
EARL'S PEARLS

Of belching bovines, greenhouse, and
the Louisiana Legislature
By Earl Higgins

The "Greenhouse Effect" theory predicts ominous, dramatic changes in the world's atmosphere, dooming life as we know it to the domain of dinosaurs and dodos. One of the causes of the Greenhouse effect is the increase of methane in the atmosphere. Scientists have recently pointed a finger at domestic animals as

the major source of this abundance of methane. I read that there are over one billion pigs in China alone! (Which gives a new quantitative meaning to the term "Bringing Home the Bacon"). But the producers of most of the animal methane are the world's cattle. People who don't hang around cows don't realize that Bossie and Elsie and Ferdinand burp a lot, not to mention that they are also very flatulent. Belches and burps from

bovine bodies are full of the offending methane, which drifts into the atmosphere to join other little methanes rising from rotting vegetation. Thus the Greenhouse follows.

Although placing the blame on domestic beasts may provide the animal-rights people and other skunk-huggers with another argument to stop the domestication of animals, even more recent scientific evidence tends to show that the Greenhouse Effect is caused by some members of the Louisiana Legislature.

The 1991 general session of the legislature displayed a negative reaction to the increased environmental awareness among the state's citizens. The Department of Environmental Quality was assailed by some legislators for doing the job the legislature had told it to do. Senator "Sixty" Rayburn and other members of the Bogalusa Union of Lucrative Laissez-faire (B.U.L.L.) put the kibosh

on a proposal to require farmers in the Florida Parishes to collect cattle manure in the equivalent of a septic tank to keep the stuff from washing into streams. Environmentally contemptuous legislators shrilly paid homage to the myth that industries will not locate in a state with strong environmental protection laws.

While the legislature was in session, technicians were taking air, water, soil and noise samples in the vicinity of the state capitol. Although the data are incomplete, the initial analysis tends to show that the enormous and intense amount of hot air created by these legislators, in combination with their verbal equivalents of bovine breath and cattle manure, may, if not checked, create a life-threatening Greenhouse over Louisiana by next April Fool's Day.

Now, if only there were some way to manipulate the Greenhouse so that it covers only those reactionary legislators....

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