

# Monckton Responds

After being barred from testifying on global warming at congressional hearings, Christopher Monckton puts forth his case.

By Jesse Lanum

The recent congressional hearings over the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) pitted two “celebrity” guests called by both sides of the issue to testify against each other. The Democrats called Al Gore to testify, while the Republicans called for Christopher Monckton. Upon arriving in the United States from England, Lord Monckton found out that the Democrats had refused to allow him to debate Al Gore. In his stead, the Republicans presented Newt Gingrich.

The debate itself is important to all Americans as the restrictions will undoubtedly drive up the cost of energy in an effort to fight global warming. There are a number of scientists, however, who believe that global warming is not a human caused problem, not a problem, or both. They point to the sometimes wild vicissitudes of the earth’s temperature over its long history as having been long before the arrival of humans, including ice ages and warming periods related more to solar activity than spikes in carbon dioxide.

Viscount III Monckton of Benchley is chief policy advisor to the Science and Public Policy Institute. He served from 1982 to 1986 as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s policy advisor. Monckton has been in the news lately due to his skepticism of global warming. Monckton cites the last seven years of temperature decline as evidence against an approaching global warming crisis. He also points to preindustrial age global warming as proof that any warming is not caused by emissions related to industrial technology. The River News Herald was able to get an interview with Lord Monckton to find out exactly what it was he intended to say, and why he is considered such a formidable opponent.

**RNH: When and for what reason was your invitation rescinded?**

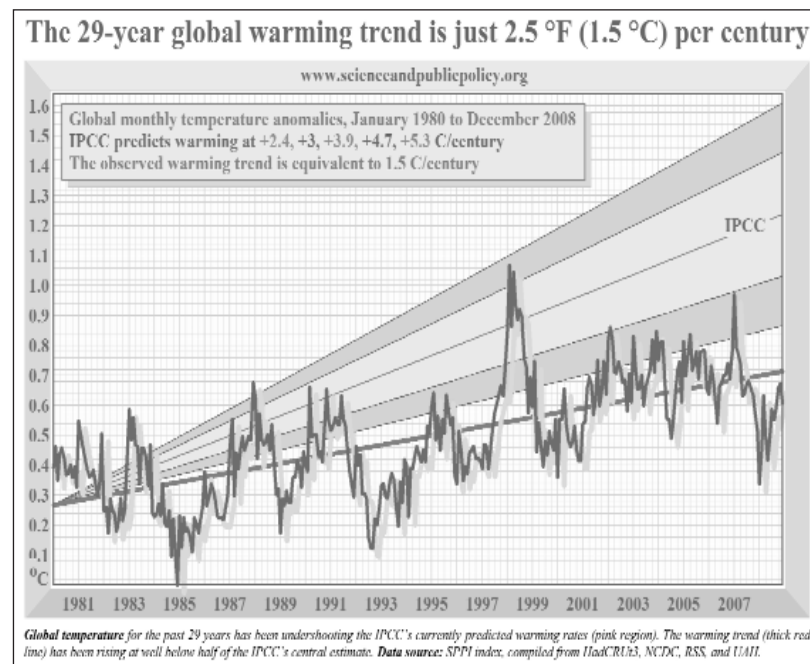
**CM:** The Republican Minority on the Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives had been given a week’s notice that the Democrat Majority would be calling an unnamed celebrity witness to appear on Friday 24, April 2009. On the Monday before the hearing, the Republican Chief of Staff contacted me and asked if I would be willing to appear as an unnamed celebrity witness for the Minority, to testify alongside Al Gore. I agreed.

However, when my jet landed in the U.S. the evening before the hearing, I was told that, perhaps for the first time in history, the Majority in the House had refused the Minority its absolute right to nominate a witness of its own choice. I appeared at the hearing anyway, though I was not allowed to testify, and Chairmen Waxman and Markey told me they had refused to let me testify because I had testified a few weeks previously. However, I had not at that time seen Al Gore’s testimony, to which the Republicans had wanted me to reply.

The real reason why the Democrats did not want me to testify is that they know the science behind the climate scare is nonsense; they know that Al Gore knows no science anyway; they know a UK High Court Judge found nine serious errors in his sci-fi comedy horror movie; and they know I’d have cleaned Gore’s clocks if I’d been allowed to appear. So they chickened out- and, in doing so, acted in breach not only of the rules of the House but also of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which is supposed to guarantee the right to free speech. Cowards, the lot of them!

**RNH: Is it true that the earth has been cooling for the last four years?**

**CM:** The Earth has been cooling for seven years, at a rate equivalent to 3.5 Fahrenheit degrees per century. That is a rapid rate of cooling. In the past four years, the rate of cooling has accelerated to 10 Fahrenheit degrees per century.



**RNH: What is the significance of preindustrial warming and what of the medieval warming period?**

**CM:** Global mean surface temperatures were 10 Fahrenheit degrees warmer than the present in each of the past four interglacial warm periods; up to 5 Fahrenheit degrees warmer than today throughout most of the past 10,000 years; up to 2 Fahrenheit degrees warmer in the Minoan, Roman, and medieval warm periods. After the medieval warm period, there was a period of rapid cooling known as the Little Ice Age, when temperatures were considerably colder than today. During the Maunder or Grand Solar Minimum of 1645-1715, there were almost no sunspots on the Sun for 70 years, and global temperatures were at their coolest in 10,000 years.

Then solar activity began to climb, and continued to climb for 300 years, reaching a peak in the late 1950s, in the middle of the Grand Solar Maximum of 1925-1995, when for 70 years solar activity was at its greatest in 11,400 years. During those 300 years of record increase in solar activity, global temperatures steadily increased, at a rate of around 1 Fahrenheit degree per century. By the end of the solar Grand Maximum, temperature peaked.

However, solar activity then stabilized, and there has been no

statistically-significant “global warming” since 1995. However, more recently the Sun’s activity has gone into a sharp decline, so that global cooling has set in.

**RNH: Why are your statistics for the rise in sea levels different from those of Al Gore?**

**CM:** Two years ago the High Court in London heard arguments on both sides of the question of sea level rise. In the end Her Majesty’s Government, defending an action brought by a lorry-driver from Kent who did not want his two schoolchildren exposed to Gore’s politicized propaganda, admitted that the UN’s official central estimate was that sea level would rise 1 ft 5 inches by 2100; that it had reduced its official maximum estimate from 3 ft to less than 2 ft over the 21st century; that sea level has actually been rising at just 1 ft per century since 1993; and that in the past three years there has been almost no rise in sea level. The Judge said of Al Gore’s 20-ft sea-level rise, “The Armageddon scenario that he predicts is not based on any scientific view.”

Mean sea level rose at an average rate of 4 feet per century over the past 10,000 years, so that it has risen 400 feet in that time. There is now so little land-based ice left on Earth – almost all of it at high altitudes and latitudes where it is unlikely to melt quickly – that a rise of 20 ft in sea level in the near future is highly unlikely. James Hansen’s claimed 246-ft sea-level rise is of course still more absurd. We know that Gore did not believe his own sea-level forecast, because in 2005, the year he made the forecast in his mawkish movie, he bought a \$4 million condo in the St. Regis Tower, San Francisco, just feet from the ocean at Fisherman’s Wharf.

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**RNH: What do you make of the fear over melting polar ice caps?**

**CM:** Once again, I prefer to stick to the data rather than making up silly forecasts that have no scientific basis. At the North Pole, the sea ice reached a 30-year record minimum extent in the late summer of 2007. This was widely reported. Since there had been six years’ global cooling by that time, the sudden and temporary loss of summer sea ice at the North Pole cannot be attributed to “global warming”. At the South Pole, the sea ice reached a 30-year record maximum extent just one month later than the record minimum extent at the North Pole. This record maximum was not reported at all.

At present, the extent of North Polar sea ice is at a ten-year record high for the time of year, and the extent of South Polar sea ice is at its second-highest in 30 years. Neither of these facts has been reported in the mainstream media. The Greenland ice sheet has been thickening at a rate of 2 inches per year, averaged across the entire vast ice sheet. The UN’s climate panel itself says that temperatures would have to remain at 4 Fahrenheit degrees above today’s temperatures for several millennia before even half of the Greenland ice sheet would melt (raising sea level by just 3 feet). Temperatures would have to be considerably higher than this to melt the Antarctic ice sheet, most of which is at latitudes and altitudes far too high to have any realistic prospect of melting anytime soon.

Even if the entire North-Pole ice-cap were to disappear, there would be remarkably little change in the ecosystem of the region. Polar bears are land-based creatures, and they only go out on to the polar ice cap (which is over open water only) because the seals on whose blubber they feed go there. If there were no ice-cap the seals would not go there: they too would remain by the coasts, and the bears would feed on them there. The polar bears survived the last interglacial period 125,000 years ago, when global temperature was 6 Fahrenheit degrees warmer than the present and there was almost certainly no summer ice at the North Pole. There are now five times as many polar bears as there were in the 1940s – hardly the profile of a species at imminent threat of extinction.

For these factual reasons, all of which can be readily verified from independent sources, I am not in the least concerned about melting polar ice, and nor should anyone else be concerned. Like all other aspects of the “global warming” scare, it is a non-problem; and the correct policy solution to a non-problem is to have the courage to do nothing.

**RNH: Is it true that much of the domination of climate change study in the sciences developed from Margaret Thatcher’s intent to break up coal unions?**

**CM:** Margaret Thatcher was interested in ensuring that nuclear power was brought into widespread use, so as to weaken the dependence of the UK economy on the miners, whose leaders were at that time closely linked to the Kremlin and had twice attempted to bring down an elected Conservative government by going on strike. However, her interest in the “global warming” question was purely scientific. During her time as Prime Minister, we did not know as much as we now know about “global warming”: therefore, it was right to make appropriate enquiries, so she established the Hadley Centre for Forecasting in order to find out more.

**RNH: I was recently told by California’s Lieutenant Governor that the EU’s cap and trade model is a great model for the United States. Do you care to comment?**

**CM:** Tell the Lieutenant Governor to come off the Kool-Aid and say hello to the real world. The EU’s cap-and-tax regime has failed twice. The first time, it failed because each of the member states allocated itself permits to emit that comfortably exceeded its then actual emissions, so that the price of permits rapidly fell towards the market-

clearing rate, which was of course zero, rendering the entire exercise pointless. The EU tried again, this time allocating the permits a little less generously, but then the world economy collapsed, and the price of permits fell once again towards zero. And have total emissions in the EU declined? They have certainly not declined any more than they would have done as a result of the sharp economic downturn. The cap-and-tax system is an administratively-costly bureaucratic nightmare guaranteed to do absolutely nothing to reduce CO2 emissions wherever it is inflicted. It is just another tax, transferring wealth from working families who are already hard pressed by recession into the pockets of bureaucrats who are already extravagantly pampered and rewarded at our expense.

Can you talk a little about the closer correlation between solar activity and weather as juxtaposed with the less significant correlation between carbon and the earth’s temperature?

During most the past 300 years, there has been a surprisingly close correlation between changes in solar activity and changes in mean global surface temperature, suggesting (but not proving) that the former is a significant cause of the latter. However, during the last 25 years of the 20th century, solar activity declined from its Grand-Maximum peak, while global temperature continued to climb. There appeared to be a mismatch. In the new millennium, however, the declining solar activity is being matched by declining global temperatures, gradually bringing the solar-activity and temperature records back into synch.

On the other hand, the correlation between the near-monotonically-rising CO2 concentration and the stochastic global-temperature record is remarkably poor. Though correlation does not necessarily imply causation, absence of correlation necessarily implies absence of causation. We know for certain, therefore, that the short-run fluctuations in global temperature are not caused by CO2.

Nevertheless, it is still theoretically possible that the warming caused by rising CO2 concentrations could be having a longer-term effect, driving up the underlying rate of global-temperature increase. To test this proposition, I took the UN’s graph of global mean surface temperature for the past 150 years and plotted the three periods that showed the steepest rise in temperature: 1860-1880, 1910-1940; and 1975-1998. The warming rates in these three periods were identical. We cannot have had much impact on global temperature in the first two periods: there were not enough of us, and we were not emitting enough CO2. Yet the warming rate in the third period, when we could in theory have had some influence over temperature, is precisely the same as in the previous two periods.

This result, which I confirmed by putting down a Parliamentary Question in the House of Lords, strongly suggests that the influence of CO2 over global temperature must be many times smaller than the UN’s climate panel imagines, a result confirmed both by theoretical calculation (see Monckton, 2008, in Physics and Society for July) and by direct measurement of outgoing long-wave radiation from the Earth’s surface by satellites, showing repeatedly that seven to ten times as much radiation is escaping to space via the atmospheric “blanket” of carbon dioxide and water vapor than the UN’s models predict, and proving that the UN’s estimate of the effect of CO2 on temperature is a sevenfold-to-tenfold exaggeration. In short, CO2 causes some warming, but the amount of warming it causes— whichever way you calculate it or measure it— is so small as to be harmless and beneficial.

**RNH: Do you believe that Al Gore has reinvested every penny made from his movie and partnership with Kliener Perkins Caufield and Byers into a non-profit organization?**

**CM:** As the Duke of Wellington used to say, “If you will believe that, Sir, you will believe anything.”

**RNH: What percentage of atmospheric gasses could have been man-made?**

**CM:** The only greenhouse gas emitted in significant quantities by humankind is CO2. Official figures suggest that before the Industrial Revolution the CO2 concentration had been 280 parts per million by volume. At present, the concentration is around 380 ppmv. Even if we assume that all of that increased CO2 concentration is directly attributable to the activities of humankind, the proportion of the atmosphere occupied by CO2 has increased by just one part in 10,000 of the atmosphere.

Lord Monckton did not waste his trip to the United States however. He used the time to give speeches at a number of Universities across the country. Monckton has debated any scientist that will take him up on the offer. Just before the congressional hearing, Monckton took on scientists and an audience that heavily sided with the global-warming-as-crisis perspective and was able to persuade them en masse to his point of view. He also challenged Al Gore to a debate on climate change on more than one occasion. Though Gore has not taken him up on the debate, he did respond to his assertions in the London Telegraph in a 2006 editorial. Monckton then dedicated a large report to dismantling Gore’s assertions, which can be found at [http://ff.org/centers/csspp/pdf/20061121\\_gore.pdf](http://ff.org/centers/csspp/pdf/20061121_gore.pdf) along with a reprint of Gore’s original response.

**Writer’s Note:**

*It was a pleasure to present a side of the debate, which is often not presented. Being a writer for a small-town newspaper without syndication has its benefits, not monetary mind you, but expressionistically. While an article like this one is more macroscopic, the debate over climate change is one that will affect us locally either in the form of a climatic catastrophe or an economic catastrophe, depending upon which side of the debate you fall. Passing the spotlight to those thrust out of it is a special privilege of journalists. News sources are often so interconnected that the outflow of information borders on the deterministic when it comes to media goliaths. This is not to say that smaller disentangled media sources are purer, but it does give them a chance to present information that is un beholden to the monolith that predicts and generates media appetite in the nation. It is for this we can be thankful to serve the exceptionally environmentally conscious Delta locals. Environmentalism used to be more local. Good stewards picked up after themselves and saw their resources as something to take care in a very practical way. If you don’t take care of the rivers, you won’t be able to fish them for long. If you take care of your area, the value of your home will go down. Presently, whether or not you care about the environment has more to do with how you come down on specific and controversial issues, which presents the argument as a false dichotomy. For these and several reasons, the River News Herald is grateful for the opportunity to present those perspectives which may have been passed over on the road to consensus.*