

Subject: Re: Export of bulk water

Date: Thu, 04 Oct 2001 12:52:04 -0700

From: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

To: John Hunter <johnhunter@idmail.com>

CC: brian_platts@telus.net, 'Dave Sadler' <davesadler@telus.net>, weemalkies@telus.net, 'Peter Thompson' <bedeconsulting@home.com>, 'Liz James' <cagebc@yahoo.com>, eandersen@seatradeshshipping.bc.ca, 'Allan Orr' <allandorr@home.com>, 'FONVCA' <fonvca@fonvca.org>

The problem with "controlled" is that for a trading commodity the control is in the hands of the multinationals - ie. mostly not by Canadians. I am not proposing the "water export" approach for mining, oil, gas, etc. I am only proposing that water not be put in the same category. Water and air knows no real boundaries - certainly air does not and water often crosses jurisdictional boundaries in either liquid or gaseous form. One thus sees that the only way to privatize water is to control it on a global basis. Here is where the real dangers lie.

Of course nothing is "free". I don't agree that "a popular service or commodity, priced free will grow astronomically" (assuming a fixed population - and if you don't grant me that we are all doomed!). Just because something is "free" does not mean that there are no constraints on how much of it you can use. For example, you can only eat and drink so much - else you will die.

As for metering our water - I find it ironic that the desert regions of the Oganagan are largely not metered while the rain-forested areas on the coast would be. My studies indicate that metering water saves only 10-20% and results in everyone -even those who consume far less than the average, paying more. My principle of fairness (those who consume more should pay more) is thus counter-productive. Note that all commercial properties in the District are metered

Electricity costs (and should not be free) and therefore it makes sense to improve home insulation (when the cost-benefits show that). Rights and free access must go hand-in-hand for some things . I agree - not everything should be free. But water - yes.

Now as to which sector does a better job - public or private - we could have a good debate there!

Corrie

John Hunter wrote:

Controlled like any other strategic business, for the benefit of the country. This includes private sector operating under legislation, royalties, and so on. Already done for mining, oil and gas, and hundreds of things. Perfect? No. But if we took the "no water export" approach to our other commodities, we'd all be out of work. And the others are non-renewable in many cases. Water is the least logical one to refuse to export. Lumber is probably the second least logical. Both renewable. But we will run out of oil and gas and minerals. The problem for "free" health care and such is that they are NOT free. We are paying for them. And Corrie, any competent economist will tell you that the demand for a popular service or commodity, priced free, will grow astronomically. That is why I favour a modest user fee for health care, and metered water with a per gallon charge, and so on. There may have to be arrangements for the needy. How many restaurants have you been in, where the toilet is leaking through? If they paid per gallon and not flat rate, guess what. Our houses too. What drove insulation in the 70's? Rights I am in favour of. Everything free, no thanks. You oppose privatization of public resources? You'd rather have those twerps at PetroCanada (before it was privatized) running the oil and gas industry. Read Peter Foster's book on how they blew billions of your money. To me, governments should set the rules and the national direction, and then let the private sector get on with it. Russia, Cuba, China, and many others tried it the other way. Guess what? Governments by their nature are not terribly competent or effective. Watching NVD should have convinced you of that! The private sector is not always competent, or even well intentioned. But it is easier to control than government. Just look at Chrétien. And private sector is generally more effective. At least our group debates in a friendly civilized style. Wish council and those at public meetings on PPP could do that! We should do this at a beer party!!! John

-----Original Message-----

From: Corrie Kost [<mailto:kost@triumf.ca>]

Sent: October 4, 2001 10:48 AM

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