

DATE 3/7/78

TO  E. J. Gornowski	REFERENCE
FROM  H. N. Weinberg	SUBJECT  CO <sub>2</sub>

Ed:

The following are some grandiose thoughts on what we, Exxon, might undertake to do in connection with the "CO<sub>2</sub> problem." I propose that Exxon be the initiator of a worldwide "CO<sub>2</sub> in the Atmosphere" R&D program along the lines of the International Geophysical Year concept. This may be the kind of opportunity that we are looking for to have Exxon technology, management and leadership resources put into the context of a project aimed at benefitting mankind. What would be more appropriate than for the world's leading energy company and leading oil company take the lead in trying to define whether a long-term CO<sub>2</sub> problem really exists and, if so, what counter measures would be appropriate.

Our activity might be along the following lines:

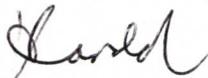
1. Exxon (ER&E) sketches the broadest outline of a master plan and a listing of potential participants and the roles of each participant in the overall program.
2. The master plan, from a technical point of view, might include establishment of a worldwide network of land, sea, and air sampling systems. The feasibility of burning tagged carbon or some other technique for tracing the CO<sub>2</sub> path would be considered. The possibility of using satellite systems, special analytical techniques, highly sophisticated measuring devices, etc. would be assessed and the broad outlines of a potential program, (including years required, levels of cost, magnitude of the number of people and organizations required, etc.) would be defined.
3. Obviously, governments would have to have the major role in such an undertaking. However, Exxon's role might be that of initiator, management and technical consultant on a worldwide basis, and leader of the private sector in participating with governments. It may be possible to use cooperative agreement principles as a point of departure. Government participation might be via OECD on a stewardship

basis and via such agencies as NASA (and foreign equivalents) on an operating basis. The Communist Bloc would have to be involved for a viable program, most likely. On the private side, organizations such as API, or other large trade associations, could get involved. Public interest groups might also be involved.

The object of all this activity would be to extend our scientific knowledge by elucidating the mechanisms of CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion, dispersal, impact on the environment, impact on the albedo, etc. A massive effort would be required over a long period of time, but the key thing would be to determine whether we have a problem with CO<sub>2</sub> or we don't and, if we do, where the problem comes from.

I think this is a project worthy of Exxon's talents.

Should we discuss this with Ed David?



HNW

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3/11/09