

Kyoto Dream Will Cost Consumers

by *Dennis T. Avery*

(NAPS)—The Kyoto energy treaty, might permanently drive gas, coal, and electricity to the equivalent of \$5 to \$7 per gallon gasoline. High commuting costs would punish the suburbs and the

auto industry as we wave goodbye to SUVs, snowmobiles, and weekend drives.

The first phase of the Kyoto treaty would require the U.S. to cut energy use at least 30 percent from projected levels, according to Vice President Gore. Other experts suggest that increase could be as much as 40 percent. That would mean a huge price hike for all fossil fuels—or

energy rationing.

Even so, the first phase of Kyoto is unlikely to reduce world fossil fuel use very much. Europe already inflicts high fuel prices on its industries, and Third World countries have refused to sign the treaty.

Kyoto's first major impact is thus likely to be a shift of factory and farming jobs from the United States to coal-burning countries like China and India. The Midwest could lose more jobs than in the "Rust Belt" days of the 1970's.

After 2015, U.S. energy emissions would be 50 percent above the Kyoto caps, and would force dramatic cuts in U.S. energy use. Britain has recently been charging drivers close to \$5 per gallon—

and still hasn't fully complied with Kyoto's first phase!

The U.S. Senate voted 95-0 before the Kyoto conference against any international energy agreement that did not include Third World countries. That's why the administration hasn't offered the treaty for Senate ratification.

The Energy Department's Dan Reicher testified to Congress in 1999 that he hoped for a tripling of renewable power generation by 2010—which would still supply only 3 percent of America's current power needs.

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