

Mr. Gustafson: Exactly.

Dr. Arthur: Irrigation water is running out with or without the greenhouse effect. This is a policy issue right now.

Mr. Gustafson: This leads to my next question as it relates to environmentalists and experts. I happen to represent the area where the Rafferty-Alameda Dam is on hold. We have a lot of so-called experts from outside, both politically and environmentally, making comments about issues they know nothing about. It really poses a problem. As a representative of the people, I am asked what is going on because those people do not understand the problem.

Dr. Arthur: This is part of the difference between looking at ecological impacts versus economic impacts. People ask why we did not include the ozone hole in our economic impact models. People have tried and can find no economic impact from the ozone hole, but this does not mean there are no impacts. It just means that they are not economic yet or we cannot extrapolate them to economic productivity.

Mr. Gustafson: Without belabouring it, I would only want to make this one point. I think it is very important.

The Joint Chairman: I am sorry, but there are other members who want to ask questions.

Mr. Wilbee: I did not have a question, Mr. Chairman, at this time.

Mr. Halliday (Oxford): Unfortunately, I was unable to be here yesterday, so I appreciate the excellent summary of Mr. Runnalls a few moments ago. It was very well done indeed.

Despite the political popularity right now of this issue of environment, pollution and so on, there appears to be an unwillingness of so many governments at all levels to contribute funds to it. We seem to have a funding problem and it has been touched on very briefly this morning. I am wondering whether our panelists could give us any insight they might have on how this might be approached.

I think most of us understand that if you increase income taxes too high, you have difficulties then with your overall economy. It is the same if you increase corporate taxes too high. We have heard about the excise taxes on coal and carbon fuels already.

Given the fact that over the last four or five decades governments have been most intent upon transfer payments to individuals for individual consumption, pensions, family allowances, health care and so on, has the time come when we have to probably start taking some of that money away? This represents a large percentage of all our government budgets. Has the time come? In some other countries now, in Sweden for example, they are beginning to take moneys away from those payments and putting them into funding efforts, such as environment, that cannot be done by individuals privately but can be done collectively through government funding and only that way really.