BIG OIL'S BANQUET

GREED AND BLIGHT IN EVERY BITE
— ONLY YOU CAN STOP IT! —

Recognize these gluttons? They're the "Filthy Four" oil company bosses who want to drill the daylights out of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that President Eisenhower wisely set aside from exploitation in 1960. They can already drill or explore for oil on nearly 95% of Alaska's Arctic coastal lands, but their appetite is insatiable.

Poll after poll shows that most Americans oppose the Big Oil-Bush Administration scheme, but these corporate bullies have grown accustomed to gorging themselves and gouging the public. Now they have the gall to claim that our national security is at risk if they don't get their way!

Our country needs a national energy policy that promotes conservation, cleaner and more efficient technologies and alternative energy sources, not a cowardly surrender to fat-cat lobbyists who want to keep us hooked on fossil fuels. Don't believe the propaganda about freedom from Mideast suppliers, stimulating the economy or job growth. The fate of an irreplaceable ecosystem now rests with the Senate... and with you!
FOR BIG OIL, A LANDMARK DECISION

Who are those drooling diners on the cover? They’re the CEOs of ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, Phillips Petroleum and BP — the four multinational corporations that stand to gain the most from invading public lands in Alaska and elsewhere to carry out massive oil drilling operations.

What are they? They’re not friends of working families, consumers or the planet we all call home. Whether it’s in New York (where ExxonMobil just agreed to pay one of the largest fines in the history of environmental law for illegally discharging poisonous wastes and lying about it) or in Melbourne, Australia (where the company was found guilty of criminal violations of workplace safety laws and the court uncovered “a mountain of evidence” that its negligence cost two workers their lives and injured eight others), Big Oil always puts its own selfish interests first.

The respected newsletter Corporate Crime Reporter placed Exxon and Chevron high among “The Top 100 Corporate Criminals of the 1990s.” Multinational Monitor’s annual “Ten Worst Corporations” lists — ranking those that practice “power run amok” by smashing unions, raping the environment and corrupting democracy — included Phillips and BP in 2000 and the newly-merged ExxonMobil in 2001. The latter company is also “the world’s leading obstacle” to addressing global warming in a “sensible” manner, the magazine said.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is a unique and biologically rich region that has been sacred land to the Gwich’in, America’s northernmost native people, for at least 20,000 years. It contains the most important on-shore denning area in the U.S. for polar bear mothers and their cubs. It is also home to countless grizzly bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and migratory birds.

As former President Jimmy Carter, now honorary chair of the Alaska Wilderness League, says: “The simple fact is, drilling is inherently incompatible with wilderness. (It would be) as out of place there as it would be in the heart of Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon.”

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is only enough oil beneath the Refuge to satisfy domestic needs for about six months. Industry officials admit it would take a decade for the oil to reach the market. Russell Train, Environmental Protection Agency administrator under Presidents Nixon and Ford, asks: “Do we really want to trade the future of America’s last great wilderness — and that of the people and wildlife that depend upon it — for a few months’ worth of oil a decade down the road?”

When Congress debated drilling in the Refuge in 1989, Robert Georigne, longtime president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Dept., said the industry’s “cosmetic concern for the energy independence of the U.S. ... is only being used as a veil to mask their greed.” He said the oil companies “have no concern for the state of Alaska or the working people who reside there,” citing such “insensitive” practices as “displacing Alaskan natives with low-wage foreign nationals and out-of-state residents and undermining the locally-prevailing wage structure.”

Two weeks later, the massive oil spill known as the Exxon Valdez disaster occurred. As Dr. Helen Caidcott wrote:

“(The tanker) foundered on a reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska and spilled 11 million gallons of sticky crude oil into a pristine wilderness waterway full of otters, salmon, herring, seabirds, and myriad other wildlife. It was many days before the Exxon Corporation organized itself to begin to deal with the mess, and the local fishermen watched with horror as otters scratched their eyes out and drowned in the oil (and) seabirds gagged on the toxic sludge... (The) long-term ecological damage was far worse than had been originally estimated...”
CA, A RAW DEAL!

To this day, ExxonMobil has not paid a penny of the more than $5 billion punitive damage award imposed in 1994 for its role in one of the worst environmental catastrophes in history. In 2000 alone, ExxonMobil raked in $17.7 billion in profits and paid its CEO $62.4 million, according to the AFL-CIO's Corporate Paywatch.

FEW EMPLOYED, EARTH DESTROYED

Based on Big Oil's past record, drilling in the Refuge inevitably means more destruction. Already, in nearby Prudhoe Bay, the industry spews out more than 500 gallons of toxic wastes every day. And it wouldn't mean major job creation, as some have claimed. Ridiculous predictions of up to 750,000 new jobs are based on a discredited, 12-year-old study that was paid for by the American Petroleum Institute.

One of the oil companies' dirtiest little secrets is how poorly they treat workers and how willing they are to sacrifice them in the name of "shareholder value." They have eliminated an estimated one million jobs since 1982 — and ExxonMobil alone wiped out 238,000 of the 361,000 pre-merger worldwide jobs it had 20 years ago.

That helps explain why Americans overwhelmingly reject the Bush-Cheney-Big Oil "energy plan." An NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll found that 62% of respondents in union households and 56% in non-union households want to "keep these areas (public lands like the Refuge) off limits and consider other solutions." In a bipartisan October 2001 poll, 59% said that optimistic job estimates are based on "flawed assumptions and wildly exaggerate the number of potential new jobs."

It's clear that Big Oil's agenda would do nothing to defeat terrorists, reduce dependency on foreign oil or hold down gasoline prices. As the Communications Workers of America declared in a convention resolution last July, "Such an assault on Arctic lands, native peoples and wildlife would be a tragic mistake and a moral disaster.... (Oil companies) have already been responsible for hundreds of oil spills annually and at least 55 contaminated waste sites in the Arctic region....Neither they nor the Bush-Cheney Administration can be trusted to make sound decisions...."

One thing is certain: as Sen. Joe Lieberman (Dem.-Conn.) has said, if we give the oil companies free rein, we'll be "destroying a highly threatened piece of our American heritage... (and) violating our stewardship commitment to future generations."

LOOTERS AND POLLUTERS

"Energy companies are cheating the public on the oil they pump now....The industry has shorted the government on oil-royalty payments alone by about $100 million a year through a variety of price-fixing and record-fiddling games.... In case after case, sworn evidence shows companies falsifying prices, using phony bills of sale and deliberately misclassifying high-quality oil as low-quality in order to pay less."

— USA Today editorial, 4/6/01

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

The International Labor Rights Fund recently sued ExxonMobil in federal court, accusing it of complicity in gross human rights abuses committed by Indonesian state security forces that protect its facilities, including murder, torture, kidnapping and rape. U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, citing Chevron's complicity in the deaths of protesters in Nigeria in 1999, said, "You have oil companies that are not only ruining the environment, but also violating human rights and participating in extra-judicial killings."
NO TO BIG OIL'S LAND GRAB
STOP THESE CREEPS . . . SUPPORT LEAPS!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Go to www.corporatecampaign.org to learn more about Big Oil's irresponsibility toward the environment and its human rights violations and discriminatory practices around the world in a special report, “The Arctic Refuge, the ‘Filthy Four’ and Organized Labor.” You can also view statements opposing drilling from the Communications Workers, Service Employees International, the Steelworkers (District 11) and other labor organizations.

2. Fill out the coupon below, send it to LEAPS and include a contribution if you can.

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Labor-Environment Alliance for Planetary Solidarity (LEAPS)
c/o The Labor Educator · Cooper Station, P.O. Box 1002 · New York, N.Y. 10276-1002

☐ YES! Add my name to the list of Americans who want to stop Big Oil from seizing public lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain and elsewhere. Our government should not reward those responsible for massive environmental crimes; human rights abuses; race, sex and age discrimination and scandals involving price-fixing, royalty payments, safety on the job and union-bashing.

☐ Please send me _______ copies of this brochure to distribute to friends, neighbors and co-workers.

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