

PANORAMA

Natural Gas, Oil Occur Naturally and are not a Limited Fossil Fuel, Says Prominent Scientist—Part 2

A lot of powerful interests use “energy shortage” scares to manipulate not only public opinion (particularly in regard to U.S. foreign policy toward oil producing nations) but also the price of oil itself. However, the truth is that oil is not a limited resource, according to one of the world’s most prestigious scientists, whose views on the subject have not received the publicity they deserve. Dr. Thomas Gold contends, based on long study, that oil, natural gas and coal are not so-called “fossil fuels.” Instead, according to Dr. Gold, these resources are constantly being manufactured within the Earth by natural processes that are little understood and which point toward new, relatively unexplored realms in science.

Dr. Gold was the guest on the Oct. 28 broadcast of Radio Free America, the weekly call-in talk forum with Tom Valentine, sponsored by American Free Press. He and Valentine were joined by oil wildcatter John Ledbetter, who has used Dr. Gold’s research in his own oil drilling ventures. What follows is part 2 of an abbreviated transcription of the broadcast. Valentine’s questions are in boldface. Gold’s responses are in regular text. Ledbetter’s comments are in italics.

Last time we ended with a comment by Valentine about human skulls found in coal. Dr. Gold gave a non-sequitur answer, so Valentine rephrased the question as follows:

However, you cannot mistake the fact that these are human fossils. Nonetheless, your theory explains how this could come about.

The La Brea tar pits in Los Angeles have saber-toothed tigers and all kinds of things in them. But the only thing which, at the present time, you can see anything that would make coal of the kind that we mine (usually at a very shallow level) are the big tar pits and tar lakes, such as the one at La Brea and ones in Trinidad. The coal we dig is hard, brittle stuff. It was once a liquid, because we find embedded in the middle of a six-foot seam of coal such things as a delicate wing of some animal or a leaf of a plant. They are undestroyed, absolutely preserved, with every cell in that fossil filled with exactly the same coal as all the coal on the outside. A hard, brittle coal is not going to get into each cell of a delicate leaf without destroying it. So obviously that stuff was a thin liquid at one time which gradually hardened.

The only thing we find now on the Earth that would do that is petroleum, which gradually becomes stiffer and harder. That is the only logical

explanation for the origin of coal. So the fact that coal contains fossils does not prove that it is a fossil fuel; it proves exactly the opposite. Those fossils you find in coal prove that coal is not made from those fossils. How could you take a forest and mulch it all up so that it is a completely featureless big black substance and then find one leaf in it that is perfectly preserved? That is absolute nonsense.

Where then does the carbon base come from that produces all of this?

Petroleum and coal were made from materials in which heavy hydrocarbons were common components. We know that because the meteorites are the sort of debris left over from the formations of the planets and those contain carbon in unoxidized form as hydrocarbons as oil and coal-like particles. We find that in one large class of meteorites and we find that equally on many of the other planetary bodies in the solar system. So it's pretty clear that when the Earth formed it contained a lot of carbon material built into it.

Your book points out that there are all sorts of life forms within the Earth.

It was an unthinkable thing, when this discovery was made, that there were life forms that did not depend on life on the surface, such as the process called photosynthesis where we find chemical energies created from the sunlight. That had been thought to be the only way life was to be supported. And here we find gasses and liquids coming up from cracks in the ocean floor which feed enormously intense forms of life, which includes quite large creatures. It is only because we found and saw some of these large creatures that this was discovered. However, the principal things that are living there are microbial, which feed the large creatures.

To verify your theories, you participated in the drilling of an unusual oil well in Sweden. Please tell us about that.

I was responsible for initiating the drilling of two quite deep wells in a huge meteorite crater in central Sweden. The reason I was interested in that was because it was in pure granitic rock with not a stitch of any sediment—nothing biological, just hard brittle rock.

To the average oil geologist that kind of area would be a wasteland.

They thought I was absolutely crazy to get the Swedes to drill there. We were not able to produce commercial quantities of oil, because of the bacteriological content which clogged up the wells, but the bacteria which were living there were on the oil that was coming up. The bacteria that were captured at the various levels were just exactly those that would only reproduce at the elevated temperatures that, of course, occur at the various

levels. There was no question that these were microbes from down there that were living, in fact, on the oil and gas as their principal food source and that this was their supply of energy.

Let me tell you why I was convinced. We first pulled up 80 barrels of oil, so this was not just trace amounts. Yet, I had been told by I don't know how many traditionalists that this was an absolutely mad place to look for oil.

Meanwhile, based on the Swedish results, the Russians have drilled 300 deep holes in granitic rock of this type in Russia and found oil in most of them. The White Tiger field off the coast of Vietnam is producing at a very good rate now from granitic-based rock, so we know that this whole story is correct.

You were confident that this drilling would be successful in Sweden, despite the nay sayers, weren't you?

Well, there was sort of a great intellectual puzzle in the whole oil and gas business, and it was the following: All oil and gas areas contain unquestionably biological molecules. There are degrees of complexity that could not be found without biology. There not only had to be something alive, but it had to be in large quantities.

Another thing is that oil, consistently, the world over, contains a large concentration of the natural gas helium, which is totally chemically unconnected to biology. There is no biological material that could have attracted it or produced it. It's an element, so it cannot be produced.

The great puzzle was why the helium, an unrelated substance to anything biological, was found in petroleum. The helium could only have become concentrated by mechanical pumping, because nothing chemically would affect the helium at all. The only way you can concentrate it is to mechanically pump it and it occurs diffusely distributed in the rock, but it is highly concentrated by a huge factor just in oil. So how would oil, if it is derived from dinosaurs and plants, have concentrated the helium? It is out of the question.

The only way in which the helium could have become concentrated would be if when it was diffusely distributed in all the porous spaces in the rock that another substance in large quantity came charging through those porous spaces and held the spaces open with high pressure. Oil pumped up whatever residual gas was mainly in those porous spaces. Then, when it comes to shallower levels—which is where we eventually find it—the oil contains whatever it has pumped up from deep levels below.

The puzzle was that this nonbiological material was highly concentrated by a factor of perhaps a thousand in oil and so were the biological

molecules. It was a puzzle as to why those two contradictory things came together.

How about magnetite (that is, iron)? What part does it play in your theory?

The thing is that microbes can live on petroleum where it is oozing up from deep below only if they can loosen some oxygen. Hydrocarbons are only useful for energy and microbes need an energy supply which can be used for the combustion process. That needs oxygen. Without oxygen, all of the coal in the world would be useless to you. Microbes have no free oxygen like we have in the atmosphere, so they have to find their oxygen from materials that are buried in the rocks. There the substances that are the most prolific suppliers of oxygen are iron oxide and sulphur oxide. What we have found for a long time to the puzzlement of many petroleum geologists is that petroleum-bearing areas have magnetite, a less oxidized form of iron, and sulphur and sulphides, which are compounds of sulphur, but not oxidized.

So to get that kind of magnetite around the oil, microbes consumed some of the oxygen to make the magnetite out of the ferrous iron that is in the rock. This proves that there is a biological factor at play.

Actually, the magnetite grains are very tiny and no such tiny ones occur naturally without biology. They are clearly biological products and there is no question that we found this in huge quantities in Sweden. Probably all the iron mines in Sweden that started the big Swedish iron industry are the same as what we found at our oil drilling. A great deal of the microbic activity found in the crust of the Earth is what we find in mining operations. Many metal deposits that are totally unexplained, where the textbooks say that they have never been able to find any reason why these metals clustered together, can be explained. The answer as to why they got concentrated is because at depth at high pressures, it is very much easier to make complex molecules that contain metals. Then they come up and disintegrate and leave the metal atoms behind and that's why we find copper and zinc and lead.

What about the methane balls that are being found at the bottom of the ocean?

That's methane hydrate. Any place on the ocean floor that is cold and high pressure allows an ice that is a mixture of methane and water to form methane hydrate. In other words, methane has come up everywhere and met up with the water and there it makes the methane hydrate ice. It is thought that the total amount of the element carbon that is sitting on the

ocean floors in the form of methane hydrate is more than all the coal and oil that we know of.

Your work contends that there is so much natural gas in the earth that it is causing earthquakes in trying to escape from the Earth. We could probably harness natural gas anywhere we wanted if we would just study your work. This is John Ledbetter:

If you'll drill deep enough anywhere, you will find natural gas. It may not be in commercial quantities every time, but more than likely, it will be. This whole thing involving the supposed scarcity of gas and petroleum and all of the politics that goes along with it—in the face of the findings of Dr. Gold—makes you wonder what everybody is really up to.

Is the oil and gas industry reconsidering things in light of your work?

In many other countries they are listening to me: in Russia on a very large scale, and in China also. It is just Western Europe and the United States that are so stuck in the mud that they can't look at anything else.

How evolution retards science¹

The June 4th issue of the Dutch daily, *Reformatorisch Dagblad*, (published six times per week,) had a section devoted to intelligent design. Though much of it was devoted to theistic evolutionary views, which dismissed the significance of any difference between evolu-



¹ Boon, Anca, 2005. "Veel wetenschappers zijn atheïst," in "Accent: Geloven in de Wetenschap," *Reformatorisch Dagblad*, 34(54):19, 4 June. The original text here quoted is:

"Ik vrees dat een wetenschappelijke publicatie die uitgaat van de schepping regelrecht in de prullenbak belandt."

Tegen dit probleem van evolutie als basis van de wetenschap liep Van den Hoorn ook aan tijdens het schrijven van haar stageverslag. "Twee eiwitten in de gistcellen waarmee ik werkte, leken *qua structuur* veel of elkaar, maar hadden niet dezelfde functie. De algemeen geldende gedachte is dan dat de twee eiwitten afstammen van één oorspronkelijk eiwit in een gemeenschappelijke voorouder. In het verslag moet je van deze theorie uitgaan, ook al sta je er persoonlijk niet achter. Het alternatief is het punt helemaal niet noemen, maar dat kan niet altijd."

tion and the Bible, there was one telling statement made by a biology researcher with biblically literalist leanings, Tineke van den Hoorn, 23.

“I fear that any scientific paper based on special creation is immediately doomed for the garbage can.”

While writing her thesis, Van den Hoorn encountered firsthand what an impediment to science the demand that all research be presented in an evolutionary context can be. “Two proteins in the yeast cells I was studying were structurally very similar but did not serve a related function. The prevailing view is that the two proteins must originate from a common protein, that is, have a common ancestor. In the report, one has to build on that assumption, even when it makes no sense to you. The alternative is not to mention the point at all, but that is not always possible.”

Van den Hoorn is a graduate of the University of Utrecht and has a post-graduate research position at the Netherlands cancer institute (NKI).

Icy Jupiter Moon troubles formation theories

Scientists studying data from NASA’s Galileo spacecraft have found that Jupiter’s moon, Almathea, is a pile of icy rubble less dense than water. Scientists expected moons closer to the planet to be rocky and not icy. The finding shakes up long-held theories of how moons form around giant planets. That long-held theory, by the way, was revealed to Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) during a séance he had with the inhabitants of the moon and Jupiter. Laplace popularized it, but despite nearly three centuries of trying, the mathematics never comes out right, just as it does not work now for Almathea.

Evidence for a young universe²

1. Spiral galaxies wind themselves up too fast. Because stars near the center of a galaxy such as the Milky Way have shorter orbits about the center than do stars further out, the spiral arms seen on so many galaxies eventually wind themselves up so that in a few hundred million years they would disappear. Yet the same galaxies are claimed to be ten billion years old. To solve this problem it was proposed that

² Excerpted from D. Russell Humphreys, Ph.D., 2005. “Evidence for a Young World,” *Impact*, no. 384, June.

the spiral arms are density waves which could persist for a longer time. The waves would cause the formation of massive stars, which would live for a few tens of millions of years before fading from view. The stars we see are thus only the wake of the wave, and the wake has too short a life to reveal any winding-up. The problem with this is that there is absolutely no evidence among the stars we see near the sun for even a few generations of such stars, let alone five hundred generations.

2. The number of supernova remnants near the sun is too sparse. Observations of galaxies like the Milky Way show that such galaxies average four supernovae (violently exploding stars that for a few days shine as bright as an entire galaxy) per century. When we look for the gas and dust shells that should result, we count only about 6,000 years worth.
3. Comets are too plentiful. Every time a comet comes near the sun, it loses a fraction of its mass. The amount of matter lost says that few comets will survive more than 100,000 years. Many, if not most, will not last longer than 10,000 years. To produce enough comets to last 4.5 billion years, the supposed age of the solar system, astronomers propose the Oort cloud, a shell of pristine comets beyond the furthest ones we've seen, as a source of new comets. The problem is that there is not a shred of evidence that hints at the existence of the Oort cloud. More recently, the Kuiper belt has come into prominence, which belt is located beyond the orbit of Neptune, but even there, there is not enough matter to account for the observed number of comets without the Kuiper belt having to be supplied by the mythical Oort cloud.

Young galaxies foil evolution theory³

NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer has spotted so-called massive "baby" galaxies in our corner of the universe. Previously, astronomers thought the universe's birth rate had dramatically declined and only small galaxies were forming.

Uniformitarian (evolutionist) astronomers have long thought that massive young galaxies, called "ultraviolet luminous galaxies" or "bright compact galaxies," originated in the "early days" of the universe. These constituted "first-generation galaxies," which produced the heavy elements from which it is supposed that the subsequent generations origi-

³ Clavin, W., D. Savage, 2004. "Aging universe may still be spawning massive galaxies," NASA News Release: 2004-294, Dec. 21.

nated. Eventually, it is assumed, they all matured into “older” ones more like our Milky Way. The Galaxy Evolution Explorer has discovered some three dozen galaxies, thought to be about 2 to 4 billion light years away, about 60 to 80 percent too close to us to fit the evolutionists’ expectations. Astronomers now have to figure out how first-generation galaxies could show up billions of years after they supposedly became extinct. Furthermore, since these galaxies were difficult to find, it may turn out that many more will be found. It should not be surprising if their distribution across the sky is clustered into shells about the earth and at all distances. It would be interesting to see what the number density of these galaxies (number of galaxies per cubic centimeter, for instance) is as a function of distance from earth. From the report, it is clear that among galaxies that are bright in the ultra-violet is concerned; it is a few dozen among thousands.

The newfound galaxies are about 10 times as bright in ultraviolet wavelengths as the Milky Way. This indicates they are teeming with violent star-forming regions and exploding supernova, which are characteristics of youth. In other words, the new galaxies are inconsistent with the theory of evolution of the universe.

Carbon dioxide, the formation of Antarctica, and Global Warming⁴

Today’s false scientists (those whose practice of science is motivated by things other than a quest for physical truths) try to frighten the world’s population by claiming that disaster will result if mankind ignores their bad science. In other words, no threat exists except their threat to mankind. In English, we used to call that “extortion,” but extortion is so widespread among today’s leaders that the word has disappeared from the media. One such phony threat is global warming, that our use of fossil fuels is increasing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), and that CO₂ traps heat in the earth’s air so that if we don’t stop right now, we’ll all roast to death in a few years, or maybe a few decades.... The goal of the global warming alarmists is to force mankind to obey them politically and economically by their threat that doom awaits us if we should neglect their superstitious (Ac. 17:22) science falsely so called (1 Tim. 6:20).

The false-science science practitioners claim that a few-percent increase in atmospheric CO₂ will result in disaster, but every now and then, some light escapes through the caulked cracks in their logic. “Atmos-

⁴ Pagani, M., J.C. Zachos, K.M. Freeman, B. Tipple, & S. Bohaty, 2005. “Marked Decline in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentrations During Paleogene,” *Science*, **309**:600, 22 July.

pheric CO₂ levels fell from about 1500 parts per million to modern levels of 300 parts per million from 35 to 25 million years ago, coincident with the buildup of ice in Antarctica” says the synopsis in the 22 July issue of *Science’s* table of contents. In a Scriptural time scale, this means that after the split of the continents in Peleg’s day, (Gen. 10:25,) the amount of carbon dioxide in the air dropped by a factor of five. This means that before the flood, and for some time after, there was five times as much carbon dioxide in the air as there is now. Readers will recall that before the split of the continents, and before the flood, the weather was much milder and the seasons less pronounced than today. The vegetation was much more lush, as the climate made plants easier to grow which, in turn, made for more animal life on earth, too, including man. The fossil record confirms this to be the case.

In the light of that paper, we conclude that today’s level of CO₂ in the air is too low, and that it needs to be increased if the amount of arable land (land capable of growing crops for food) is to be reached. It appears that in order to increase the fertility of land, and to expand the amount of land on which to grow food, we need five times the amount of carbon dioxide in the air as we presently have. The advocates of the Kyoto Accord and the opponents of “fossil” fuels are thus exposed as members of a culture of death—people who desire the death of man, or possibly a great reduction in the population—and so are anything but friends of man or God.

Visit the moon & planets, but don’t inhale the dust

In the last issue we examined some of the hazards awaiting astronauts visiting the moon and planets. Since then we learned of yet another potential hazard facing intrepid extraterrestrial explorers. That threat emanated from dust.

In 1972, Apollo astronaut Harrison Schmidt sniffed the air in his Lunar Module, the *Challenger*. “[It] smells like gunpowder in here,” he said. His commander Gene Cernan agreed. “Oh, it does, doesn’t it?” The two astronauts had just returned from a long moonwalk around the Taurus-Littrow valley, near the Sea of Serenity. Dusty footprints marked their entry into the spaceship. That dust became airborne—and smelly. Later, Schmidt felt congested and complained of “lunar dust hay fever.” His symptoms went away the next day; no harm done. He soon returned to Earth and the anecdote faded into history.

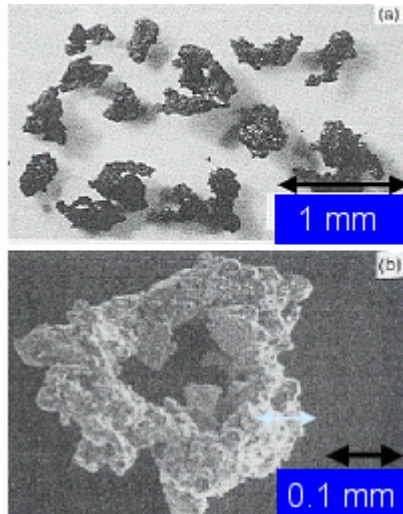


Above: Moonwalking astronaut Harrison Schmidt.

Russell Kerschmann, a pathologist at the NASA Ames Research Center studying the effects of mineral dust on human health, explains: “In some ways, lunar dust resembles the silica dust on earth that causes silicosis, a serious disease.” Silicosis, which used to be called “stone-grinder’s disease,” first came to widespread public attention during the Great Depression when hundreds of miners drilling the Hawk’s Nest Tunnel through Gauley Mountain in West Virginia died within half a decade of breathing fine quartz dust kicked into the air by dry drilling—even though they had been exposed for only a few months. This won’t necessarily happen to astronauts, but it is a problem that must be reckoned with.

Right: Moon dust

When quartz grains smaller than 10 microns are breathed into the lungs, they can embed themselves into the tiny alveolar sacs and ducts where oxygen and carbon dioxide gases are exchanged. There, the lungs cannot clear out the dust by mucous or coughing. Moreover, the immune system’s white blood cells commit suicide when they try to engulf the sharp-edged particles to carry them away in the bloodstream. In the acute form of silicosis, the lungs fill up with proteins from the blood, and the victim slowly suffocates.



Lunar dust is extremely fine and abrasive, almost like powdered glass. Astronauts on several Apollo missions found that it clung to everything and was almost impossible to remove; once tracked inside the Lunar Module, some of it easily became airborne, irritating lungs and eyes.

Martian dust could be even worse. It's not only a mechanical irritant but also may be a chemical poison. Mars is red because its surface is largely composed of iron oxide (rust) and oxides of other minerals. Some scientists suspect that the dusty soil on Mars may be such a strong oxidizer that it burns any organic compound such as plastics, rubber or human skin as viciously as undiluted lye or laundry bleach. According to data from the Pathfinder mission, Martian dust may also contain trace amounts of toxic metals, including arsenic and hexavalent chromium—a cancer-causing toxic waste. The dust challenge would be especially acute during the windstorms that occasionally envelop Mars from poles to equator. Dust whips through the air, scouring every exposed surface and sifting into every crevice. There's no place to hide.

Below: The Columbian Hills under dusty Martian skies.



Planet building theory is in a mess⁵

According to the politically “acceptable” theory of solar system formation, rocky planets form somewhat like snowmen. They start out around young stars as tiny balls in a disc-shaped field of thick dust. Then, through sticky interactions with other dust grains, they gradually accumulate more mass. Eventually, mountain-sized bodies take shape, which

⁵ Savage, D., W. Clavin, 2004. “Astronomers Discover Planet Building is a Mess,” JPL News Release: 2004-257, October 18.

further collide to make planets. Previously, astronomers envisioned this process proceeding smoothly toward a mature planetary system over a few million to a few tens of millions of years. Dusty planet-forming discs, they predicted, should steadily fade away with age, with occasional flare-ups from collisions between leftover rocky bodies.

New data from the Spitzer infrared telescope, together with previous data from the European Space Agency's Infrared Space Observatory and the joint NASA, United Kingdom and the Netherlands' Infrared Astronomical Satellite has changed all that. The researchers looked for dusty discs around 266 nearby stars of similar size, about two to three times the mass of the Sun, and various ages. Seventy-one of those stars were found to harbor discs, presumably containing planets at different stages of development. But, instead of seeing the discs disappear in older stars, the astronomers observed the opposite in some cases.

"We thought young stars, about one million years old, would have larger, brighter discs, and older stars from 10 to 100 million years old would have fainter ones," Dr. George Rieke of the University of Arizona said. "But we found some young stars missing discs and some old stars with massive discs."

In other words, despite monthly announcements such as the above, evolution's Nebular Hypothesis for the formation of solar systems still does not work, even as it didn't work when the inhabitants of the moon and Jupiter gave it in a séance to the Swedish occult theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg, (1688-1772).

QUOTE

Evolutionists have "Physics Envy." They tell the public that the science behind evolution is the same science that sent people to the moon and cures diseases. It's not. The science behind evolution is not empirical, but forensic. Because evolution took place in history, its scientific investigations are after the fact—no testing, no observations, no repeatability, no falsification, nothing at all like physics. ... I think this is what the public discerns—that evolution is just a bunch of just-so stories⁶ disguised as legitimate science.

—John Chaikowsky,
"Geology vs. Physics," *Geotimes*, 50, 6, 2005.

⁶ The "Just-So Stories" are a collection of tales told by Rudyard Kipling, which consist of fanciful accounts explaining the origin of animal features (such as how the tiger got its stripes) based on Indian legends.