

22 December 2008

Dear Sir

One of the great pleasures of being an MEP, believe me there are fewer than you might expect, is an involvement with schools in the constituency.

I help one particular school organize its lower sixth visits to various professional practices and industries. A preliminary look at life before young people are too committed to any particular line of vocational study.

Occasionally one un-covers a stunning piece of information from executives at a very senior level who let things slip when not protected by their public relation minders. Last June produced a real stunner, the chief scientific officer of a major energy company told us that unless the political green posturing changed at European Level. (Energy policy like much else is the provenance of Brussels) The lights would go out in 2015. Such is the complete acceptance at political level (not incidentally as we have been led to believe at scientific level) of the hypothesis that:

a) there is unprecedented global warming and

b) it is man made.

Any alternative view is met with the same flexible mature outlook of the Spanish Inquisition.

I am now being lobbied by an anti – coal group in Yorkshire with all the demented swivel-eyed evangelism we have come to expect from the middle class protestor who usually works in the safe environment of the public sector, if they work at all. We do not have the technology to harness the sun or the wind, sad but there it is. Unless we ‘get real’ as the Americans would say the lights will go out. As usual in politics it will be somebody else’s fault.

Energy executives must understand appeasement never works and the unions would do well to realise the old tribal loyalties of yesteryear are no longer appropriate. The main political parties are not the friends of the working man. And incidentally relying on Russia is not an option. Bigoted political opinion gave the French the lead in Nuclear power in the sixties. Let us lead the world in clean coal.

Yours faithfully

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