power of the EPA and the arbitrary cast of mind that characterizes its director.

In the debut issue of Domestic Affairs magazine, Reilly outlined his concept of "pollution prevention," under which the EPA would preside over a "decentralized approach to (the) decentralized problem" of pollution control. Reilly's notion of "decentralization" is (not to put too fine a point on the matter) eccentric: "Impressive reductions in pollution can be achieved by putting pollution prevention to work in every sector of society ... (our challenge) for the 1990s is to confront and



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ABROAD

breach the institutional barriers that previously have impeded the development of pollution-prevention and risk-reduction strategies (...) We need to break down the traditional special-interest barriers that have Balkanized government and society as a whole ... all parts of government and all sectors of society must participate."

Many of the "institutional barriers" disdained by Reilly are the natural result of checks and balances established by the Founders to thwart the ambitions of embryonic dictators. In his article, Reilly attempts to pre-empt the predictable (and accurate) criticism that he is making a power grab: "(I do not) suggest that EPA should be getting into every other agency's business. Rather, I am suggesting that all other agencies should be getting into our business - the business of protecting the environment." This bit of Jesse Jackson-style persiflage testifies of Reilly's rhetorical poverty, but it does not conceal his ambitions.

Through "pollution prevention" Reilly intends to "meet the malady on its way." Because the agency's insight into future environmental problems is supposedly in-

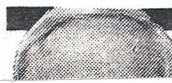
fallible, its decisions cannot be challenged. Accordingly, all that remains for those of us not similarly enlightened is to defer to the will of Reilly's vanguard. But Reilly would have us believe that he is an enlightened despot: he subscribes to Patton's maxim, "Never tell people how to do something. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." The gravamen of this supposedly humble declaration is that Reilly - an unelected, unaccountable bureaucrat - considers it his privilege to tell everybody what to do.

As Reilly's regulatory reach increases, so does the prospect of a welcome rebellion. Last year's amplification of the Clean Air Act will bring thousands of small businesses under the EPA's regulatory authority. But rebellious small businessmen will find themselves flanked by larger business interests. In July, the Bush Administration created "The President's Commission on Environmental Quality," an entity in which business interests such as Procter & Gamble, Ford, Chevron and General Electric will work in collusion with lobbies like the Environmental Defense Fund. Environmental regulations raise the cost of entry into the market for smaller, more competitive businesses. Environmental zealots (who oppose economic growth) and large business concerns (who oppose competition) enjoy a convergence of interests.

This collusion will result in further erosion of America's economic competitiveness. But this concern is irrelevant to the unaccountable agency that seeks to preside over our economy:

Pork barrel leads to pricey defense stockpile

WASHINGTON - The national defense stockpile includes a cache of jewel bearings that would last 84 years in peace



Jack

almost indefensible, but not in North Dakota, where members of Congress have

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