

# Knollenberg opposes world pact

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

In a word — yes or no — should the U.S. Senate ratify the global warming agreement? "I need two words: hell no," replied U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, who spent a week in Kyoto, Japan, observing the negotiations.

The third-term congressman from the 11th District of Oakland and Wayne counties gave the usual reasons of harm to American industry, but he had some close-up comments about the United Nations-sponsored conference itself.

"I have never been in the gun-sights of so many countries. The deck was stacked against us. And it was a long time ago.

"The Green Movement (anti-industry environmentalists) was in charge. The U.S. was dead before we got to Kyoto.

"We heard, 'The U.S. has an obligation' (from the Danes and Dutch) and 'America has a burden to pick up and carry the rest of the world.'

"It exempts 80 percent of the world's (developing) nations" like China, India and Mexico. "It gives them a license to pollute at will. Multi-national corporations would go there — and also get cheaper labor."

"But it was the European Union, rather than Asia, that was trying hardest to stick the U.S. with the job of scaling back emissions to 1990 levels, Knollenberg said in an interview this week in his Farmington Hills district office.

He said Time magazine was correct in reporting that the EU will have the easiest time meeting emissions targets. Reason: "The collapse of East Germany in 1990 forced many inefficient, pollution-belching factories and power plants out of business, cutting Europe's emissions as a side benefit."

Great Britain's job is easier because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher broke the coal



Joe Knollenberg congressman

miners' union in 1985, and the nation switched to natural gas. France will have little trouble because it's reliant on nuclear energy — and Knollenberg thinks that's the way to go, even though nuclear power plants and research have been halted here.

"The president won't send it (the treaty) to the Senate," Knollenberg predicted. "He'll use the regulatory process, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)."

What about Vice President Al Gore's speech in Kyoto favoring of a global warming treaty?

"Gore made a speech, got back on Air Force 2 and left. He would say he just started the reaction. There was actually a mixed reaction to Gore.

"There was heavy, heavy press. I went to a press conference the second day. The press was enviro-laden," he said, quoting a question about alleged strong poll support for an energy tax in the U.S. "Not in my district," Knollenberg said.

Participants took it for a fact, engraved in granite, that the world is being dangerously warmed by energy emissions. "No one questioned it. It's a fact (to them)."

"But the debate (in the U.S.) will center on the science. The Big Three (auto makers) and the

utilities can't be all wrong. The AFL-CIO is connected to my view."

He cited University of Michigan research — still incomplete — on pumping carbon dioxide, the chief emission, into a tented area. "We know carbon dioxide helps trees. There are more trees in the country than at the time of the Pilgrims.

"Some scientists are saying, 'Let's study this before we jump off the cliff.'"

"If you believe in global warming, this treaty won't get you there," Knollenberg went on. "It won't clean the environment, and it will be devastating to the American worker because the cost of energy will rise."

Knollenberg and 13 other U.S. representatives were appointed by Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Knollenberg is a ranking member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water.

That panel oversees the Department of Energy, nuclear weapons and reactors, nuclear wastes, the Army Corps of Engineers, energy research and development, the Tennessee Valley Authority (now zeroed out of the budget), and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The feeling is bipartisan. "John Dingell (D-Trenton, and dean of the Michigan congressional delegation) and I see eye to eye. Dingell was there," Knollenberg said.

Next-door congressman Sander Levin, a Democrat, already is battling EPA air quality standards, saying, "In my view, EPA's new standards would have a negative impact on the nation's economy and the economic well-being of southeastern Michigan."

The Kyoto Protocol, as it's known:

■ Was agreed to by 150 nations Dec. 11.

■ Requires the U.S. to cut emission of greenhouse gases to 7 percent below 1990 levels; the EU must cut emissions by 8 per-

cent and Japan by 6 percent; 35 other countries also have quotas.

■ Allows industrialized nations to trade "emissions quotas" among themselves.

■ Asks but doesn't require developing nations to cut emissions.

## 4-H gets new speaker class

A 4-H Dale Carnegie Course will be held for those ages 15 to 19 who have been in 4-H for at least a year.

The "Take Charge" course will run every Saturday from 12:30-4:30 p.m. from Jan. 31 to April 25 at Hope Methodist Church in Southfield.

## AMI holds raffle

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County will hold its ninth annual limited ticket raffle. Grand prize is a 1998 Corvette or \$30,000 cash.

Tickets are \$100 and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at the Jack Cauley Dealership, Orchard Lake Road north of Maple, in West Bloomfield.

Proceeds from the sale help the needs of individuals with mental illness and the needs of their families. For ticket information, call (248) 657-6440.

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**Book Signing**  
Author Michael Shiels

Saturday, December 20  
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Saturday, December 20  
5 pm to 7 pm  
Birmingham

As producer of J.P. McCarthy's show on WJR radio, Michael Shiels knew the legendary radio personality very well. In his biography, *J.P. McCarthy: Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I Am*, Mr. Shiels recounts the life and career of the man whose insightful interviews and conversations were heard throughout the Great Lakes and the nation. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Shiels as he signs copies of his book. Mr. Shiels will sign advance orders and same-day purchases of his book. In Stationery

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