

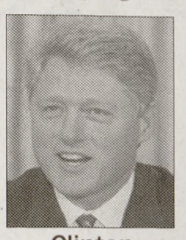
# Clinton: Answer to global warming lies in energy-efficient technology

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Monday the danger of global warming is real but higher energy taxes to fight it "won't pass muster with the American people" and probably would doom an anti-pollution treaty.

Clinton, at a White House conference, said the United States must commit to steps to control global releases of heat-trapping gases. But he said the answer lies in promoting new energy-efficient technologies — and not imposing steep energy price increases to encourage efficiency.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who in internal administration debates has urged a go-slow approach, said any U.S. program should include flexible programs to ease the transition for U.S. industries and reduce economic costs.

Clinton said he is "completely persuaded" by the argument that manmade pollution from burning fossil fuels will cause a dangerous warming of the planet if not checked. Capping such pollution is essential "to avoid leaving our children and grandchildren with a catastrophe," the president said.



Clinton

Industry groups have waged a \$15 million advertising campaign predicting that Clinton's global warming policies will cause energy prices to soar and put U.S. industries at a disadvantage against other countries.

The conference, attended by scientists, business groups and environmentalists, was designed to garner support for the administration's global warming policy in advance of international climate talks in December to negotiate binding caps on heat-trapping emissions.

"If all we do is raise the price of coal and oil ... it won't pass muster with the American people," said Clinton. Any treaty to curb greenhouse gases by forcing higher energy costs would be "a grand gesture" likely to fail a ratification vote by the Senate.

Some economists and labor leaders, meanwhile, urged caution, fearing the new carbon emission cuts would hurt U.S. industries and lead to jobs being sent overseas to countries facing less stringent requirements.

Clinton also said "a global agreement must take into account developing nations" but that uncertainty about the role of such countries as China and India is "not an excuse for us to do nothing."

Later, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said the United States would seek a global agreement that is fair to such developing countries as China, which has said it would not commit to pollution controls until developing countries have acted.

Business groups have waged an intense campaign in recent weeks against committing the United States to binding reductions of greenhouse gases when more than 160 countries meet in Kyoto, Japan, in December to chart the next steps in dealing with global warming.

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**"A Scientific Defense for an Intelligent Designer"**  
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The Veritas Forum is presented by The Christian Faculty Fellowship of Texas A&M and over 15 area churches and recognized Christian student organizations.