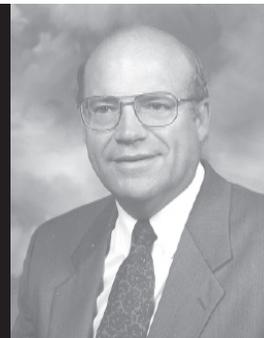




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report



Dr. David Noebel

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Frederick Charles Schwarz *January 15, 1913-January 24, 2009*

Dr. Fred Schwarz, the founder and director of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade until his retirement ten years ago, went home to glory on January 24, 2009. His Christian, conservative ministry profoundly affected the American public during the 1950s, '60s, '70s, and '80s like few other ministries did as he sought to awaken America to the dangers of international Communism. Fred spoke and wrote continually on why we could trust the Communists "to be Communists." His lectures on atheism, dialectical materialism, and economic determinism are legend in their own right, and he clearly understood the anti-Christian nature of Marxism-Leninism.

This son of Australia (his M.D. was from the University of Queensland) decided early on that Communists needed to be confronted and not allowed to have the whole college campus to their liking. In the early '50s, he left his medical practice, came to the United States, and established the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, lecturing and debating Communists on America's college and university campuses. It was at a college chapel address that I first came under his influence. As a result, I decided to study the threat of Communism in depth, unaware of his influence on others—Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Norman Geisler, Dr. Marvin Olasky, Dr. Tim LaHaye to name a few—to do the same.

Fred's wife and family were united in purpose. Lillian agreed to stay in Australia raising their children while Fred lectured from city to city in a faraway country. Without her sacrifice, he could not have followed his passion. I am pleased to report that their children and grandchildren are all doing well. Their son John, also a physician, is on the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade board.

In this issue of The Schwarz Report, following our extended obituary coverage, is "The Will to Disbelieve" by Mary Eberstadt, an article detailing the world that Dr. Schwarz found himself in when he appeared on the scene in the United States. She writes, "In universities above all, especially elite universities, government and political-science departments were dominated by strains of what was known as anti-anticommunism—in other words, by the idea that being against communism was somehow worse than being in favor of communism."

But Fred was up to the challenge and performed brilliantly as he debated and exposed the Marxist-Leninist worldview—its dogma, its objectives, its strategies, and its tactics. Few could match his knowledge of Communism because he had actually read Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and others and could translate their ideas into understandable concepts.

Dr. Schwarz's influence on the newly rising conservative movement was profound. Yet he was a humble, loving, Christian gentleman with little desire to push himself to the front of any movement. If you're interested in understanding this remarkable man, read his *Beating The Unbeatable Foe*.

continued on next page

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz, has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is (719) 685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (the Crusade is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. Permission to reproduce materials from this *Report* is granted provided our name and address are given.

I quote from the book jacket: “By the time Joseph Stalin died in 1953, Communism was a rapidly spreading disease—one seemingly without a cure. Enter Dr. Frederick Schwarz, a ‘pathologist of Communism’ who had already spent more than twenty years in the study of Communism’s basic ideas. At Dr. Billy Graham’s suggestion, Dr. Schwarz formed the United States Christian Anti-Communism Crusade (CACC). For the next four decades, the CACC was the steel spine of the American anti-Communist movement, helping to educate such great anti-Communist leaders as Ronald Reagan.”

President Reagan wrote the following to Dr. and Mrs. Schwarz on January 4, 1990: “Dear Fred and Lillian, Nancy and I send our heartfelt congratulations on your golden wedding anniversary and on Fred’s 37th anniversary of his 39th birthday. Our thoughts and good wishes are with you as you gather with family and friends to celebrate. Fred, you are to be commended for your tireless dedication, dedication in trying to ensure the protection of freedom and human rights, and I know you join me in special satisfaction for being supportive of your lifetime efforts. May the joy you have shared over the years be a reflection of the years to come. Happy anniversary, happy birthday, Fred, and God bless you both. Sincerely, Ronald Reagan.”

One of Fred’s passions was poetry—he could quote poems by the hour. One night in Los Angeles, where he had gone to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award for “Servant Leadership” presented by the Council for National Policy, he and Dave Breese took turns quoting poetry to an amazed audience until 4 in the morning. Fred’s favorite poem was probably John Masefield’s “The Everlasting Mercy,” which contained his favorite passage:

O glory of the lighted mind.
How dead I’d been, how dumb, how blind.
The station brook, to my new eyes,
Was babbling out of Paradise,
The waters rushing from the rain
Were singing Christ has risen again.
I thought all earthly creatures knelt
From rapture of the joy I felt...
Were parts of an eternal glory,
Where God’s eternal garden flowers
I stood in bliss at this for hours.

Before presenting an Australian’s look at Dr. Schwarz’s funeral, celebrating a life of faith, love, and service, I’d like to share some of the comments sent to honor his life and remember his passing that were read at his service.

“I first heard Dr. Schwarz speak on the campus of Pasadena College in Pasadena, California when I was a student there. The year was 1956, as I recall, and I was deeply impressed and influenced by his words that day. I still remember that compelling speech, which nudged me toward a conservative point of view. Like millions of other people whom Dr. Schwarz has informed down through the decades, I am indebted to Dr. Schwarz for the courage and conviction he demonstrated in addressing some of the most crucial issues of our time. He will be missed, but his remarkable legacy will surely endure long into the future.”
—Dr. James C. Dobson, Focus on the Family

“I was a student in Bible school in Detroit in the 1950s when I first heard Dr. Schwarz. I was a budding apologist, but I had no experience and no model. When he spoke of his debates with Communists in universities, my ears perked up. I did not know that Christians could actually debate toe-to-toe with unbelievers in a secular context. He was one of only two Christians I knew of who actually did this. I secretly hoped that I could do the same some day. It was a great example and model for my later venture in the same secular venue with skeptics, agnostics, and atheists. I thank God for Dr. Schwarz’s commitment, keen intellect, and courage to go to the modern Mars Hill and proclaim the truth. Here I am—four college and university degrees, 70 books, and 55 years later—doing the same thing. I thank God for Dr. Schwarz’s great example.”
—Dr. Norm Geisler, Christian Apologist

“Dr. Fred Schwarz was a monumental example of The Power of One. There are few people in the 20th century who had as widespread and lasting influence as he did. I was proud to be his longtime friend and I know that his legacy in America is lasting.

“It was in 1957 that I invited Fred Schwarz to give a series of four lectures on Communism at the St. Louis Medical Society. That may be the first time he addressed a nondenominational American audience. Then in 1958, I planned a five-day school in St. Louis with a prestigious sponsoring committee headed by General Lief Sverdrup. That school was a world-changing event and mind-changing event for grassroots Americans. It was the start of dozens if not hundreds of similar schools on Communism that Dr. Schwarz personally organized and conducted all over the country.

“In those days, Communism was the biggest issue the United States faced—Communist infiltration of government and colleges and the growing Soviet missile threat. Dr. Schwarz explained and taught the objectives,

strategies and tactics of the Communist to hundreds of thousands of Americans especially during the 1950s and 1960s, and continuing in later years. I believe it was the fact that grassroots America had been taught the truth about Communism that enabled Ronald Reagan later to brand the Soviet Union as the ‘evil empire,’ to demand that Gorbachev ‘tear down this Wall,’ and to eliminate the threat of Communism worldwide. As I travel around the country, I meet people every week who say, ‘It was Dr. Schwarz’s school on Communism that started me in the conservative movement.’

“Fred Schwarz’s reward should be rich in Heaven. Not only all Americans, but people all over the world, are in his eternal debt.” —Phyllis Schlafly, Eagle Forum

Fred Schwarz, RIP

by Bill Muehlenberg

Jesus once said that a prophet is without honour, except in his own country. One of the greatest Australian prophets of the past century has just passed away, and nothing that I am aware of about his passing can be found in the Australian mainstream media.

While Australia has many heroes—especially sporting figures and movie stars—perhaps the greatest hero to arise from Australia in recent times has been totally overlooked by our secular, leftist media. I refer to Dr. Fred Schwarz, who died earlier this week at age 96.

Schwarz was a well-respected medical doctor originally from Brisbane. He left a successful medical practice in Sydney, although with a young family, to devote his whole attention to warning people about the dangers of atheistic Communism.

Born in 1913, he accepted Christ as his personal saviour in 1934. In the mid 1940s he began his medical work. He combined this with active Christian work, and also became aware of the threat of Communism during this period. He soon was reading everything he could find on the topic, especially the source materials.

Each night he devoured the works of the founders of Communism. Thus his wife Lillian would quip that she often found four men in her bed: Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Fred. He soon was debating leading Australian Communists.

He became aware that most Christians were clueless as to the menace of totalitarian Marxism, and he dedicated his life to educating the public, and the church, about these dangers. He was invited to speak in America in 1950. He

was urged to form an organisation dedicated to instructing people about the Communist threat, and how it is the polar opposite of Biblical Christianity.

In 1953 he established the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade (CACC). He closed his Sydney medical practice in 1955 and devoted the rest of his life to this project, moving to America to fully engage in the work. In 1960 his best-selling book was published, *You Can Trust The Communists (to be Communists)*.

I picked up a secondhand copy of this book in Madison, Wisconsin in the mid-80s. He said this in the book, “In the battle against Communism, there is no substitute for accuracy, specific knowledge. Ignorance is evil and paralytic.”

This book and this ministry were profoundly influential. They influenced a generation of Americans who would do battle against the Communist foe. These include such luminaries as Ronald Reagan, William F. Buckley, Jack Kemp, James Dobson and James Kennedy.

Schwarz had countless debates with Communists, gave countless speeches and talks on the subject, and wrote countless articles, booklets and books on the topic. His life was energetic, passionate, and committed to standing up for biblical Christianity, and warning against the Marxist evils.

When asked which was more dangerous, the external or internal threat of Communism, Fred would reply, “If you were on a ship that was sinking, which would be the greatest danger, the water outside or the water inside? I was illustrating that the external and internal forces were manifestations of the same danger.”

And the dangers were very real indeed. In one of his first pamphlets Schwarz argued that Communism is a disease: “Communism has already killed many millions of people and proposes to kill many millions more. Therefore, by definition, it is a disease. It is a threefold disease. It is a disease of the body, because it kills; it is a disease of the mind, because it is associated with systemized delusions not susceptible to rational argument; and it is a disease of the spirit, because it denies God, materializes man, robs him of spirit and soul, and, in the last analysis, even of the mind itself, and reduces him to the level of a beast of the field.”

And even though atheistic, Schwarz could clearly see that it was a religion, albeit a false religion, and the main contender against Christianity. He noted that many ex-Communists have spoken of the religious nature of Communism.

When people charged Schwarz with bias, he confessed: “I plead guilty. We are biased in favour of truth, freedom, and life; we are against deceit, slavery, and unnecessary

death. We believe that Communism leads to classicide through the liquidation of the bourgeoisie, that it leads to the justification and practice of mass murder.”

But, critics will complain, what about the good of Communism? “In rebuttal I explained that a pathologist is a specialist in the characteristics of a disease, not health, and that a mixture of good and evil is often more deadly than an undiluted evil.”

The complete and incredible story of this modern prophet is told in his autobiography, *Beating the Unbeatable Foe* (Regnery, 1996). This 600-page story is an inspiring read, and shows us the dedication, zeal and perseverance of this one amazing individual.

It tells of the waves of opposition, not just from the Communists and the Soviet Union, but from leftist, liberal allies and “useful idiots,” to use Lenin’s phrase. The lies, deceit, slander, and malicious attacks on Dr. Schwarz were relentless and are mind-boggling to read about. Yet despite all this incessant opposition and attack, he remained steadfast to his calling.

The book also speaks about how the Christian churches were especially targeted by the Communists. Internal subversion was an important tactic of the Communists. And many churchmen of course were completely taken in by the Communist propaganda.

One notable thing that struck me as I read this book was that a very similar battle is being waged today, and there is a similar need for accurate information to withstand a vicious enemy. I refer to militant Islam, and the war it is waging against the free West. The parallels between its internal and external attacks are so close to what we found in the Communist offensive.

And in the same way today many Christians are completely ignorant of the threat to the Christian church, or are being duped by various “peace” initiatives and interfaith endeavours. In the same way that many believers were hoodwinked by the Communists last century, many believers today are being deceived by the Islamists and their interfaith supporters.

Dr. Schwarz eventually returned to Sydney where he has now finally received his eternal reward. This man was a modern-day saint, a genuine prophet, and a tireless worker for Christ and his Kingdom. He achieved more in his lifetime than most people ever will.

Yet incredibly I still cannot find any news of his death, or any obituaries or eulogies about this remarkable man. Like Jesus, he was certainly a prophet without honour in his own land. But his life and work deserve to be widely heralded. And if no one else will, I most certainly will. God bless you richly, Fred Schwarz.

The Will to Disbelieve

by Mary Eberstadt

Imagine for a moment that much of the world is living under a set of ideas that has manifestly awful economic, social, and moral consequences. Imagine, in fact, that one of the most obvious things *about* the world is the negative impact of those ideas on the people who live under them—which is why some scholars have toiled long and hard to assemble an empirical record of the influence of these ideas, showing the various ways in which they are bad for human beings.

Now imagine one more step. Imagine that, despite the empirical evidence about the human costs of those pernicious ideas, many people, including many or even most leading scholars, don’t want to face the facts. Some simply ignore the data. Others try to explain them away as artifacts of something—anything—other than the bad ideas in question. Still other people perhaps most perverse of all, argue that the consequences of these ideas are actually *good*—as in, they might *seem* bad to particularly unenlightened souls, but they make perfect sense once one’s consciousness is elevated in the right direction.

If it seems incredible that otherwise reasonable, educated people in possession of damning empirical evidence would want to ignore it rather than change their minds, rest assured that it isn’t. In fact, this picture of intellectual denial captures perfectly what went on for decades among educated people in the advanced West, over a not inconsequential matter that was resolved around the time many of today’s college students were born.

The matter was, of course, the Cold War. Incredible as it seems in retrospect, even to those who witnessed some of those years, the moral facts of the Cold War remained disputed at the highest intellectual levels, especially on American campuses, until about two seconds before the Berlin Wall came down. Yes, incredibly enough—and despite the fact that most other people on earth knew exactly what to think about communism, especially those unfortunate enough to live under it—there was no intellectual unanimity in the West during the decades leading up to 1989 about whether communist ideas and governments, in practice, had proved to be a human disaster.

In fact, to the extent that elite opinion on the subject did exist, it lined up in the majority quite the other way. In universities above all, especially elite universities, government and political-science departments were dominated by strains of what was known as anti-anti-communism—in other words, by the idea that being against

communism was somehow worse than being in favor of communism.

Astonishing as it seems today, some professors and intellectuals throughout the Western struggle against communism were outright Marxists. Others took a more nuanced view. They argued that, whatever the communists were doing, the capitalists and governments of the West were just as bad—or perhaps even worse. This line of argument was dubbed by (and deplored by) anticommunist critics as “moral equivalence.” Of course, the most interesting thing there is that word *equivalence*—which at least implies that the communists were as bad as we were. In truth, though many other critics of Western capitalism did not think the systems morally equivalent at all. They thought it obvious that communism was superior.

Still other scholars and intellectuals who stood against supposedly simple-minded anticommunism took a different tack. They argued that the Cold War was a “false construct,” meaning that the differences between communism and capitalism were more superficial than they appeared. One subset of this line of reasoning was something called “convergence theory,” according to which the United States and the Soviet Union—despite appearances—were actually behaving more like each other all the time.

I once took a rather sophisticated college class from one of the extremely convinced professorial leaders of this wing of thought, in 1979—a year in which, just for instance, 40,000 soldiers and officers of the Soviet communists marched into Afghanistan at Christmastime and proceeded to wage a war against civilians that stands distinguished in its wanton ferocity toward innocents even today. Yet even events like these did not upend the ideas of sophisticates intended on ignoring the evidence of the time and obeying the unwritten imperative to put the United States in the wrong. If one had asked most intellectuals and professors of the time whether the Cold War was morally clear cut, and whether or not communism was causing misery on an unprecedented scale, one would have witnessed some combination of the responses just described—rounding the bases of denial, heated denial, and damned denial.

In retrospect, this formidable perversity—this otherwise inexplicable act of intellectual abdication—was more than just an outbreak of intellectual slumming. It was, in fact, one of the defining features of the Cold War. The denial stretched across the Western intelligentsia from Seoul to Boston, Oslo to Buenos Aires, and just about every point in between, wherever people clever enough to ignore the evidence could invent seemingly sophisticated reasons for doing so. Such profound and systematic resistance to

the empirical facts was dubbed by the stalwart anticommunist Jeane Kirkpatrick as the “will to disbelieve,” in an essay by that same name—a fine phrase that deserves resurrecting in a different context today.

—*First Things*, February 2009, p. 29, 30

The Culture of Corruption

by John W. Whitehead

“It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress.” —Mark Twain

The economy is in a tailspin. More than 860,000 people lost their homes in foreclosures in 2008, while more than three million foreclosure notices were sent out by mortgage lenders. Roughly 11 million Americans are out of work. And more than 37 million Americans, including 12% percent of our senior citizens, are living in poverty.

What are our representatives in Congress, many of whom are millionaires in their own right, doing about the toll this recession is taking on America’s lower and middle classes? For one thing, they’ve given themselves a \$4,700 pay raise, which will cost the U.S. government an additional \$2.5 million this year.

That’s on top of their six-figure salaries and the millions in taxpayer dollars spent to maintain offices in their home state and in the nation’s capital, as well as other benefits such as free life insurance, a generous retirement plan for life, 32 fully reimbursed road trips home a year, and travel to foreign lands. Then there are the “extras,” including discounts in Capitol Hill tax-free shops and restaurants, \$10 haircuts at the Congressional barbershop, free reserved parking at Washington National Airport, use of the House gym or Senate baths for \$100 a year, free fresh-cut flowers from the Botanic Gardens, and free assistance in the preparation of income taxes. And don’t get me started on the pitiful number of days they actually work, when they’re not off fundraising or campaigning for their next election.

However, serving in Congress wasn’t always about perks and entitlements. In the early days of our country, members of Congress were paid \$6 per day—and that was only while they were in session. It wasn’t until 1815 that members actually began receiving an annual salary

to the tune of \$1,500 per year. And if they wanted to employ an assistant, they had to pay that salary out of their own pockets. For many members who were not fortunate enough to be independently wealthy, it meant working second jobs in order to augment their personal income. In other words, they were statesmen who served out of a love of country and a sense of duty.

Yet even statesmen are not immune to the lure of power and money. Before long, the revolutionary ideal of “good government,” led by public servants who act selflessly and promote the greater good, was overshadowed by a culture of corruption in Congress.

The culture of corruption that eventually came to pervade Congress was epitomized by the Salary Grab of 1873. On March 13, the last day of their term, members of the 42nd Congress, nearly half of whom would not be returning, voted to give themselves a retroactive pay increase that amounted to a \$5,000 going-away present. The “salary grab” quickly gave rise to a nationwide sense of outrage over Congress’ perceived culture of corruption. It dominated newspaper headlines and resulted in a backlash at the polls that year. This, in turn, gave rise to a reform movement that succeeded in replacing the “spoils system” of filling government jobs with civil service reform.

Yet human nature being what it is, reform rarely lasts long. Inevitably, legislative checks on corruption give way to renewed efforts to sidestep such controls until we find ourselves in our current strait, in a vicious cycle of corruption and minor reform.

Needless to say, Congress is on the downswing of that cycle and has been for quite some time. Abuses of office run the gamut from neglecting their constituencies to engaging in self-serving practices, including the misuse of eminent domain, earmarking hundreds of millions of dollars in federal contracting in return for personal gain and campaign contributions, having inappropriate ties to lobbyist groups and incorrectly or incompletely disclosing financial information.

Pork barrel spending, hastily passed legislation, partisan bickering, a skewed work ethic, graft and moral turpitude have all contributed to the public’s increasing dissatisfaction with congressional leadership. Thus, it is little wonder that a recent *USA Today* poll shows Congress with a 19 percent approval rating.

You’d be hard-pressed to find employees with such dismal performance evaluations getting a pay raise of any kind. Conveniently, Congress doesn’t have to worry about that since they voted in 1989 to give themselves an automatic raise every year.

Some members of Congress have announced their intentions to refuse this year’s salary increase if Congress does not first vote to suspend it, and legislation has already been proposed to refuse next year’s increase. However, the public’s discontent over Congress’ pay raise is really not about the \$2.5 million pay increase. (After all, we spend roughly that amount every 15 minutes in the war in Iraq.) It’s about having representatives in Congress who truly understand what it means to represent and relate to their constituents, many of whom are struggling right now to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

Today, many of our politicians live like kings. Chauffeured around in limousines, flying in private jets and eating gourmet meals, all paid for by the American taxpayer, they are far removed from those they represent. Such a luxurious lifestyle makes it difficult to identify with the “little guy”—the roofers, plumbers and blue-collar workers who live from paycheck to paycheck and keep the country running with their hard-earned dollars and the sweat of their brows.

Something needs to change, and dramatically. As President Obama recently reminded Americans, we will need to make some sacrifices in the way we live in order to lift the country from recession, but we should not be the only ones sacrificing.

For his part, Obama has taken a small but symbolic step in the right direction. Declaring that “families are tightening their belts, and so should Washington,” Obama announced his intention to freeze the salaries of White House employees who make over \$100,000. Now Congress needs to do their part.

Winston Churchill once said that “a politician thinks about the next election—the statesman thinks about the next generation.” It’s time for our elected representatives in Congress to stop acting like politicians and start remembering that they exist to serve the people, not themselves.

—*The Rutherford Institute*, January 22, 2009

The Schwarz Report Bookshelf

To see a complete list of books recommended by the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade please check out our website at www.schwarz-report.org. This site also has back issues of *The Schwarz Report* as well as other great resources.

Climate Czar Has Socialist International Connection

by Stephen Dinan

Editor's Note: The Democratic Socialists of America, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Progressive Democrats of America are all heavily represented in the U.S. House of Representatives. These socialist organizations contain such luminaries as Nancy Pelosi, Barney Frank, John Conyers, Charles Rangel, Ed Markey, etc. In fact, of the twenty standing committees of the House, eleven are chaired by members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. The Democratic Socialists of America is the principal U.S. affiliate of the Socialist International whose roots go back to Karl Marx, Saint Simon and Fourier.

Until last week, Carol M. Browner, President-elect Barack Obama's pick as global warming czar, was listed as one of 14 leaders of a socialist group's Commission for a Sustainable World Society, which calls for "global governance" and says rich countries must shrink their economies to address climate change.

By Thursday, Mrs. Browner's name and biography had been removed from Socialist International's Web page, though a photo of her speaking June 30 to the group's congress in Greece was still available.

Socialist International, an umbrella group for many of the world's social democratic political parties such as Britain's Labor Party, says it supports socialism and is harshly critical of U.S. policies.

The group's Commission for a Sustainable World Society, the organization's action arm on climate change, says the developed world must reduce consumption and commit to binding and punitive limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Obama, who has said action on climate change would be a priority in his administration, tapped Mrs. Browner last month to fill a new position as White House coordinator of climate and energy policies. The appointment does not need Senate confirmation.

Mr. Obama's transition team said Mrs. Browner's membership in the organization is not a problem and that it brings experience in U.S. policymaking to her new role.

"The Commission for a Sustainable World Society includes world leaders from a variety of political parties,

including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who succeeded Tony Blair, in serving as vice president of the convening organization," Obama transition spokesman Nick Shapiro said.

"Carol Browner was chosen to help the president-elect coordinate energy and climate policy because she understands that our efforts to create jobs, achieve energy security and combat climate change demand integration among different agencies; cooperation between federal, state and local governments; and partnership with the private sector," Mr. Shapiro said in an e-mail.

Mrs. Browner ran the Environmental Protection Agency under President Clinton. Until she was tapped for the Obama administration, she was on the board of directors for the National Audubon Society, the League of Conservation Voters, the Center for American Progress and former Vice President Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection.

Her name has been removed from the Gore organization's Web site list of directors, and the Audubon Society issued a press release about her departure from that organization.

Republicans said Mrs. Browner's work with Socialist International raises questions.

"Does she agree with the group's positions on global governance—that the United States should abdicate its international leadership to international organizations? Does she support its position that the international community should be the ultimate arbiter of climate change policy?" said Antonia Ferrier, a spokeswoman for House Minority Leader John A. Boehner, Ohio Republican.

"These are questions that merit answers—especially when you consider this group's deep skepticism about America's ability to be a force for positive change in the world," she said.

An aide on the Obama team said its information shows that Mrs. Browner resigned from the organization in June 2008. The aide, who asked not to be named because he was discussing internal matters, said the transition team was aware she had been a member of the group when she was vetted.

The Socialist International Web site didn't have a copy of her June 30 speech, but the agenda for the meeting had her scheduled to speak as part of a panel on "How do we strengthen the multilateral architecture for a sustainable future?"

Other panel participants were Sergey Mironov, speaker of the Russian legislature's upper chamber and a close ally of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin; Zhang Zhijun, vice

minister of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee; and Jesus Caldera, a former Minister of Employment and Social Affairs of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party.

A woman answering the phone at Socialist International's headquarters in London said all officers were traveling.

Nobody from the organization returned a message left Friday.

Socialist International bills itself as the world body of democratic socialist movements. It includes members ranging from Israel's Labor Party and France's Socialist Party to Angola's MPLA, which won the 1970s Angolan civil war with the aid of Soviet arms and Cuban troops.

The organization distinguishes itself from violent or revolutionary communist parties. However, some such groups, including the Chinese Communist Party, have been invited to its events as guest organizations.

The Democratic Socialists of America, not the Democratic Party, is listed as the group's U.S. representative. But Mrs. Browner was listed as an individual member of Socialist International, but not a member of the DSA.

While agreeing with Mr. Obama on the need for action to address climate change, the organization wants more draconian policies than the president-elect's preferred solution.

During the presidential campaign, Mr. Obama called for a cap-and-trade system to control carbon emissions. He argued that such a system is efficient and lets the free

market determine where it's easiest to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Socialist International says such "flexible mechanisms" do not clamp down hard enough on polluters.

The organization often takes a decidedly critical view of the U.S.

At this summer's meeting, the group issued a statement on economics that blasted the "neo-liberal market ideology and the unilateralist, U.S.-dominated approach in the global economic system," and attacked the U.S. for dominating international financial institutions.

At its meeting earlier in 2008 in Santiago, Chile, Socialist International endorsed "global governance" as the solution to the world's problems of peace and climate change.

At a July meeting in St. Petersburg, the commission said developed countries "should think of decreasing current consumption levels"—which would mean shrinking their economies—in order to help the environment.

Socialist International regularly blasts the construction of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border. The fence was approved by both houses of Congress, including Mr. Obama's vote in the Senate.

Socialist International was congratulatory when Mr. Obama won the election, issuing a statement noting that "the sky may seem a bit brighter today" but warning still that "there are enormous global challenges that must be addressed effectively and without delay."

—*The Washington Times*, January 12, 2009

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