

THE PERPETUAL-CRISIS MACHINE OF THE APOCALYPTIC LEFT

By Don Feder

The left is in crisis-overdrive.

Imminent disaster is its rallying cry. The world will end, if we don't appropriate billions, launch another massive government program, shower condoms on 6-year-olds, socialize another sector of the economy, cede more of our freedom to Washington, and venerate polar bears.

Since at least the early 1960s, the left has been in a constant state of agitation, prophesying doom at every turn. Any who question its hysteria-mongering are labeled anti-science, a tool of corporate interests, insensitive or just plain Republican.

The refrain is always the same: Don't question. Don't examine the evidence too closely. Don't debate the proposals. Whatever you do, don't read the legislation before you vote. Just give us what we want or civilization, as we know it, will cease to exist -- millions will die horrible deaths -- and it will be your fault.

Like its progenitor, Karl Marx, the left is always wrong -- often hilariously so.

On September 24, 2008, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (to speak of a Kennedy scion from the low end of the gene pool implies there's another end), in a commentary for the *Los Angeles Times*, pointed to recent mild winters in the D.C.-area ("anemic" he called them) as conclusive evidence of global warming.

Junior disclosed, "Once, my father, Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, brought a delegation of visiting Eskimos home ... for lunch. They spent the afternoon building a great igloo in the deep snow of our back yard." Yet, in the face of irrefutable evidence of lack of igloo-building, "Exxon Mobil and its carbon cronies continue to pour money into think tanks whose purpose is to deceive the American public into believing that global warming is a fantasy." Kennedys know a lot about deceiving the American public.

Meanwhile, the blizzard from which Washingtonians just dug out surpassed the record snowfall of 1899. At one point, Dulles Airport reported that 72 inches had fallen. The response of the apocalyptic left? Well, we told you global warming will result in extreme weather conditions. You see, mild winters prove global warming -- as do severe winters. Any questions?

Karl Marx was the original progressive doom-and-gloomer. In the mid-19th century, Marx (who never set foot in a factory or met a blue-collar worker) confidently predicted the "crisis of capitalism" -- the rich would keep getting richer, while the

proletariat would have children, until, on the verge of starvation, the latter would throw off their chains in a worldwide revolution.

Instead of grinding poverty, the proletariat got collective bargaining, employer-paid health insurance, and comfortable pensions. Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your 401-k plans.

It wasn't quite a straight line from "The Communist Manifesto" to Rachel Carson's "The Silent Spring" (1962). The Al Gore of her day, Carson warned of environmental catastrophe from the widespread use of DDT to control the mosquitoes that spread malaria.

Considered the mother of the environmentalist movement, Carson was responsible for the 30-year ban on DDT, finally lifted by the World Health Organization in 2006. Her book claimed the compound caused cancer in humans and genetic damage to birds and beneficial insects – all based on anecdotal evidence and rats doing laps in vats of DDT.

In 1981, Rachel Carson got a commemorative U.S. postage stamp. Millions in the Third World – especially pregnant women and children – got early deaths from malaria, which DDT had largely eliminated by the mid-60s.

From "The Silent Spring" to "An Inconvenient Truth" and beyond, it's been a steady march of hysteria, manufactured statistics and speculation totally detached from reality. Stroll down memory lane and meet the ghosts of liberal crises past.

- **The Homeless** – The "homelessness crisis" suddenly appeared in the early '80s, conveniently, just as the left was looking for an emotional way to indict Reaganomics.

Supposedly, millions of homeless wandered the streets of our cities, pushing shopping carts, sleeping on heating grates and mooching change. Shelters were filled to capacity. Rising unemployment, lack of affordable housing and the disappearance of the proverbial safety net were to blame, liberals charged. We were all just a few steps away from the streets, they told us.

Mitch Snyder, self-anointed advocate for pavement people (Martin Sheen played him in a made-for-T.V. Movie – "Samaritan: The Mitch Snyder Story"), informed an ever-credulous media that there were 3 million homeless, a statistic he later admitted making up.

In a campus address, Snyder, who committed suicide in 1990, tearfully told us that in America, 45 homeless people die *every second*. That would mean 1.4 billion (four times the total U.S. population) expire annually, and then are resurrected to die again the following year.

P.J. O'Rourke once wrote that if you put all of the homeless in affordable housing, half are so crazy they'd jump out the windows and the other half would sell the plumbing for drugs or booze. According to one study, between 65% and 85% of the homeless are mentally ill, alcoholics, addicts, or a combination thereof.

We were all just a few cases of Thunderbird or a psychotic episode or two away from the streets.

- **The AIDS Epidemic** – Discovered about the same time as the homeless crisis, the dread contagion wasn't a gay disease, we were assured -- on the theory that, if it was, we wouldn't care enough. Everyone was susceptible. If we didn't spend billions pronto, AIDS would sweep the nation like wildfire.

"Now No One Is Safe From AIDS," screamed the cover of Life magazine. It was worse than the Black Plague, a Joe Biden speech and daytime television combined. Then-Surgeon General C. Everett Koop (who was co-opted by the AIDS lobby) forecast a "heterosexual AIDS explosion." Oprah said that by 1990, 20% of all heterosexuals would be dead from AIDS. Clinton's HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said AIDS may leave "nobody left."

These projections were delusional, to put it mildly. According to The Centers for Disease Control, in 2007, 14,561 died from AIDS – not much of a mega-plague, when compared to 631,636 deaths from heart disease, 559,888 from cancer and 137,119 from stroke in the same year.

A 1988 *New York Times* story ("Researchers List Odds of Getting AIDS in Heterosexual Intercourse") gave away the game. According to the paper, which never misses a chance to proselytize for the gay agenda, the chances of contracting AIDS from a single act of heterosexual intercourse – *with an infected partner* and without a condom -- were 1 in 500.

No one was safe from AIDS – no one who was gay, bisexual or into sharing (needles).

- **The National Epidemic of Hate Crimes** – The late Sen. Edward Kennedy called hate crimes "domestic terrorism" – thereby suggesting that they were just as much a threat to our nation's security as al-Qaeda, Taliban, Hezbollah and every jihad-preaching imam around the world. Neo-Nazis, Ku-Kluxers and freelance haters were roaming our streets looking for victims on which to inflict their vile animus. The alleged epidemic led to the passage last year of The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which added "sexual orientation" to the category of protected classes.

Just how much of a hate-crimes crisis there is may be seen from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. (The FBI is required to compile statistics of so-called bias offenses.)

According to the UCR, in 2007, there were 16,929 murders and over 855,000 cases of aggravated assault in the United States.

There were also a grand total of 7,624 hate crimes of all kinds -- motivated by race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, whatever.

Of that number, 78% involved either intimidation (words alone), or simple assault (no serious injury occurred), which included pushing and shoving. In 2007, 9 murders were classified as hate crimes -- which constituted .0005% of total homicides. Your chances of being the victim of a hate crime -- any hate crime -- are comparable to being struck by lightning twice while bungee-jumping on Groundhog Day.

For this, we abrogated the First Amendment's Free Speech clause.

- **Global Warming**—To justify spending trillions of dollars, drastically altering our way of living and wrecking our economy with idiocies like Cap and Trade, in “An Inconvenient Truth,” Gore forecast that the sea level could rise by as much as 20 feet, due to melting polar ice caps.

Even, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, run by the global-warming alarmists, was more modest -- predicting that sea levels would rise 17 inches by 2100.

Besides his Oscar, Gore deserved a Nebula Award for science fiction writing.

Dr. Nils-Axel Morner, a Swedish geologist and physicist who formerly headed the International Commission on Sea Level Change, says that, despite fluctuations, the sea level “has not risen in the past 50 years.” And if there is any change in this century, it will “not be more than 10 cm (*4 inches*), with an uncertainty of plus or minus 10 cm.” The mainstream media would call Dr. Morner a “global-warming denier.”

Still, Gore's forecast could come to pass. If the 1.4 billion homeless who die in America every year each had a burial at sea

- **Over-population** -- The world was “overpopulated” in 1798, when Thomas Malthus wrote “Principles of Population” and planet earth contained less than a billion people. In his tract, Malthus predicted mass starvation in the coming century. Instead, we got the Industrial Revolution and the greatest expansion of material well-being in history.

The world was overpopulated in 1968, when there were 3.63 billion on earth and Paul Ehrlich wrote “The Population Bomb,” in which he predicted mass starvation in the 1970s – and thus joined the ranks of Malthus and Marx as a prophet of dumb.

Today, the world’s population is 6.8 billion. It’s been said that you could fit everyone currently on earth into Texas, and they’d have 1,000 sq. feet of living space. If those quarters are too tight, you could send them all to Brazil, where they’d each have three acres.

If starvation and overcrowding won’t do the trick, how about climate change? Now, it’s argued that a growing population increases carbon fuel consumption, depletes the ozone layer and – aaaaarah! We’re all going to die! Thus, the left has one of its newest myths (global warming) driving one of its oldest myths (overpopulation).

- **The Health Insurance Crisis** – In his State of the Union address, Barack Obama warned, “By the time I’m finished speaking ... more Americans (*45 a second?*) will have lost their health insurance.” “Millions will lose it this year.” Plus, (you guessed it) we’re all just a job away from being one of the health insurance-less.

Obama and the Democrats are wedded to the figure 46 million for the number of uninsured in America. For a change, the stat comes from a reliable source, the U.S. Census Bureau. But this is a snapshot of a point in time. It does not mean that 46 million Americans are uninsured over the course of a year. It also doesn’t tell us why they’re uninsured. (Some are between jobs.)

The same data shows that 38% of the uninsured earn more than \$50,000 a year and 9.1 million earn more than \$75,000. They could afford health insurance, but choose not to get it. Many are young and healthy and willing to gamble the cost of insurance against the prospect of a serious illness.

Another 14 million qualify for government programs that they’re not currently using. And almost 10 million aren’t U.S. citizens. Obama swears on a stack of Korans they’ll never get federally mandated health insurance.

The chronically uninsured are about 8 million, in a population of 305 million. For this we’re expected to turn the best health-care system in the world over to the politicians and bureaucrats who gave us sub-prime mortgages, \$1,000 toilet seats and the U.S. Postal Service – and get rationing, death panels, and federally funded abortion in the process.

If they were honest, liberals would confess: “There’s a severe power crisis in this country. When it comes to power over your own life, you have too much and we have too little. Please help us to rectify this situation.”

Of course, that would get them nowhere. Hence, the left's perpetual-crisis machine – apocalypse now. "Unless you let us do something drastic right away, you could get AIDS, end up homeless, lose your health insurance, see your beachfront property under 20 feet of water, and watch as beach towels are airlifted to the Eskimos."

Goebbels wouldn't have the gall to concoct the lies they've been peddling for half a century.

But more than a power grab is involved. The left hates the middle-class, hates private property and hates limited, constitutional government. It wants to make us feel guilty for what we have. Whatever the crisis, ultimately, it's our fault – it's our greed, stupidity, callousness or bigotry that fuels the catastrophe.

In the movie "The Invention of Lying," Ricky Gervais lives in a world where everyone tells the absolute truth. The protagonist becomes the first person to intentionally tell a lie. (Could the invention of liberals be far behind?)

To see how much he can get away with, in one memorable scene, Gervais approaches a beautiful woman on the street and tells her, "If we don't have sex right now, the world will end." She responds, "Do we have time to go to a motel, or do we have to do it here?"

That's the way liberal crisis-mongers operate – Let us screw you, right now, or the world will end.

*This commentary originally ran on GrassTopsUSA (**Jonathan: Can you insert a link to the GrassTopsUSA site?**)*