

Dejean Campaign Disturbs Green Hypnosis at Baker Institute Event

This is an edited version of a report appearing in the Operations Bulletin of EIR's Morning Briefing of April 7, 2022.

On April 5, a four-man team from the Joel Dejean for Congress campaign disturbed the green hypnosis at an event sponsored by the James Baker Institute, situated at Rice University. The occasion was a book signing and colloquy with Professor of Environmental Engineering and author, Daniel S. Cohan with *Houston Chronicle* Business columnist Chris Tomlinson, regarding Cohan's recently released book, *Confronting Climate Gridlock: How Diplomacy, Technology, & Policy Can Unlock a Clean Energy Future*. Note that Environmental Engineering has replaced Civil Engineering as a course of study.

The Anderson-Clarke auditorium where this paean to green, anti-scientific pessimism occurred is a mere 200 yards across the parking lot from Owl Stadium where, in 1962, President John Kennedy delivered his thrilling speech announcing NASA's mission to the Moon.

In the 40-minute discussion, Cohan and Tomlinson dreamily reminisced at how "hopeful" they were that after the 1987 Montreal Protocol banned CFC refrigerants, the Rio Summit five years later would soon end the era of carbon-based energy. Cohan bragged about his carbon-neutral residence in swanky University Park, with solar panels and super-insulation which provides 90% of his utilities from "non-carbon" sources. Then, he quickly dissed any energy-dense alternatives for humankind's energy future. Hydro? No rivers left to harness, and it will disturb the environment. Nuclear? Too expensive. He even mocked Bill Gates for his investment in "whiz-bang" modular nuclear plants. He dismissed fusion power with a wave of the hand. For the most part, the audience of mostly white boomers and Cohan's students was lapping it all up, that is, those who weren't dozing off.

Dejean took the mic for the second question. He introduced himself as an electrical engineer and an independent candidate for Congress:

Dejean: "My Republican opponent, [Wesley Hunt,] who was endorsed by the *Chronicle*, has called for decarbonization and a transition from fossil fuels, as long as Russia, India and China go first. His key endorser, James Baker III [for whom the Institute is named] has called for a carbon tax. Now, I was born in the country with the lowest carbon footprint in the western hemisphere: Haiti. What would

decarbonizing—hiking the price of fuel—do to a non-developed country like Haiti, where half the population doesn't even have access to electricity?

And another question: Where does this 1.5 degree temperature rise target come from? That's a rise from the American Civil War until the end of this century! Since we are now 1.1 degrees up since the Civil War, that leaves us 78 years before rising the remaining 0.4 degrees centigrade!"

At this point, Tomlinson tried to silence Dejean. Cohan smoothly tut-tutted poor Haiti.

Cohan: "The advanced nations should make the greater sacrifice. Haiti should be allowed to leapfrog upward and do like Africa did when it went from land lines to cell phones." (Ask what percentage of Africans ever had landlines or now have cell phones...!!)

Cohan ignored the question of miniscule temperature rise.

Dejean Campaign Manager, Joe Jennings, posed the penultimate question:

Jennings: "You mentioned the Montreal and Rio Protocols, but the biggest climate bonanza recently was the COP-26 Summit in Glasgow. This was a huge event, pushing the wonders of carbon finance, but at the end of it all there was a lot of wailing and gnashing of teeth, because the net-zero carbon targets demanded were not locked in. The two biggest no-shows were Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China. Their absence emboldened other nations to challenge the agenda.

From the podium: "What's your question?"

Jennings (continuing): "I'm getting to it. As the COP-26 event ended, President Biden warned that 'Russia and China will have to pay for not participating.' My question: Is NATO's current drive for war, even nuclear war, against Russia and China, their payback for not bending to London's rules-based agenda of green?"

There were a few gasps and grumbles from the crowd. Cohan simply ignored the NATO question and extolled the "victories" of COP-26 in setting targets for CO₂ reduction, but complained about India and China pushing their targets too far into the future. Afterwards, Dejean asked Tomlinson if the *Chronicle* would sponsor a debate of all the candidates, including Dejean and Wesley Hunt.

Tomlinson: "I have no control over that — I'm not Editorial."

Jennings to Tomlinson: “Even if you get everything you want — carbon taxes on everything, trillions of carbon penalties taken from farmers, ranchers and industries funneled into Wall Street speculation — do you think that can save the \$2 quadrillion in derivatives bets that are now starting to blow?”

Tomlinson: “Gee, that’s too big a question for me. I never thought about that!”

As the event broke up, and at the book signing reception afterwards Dejean and his team distributed literature and announcements of the Schiller Institute’s upcoming April 9 conference, to about half of the 100+ attendees. Many of the students present politely took leaflets, explaining that they were taking Environmental Engineering from Professor Cohan.

A videotape of the intervention is available [here on YouTube](#) and on the Dejean for Congress website, Joeldejeanforcongress.com.