

RALPH NADER RADIO HOUR EP 426 TRANSCRIPT

Tom Morello: I'm Tom Morello and you're listening to the *Ralph Nader Radio Hour*.

[Music] Stand up, stand up, you've been sitting way too long.

Steve Skrovan: Welcome to the *Ralph Nader Radio Hour*. My name is Steve Skrovan. And welcoming back my co-host, David Feldman. Welcome back, David. Good to have you back.

David Feldman: Yes, and I will behave now, I promise. I've learned my lesson.

Steve Skrovan: You're out of the penalty box. And of course we have the man of the hour, Ralph Nader. Hello, Ralph.

Ralph Nader: Hello. We have the woman of the world on our program, a great humanitarian, pragmatic networking woman, Hazel Henderson, for our listeners to benefit from and follow up with her enormously motivating website.

Steve Skrovan: Thanks for teeing that up, Ralph. In our modern industrial society, we're accustomed to measuring national prosperity in terms of finance, in terms of money. We're told that things are good, "Look at how high the stock market is. Look at how high our GDP is." But there seems to be a disconnect between those numbers and how prosperous and satisfied real, living, breathing people feel. And that's because money does not tell the whole story.

There are other yardsticks, and that's where our guest Hazel Henderson comes in. She's the founder of the group Ethical Markets, whose mission is to advocate for other ways of measuring prosperity and developing and promoting economic models that emphasize not cutthroat competition in fear of scarcity, but are based on principles of cooperation and sharing in our abundance. Someone once said, "It's easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism." Well, Hazel Henderson has a remarkable imagination, and we are privileged to spend the whole hour with her.

That doesn't mean we're not going to check in with our corporate crime reporter, Russell Mokhiber. As always, Russell will give us his latest report on the corporate crime blotter, but first let's hear about Golden Rule societies, what Elon Musk would have to do to make Twitter truly a public square, and how we as a nation are not as polarized as the politicians and news media would like us to believe. David?

David Feldman: Hazel Henderson is the founder of *Ethical Markets Media*, and the creator and co-executive producer of the *Ethical Markets* [TV series.] She's a world-renowned futurist, evolutionary economist, a worldwide syndicated columnist, consultant on sustainable development, and author of the award-winning book entitled, *Ethical Markets: Growing the Green Economy*. Welcome to the Ralph Nader Radio Hour, Hazel Henderson.

Hazel Henderson: Thank you very much.

Ralph Nader: Welcome indeed, Hazel, for coming on. And one of the things you're noted for is tackling the tension between commercial values and civic values. And civic values are often not for sale. And you think that a lot of things that go on between human beings on a daily basis represent the Golden Rule, and they're not for sale. Unfortunately, we have these giant corporations commanding technology, labor, capital, media, and they provide the yardsticks by which we measure our economy. Tell us about the yardsticks that really mean things to people but don't get calculated in measuring what's called progress. And tell us about your 12 Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators.

Hazel Henderson: Well, let's begin with the Golden Rule societies which have dominated human societies for literally thousands and thousands of years. And the Golden Rule, simply "do as you would be done by," was really the rule that everybody lived by, an acknowledgement of mutual interdependence and mutual respect. And that basically was the way everything was for centuries. I mean, if you go on Wikipedia, there's 50 pages on the Golden Rule and all those societies and spiritual leaders who adopted it. And then, fast-forward, we humans made another step at the year 1215 in England [Magna Carta]. And basically that was the first time that we acknowledged that the king didn't own our bodies. It was the writ of habeas corpus. And that was another huge step forward, that we own our own bodies. And of course, today we find there are a lot of white-dominated patriarchal societies where they don't count women in that. And then we made more progress, fast-forward to 1948, where Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations put out the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And then in the year 2000, I was honored to be at the Peace Palace at The Hague when the 16 principles of the Earth Charter were announced. They are the 16 principles of human responsibilities. And as we all know now, you can't have rights without responsibilities.

So we humans now - the planet is testing us to see if we are going to make sufficient progress to avoid becoming part of the sixth great extinction - which we are causing - but may also end up being eliminated from the Earth. Because the planet is always in charge and eventually the planet wins.

Ralph Nader: And that's why you worked so hard with groups all over the world to develop other yardsticks. I'll give you my examples, but you have many. If there are a lot of auto crashes and deaths, it produces a lot of business and increases the GDP. If autos are safer and there are very few deaths, you don't have that kind of business. If you have a war machine and war, that produces a lot of sales and profits and jobs. If you have a lot of peace, that doesn't register with the GDP the way the war economy does.

Hazel Henderson: That's where you and I have agreed for all of the years that we have been allies. And basically, the markets and money are useful tools that humans have been using for thousands of years. And it was only about 300 years ago with the Industrial Revolution that it was the idea of weaponizing money and markets and making systems of accounting that were predatory on the Golden Rule societies. And they weaponized money and markets for accumulation and power. And so I have a paper - which is very short - which people might want to refer to, called "Economists Learning from Futurists." And I'm a futurist, and it's a very well-

known profession, and we do scenarios rather than economic models based on the price system, because we all know that the price system is a function of human ignorance, because we permit the falsity of "externalities", allowing anything you don't want to pay attention to to fall off your balance sheets and be passed on to taxpayers or future generations.

Ralph Nader: Like pollution.

Hazel Henderson: Yes, absolutely. So basically, I began with metrics to try to correct the market measurements and realized that we've come to the end of the line with that, because now we have generations of young economists trained to try to turn everything into market-based metrics. They're trying to turn inequality into market-based metrics. As I point out in my article, they are inventing asset classes now based on basically monetizing ecosystem "services", quote-unquote. I mean, they're making up asset classes as we go along with these crazy cryptos [cryptocurrency] and non-fungible tokens [NFTs] and all the rest of it. And the worst is a group called Intrinsic Exchange Group, IEG. And if you look them up, they are now monetizing natural resources in companies they call NACs, the natural asset companies, where they buy up huge tracts of Mother Earth and offer investors monetary returns. And they were launched on the New York Stock Exchange a couple of years ago. And you see, we have to stop this childish stuff. And the temptation is that many juvenile kinds of financial people who believe in all of their magical thinking still attempted to go and ring the bell at the New York Stock Exchange. And so, basically, we have to go back now to Golden Rule forms of accounting. And there's many, many ways of rewarding good human behavior without using money.

Ralph Nader: Give us some examples, Hazel.

Hazel Henderson: Well, I grew up in Britain and the time when it was still much more of a Golden Rule kind of approach. And so you would reward people's good behavior by making them a member of the Queen's Garter or giving them all kinds of civic awards. So there's many, many ways of recognizing and rewarding good behavior that has nothing to do with money. I would hope people would really take a look at an article I have, called "Fixing the Money Meme." And I have about 5000 readers on there. I'm just saying the money meme is kind of a story that we all believe in or have been taught to believe in. It's like fish swimming in the water don't notice the water. And we have to wake up and see the extent to which we are all somehow entrapped by this false story.

Ralph Nader: Well, it's true. And you've produced an article in October, called "Reframing the Politics of Polarization." Listeners, you should really read this. You can get it on hazelhenderson.com. And you quote a number of polls that put the lie to the polarization dominance of our society. It's a divide-and-rule technique for millenniums by the ruling classes to divide and rule. Give some examples of this.

Hazel Henderson: It's the meaning of fascism, really, when mainstream media buy and perpetuate these false stories. But of course they are owned by corporations.

Ralph Nader: Yeah. Look at the polls that prove your point. Nearly 8 in 10 Americans favor limits on both raising and spending money in congressional campaigns. 84% of Americans agree

that politicians have too much economic power, and 82% agree that the rich and big corporations have too much power. Six in ten of us believe that upper income Americans don't pay enough in taxes. 78% of Americans, including 80% of Republicans, oppose the Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United* [*Citizens United v. FEC*] ruling unleashing even more money in politics. 84% favor paid family leave and two-thirds support a \$15 minimum wage. 71% think that most immigrants living in the US illegally should be offered a chance to apply for legal status. And currently in the news, 71% are against overturning *Roe v. Wade*. And it just goes on and on. A whole two-thirds are for campaign finance reform. This doesn't surface in the media.

Hazel Henderson: No, it doesn't surface in the media because they're all owned by the same corporations. But there are all these massive market failures. We have the market failure in the healthcare system because healthcare can never be a market, because the buyers, in other words, the patients, have almost no power and no information, and the sellers, i.e., the insurance companies and the providers, have all the power and all the information. And then we have the same market failure in the food system. Nothing to do with nutrition, all to do with trading globally those depleted grains that are in their market model. And then you've got market failures in education and in the safety nets that every society has to have in order to operate. I mean, you can't operate eventually without safety nets. And the evidence now, nature is providing all the evidence. I just read this — we just posted this piece on heat. And in India, there is a huge heat wave, and basically this is expected to go on. And just an example, a 17-storey landfill exploded. I mean, can you believe it, from the all of the toxic and combustible items that had been thrown away.

Nature is still in charge. And sooner or later, finance, which is still completely blind, will either wake up to this. I mean, I call the financial model “magical thinking,” which it really is. And so they are the problem that we have to deal with now. And there's a piece in *The Economist* this week on central banking and all the rest of it, and they're saying, "Well, I mean, climate change, oh yeah, we can incorporate that in our economic model, and it's not so bad." So this is where we are now. We've got to wake up from this market story, this predatory market fascist system.

Ralph Nader: Your point on food: they made a market in fat, sugar, and salt, and pushed it on very susceptible children all over the world, especially the United States, leading to vast overweight children with diabetes and high blood pressure.

Hazel Henderson: Absolutely. Yes.

Ralph Nader: And they took the nutrition out of natural nutritional foods that have been grown for centuries. There's your point on markets. Tell us about the incredible networking that you did, Hazel Henderson - that you were instrumental - and is going on now to foster the very pragmatic transformation in the world from global competition to global cooperation, because global competition tends to end up in an arms race.

Hazel Henderson: Yes, absolutely. And so, basically I have a piece called *The Dawn of a New Age*, and I'm just saying that from now on, everything is going to have to change. For example, the number one for me, being a woman who feels that I have the right to own my own body, strangely enough, is the whole idea that basically we have to be able to go beyond the old

patriarchal dominance model. Like in Germany, the foreign minister and her two cabinet minister assistants say, "We are going to have feminist foreign policy." Okay, what's wrong with that? We never tried that. We've got to try some things we never tried before.

Ralph Nader: Yes, indeed. Give us your take on the global corporations. Are they compatible with democracy and peace, or are they omniscidal in terms of, for example, global warming, land erosion, the destruction of oxygen in the ocean? These corporations now are becoming like global governments. What's your take on that?

Hazel Henderson: Yeah. I mean, the new ones, Ralph, as you know, are the social media giants – Facebook, Twitter, whatever. And I have an article on my website, called "Steering Social Media Toward Sanity." And there are five steps that are necessary to control these. And amazingly, there's bipartisan support even in the Congress to do this. And number one is that we have to repeal Section 230, which gave them shelter from liability, the kind of liability that other media have. Number two is to break them up on antitrust basis. That's happening. And then number three is "know your customer." Just you may not have anonymity, and that would cut down, as I understand it, about 50% of the bad behavior if you have to acknowledge who you were. And then fourth is basically to change the business model. And if they purport, like [Elon] Musk is saying he's going to do with Twitter, if you purport to be the public square, then you must change the business model, no longer take advertising, and only give public service spots, and receive no funds from advertising of commercial nature. And basically, that has to be their new business model, and basically a nonprofit model and it's going to be based on subscriptions or whatever. And then the fifth is what I call i-habeas corpus. In other words, we not only own our own bodies, but guess what, we own our own minds and everything that comes out of our minds. So we need to establish ownership and get paid for every bit or byte that we contribute to any of these social media platforms. So, those five reforms are very widely supported on both sides of the aisle, even in the US Congress.

Ralph Nader: And one of the most important is getting rid of anonymity, which caused so much to the foul, violent materials. Listeners, the reason why Hazel keeps referring to her articles is because she wants you to go deeper than what you all hear on this program. And before we continue, Hazel, give our listeners your various websites.

Hazel Henderson: The one main website is ethicalmarkets.com. And that is ethicalmarkets, all one word, plural, dot com. And everything is there and you can shift to all of the other sites that we have from there, including our TV channel. All of our TV shows are free, and we send them around the world to business schools hoping to teach business school students about all the big lies that are being told now by large corporations who go to Davos and say, "Well, guess what, the market worked. We have an impact fund now." Well, nonsense. You know very well it's just marketing, it's more marketing. And I just gave a speech in Amsterdam to 250 pension fund managers and I said, "Why are you buying into this stuff?" I mean, even the Morningstar [Inc] group has disallowed 1200 of these so-called impact funds, the sustainability funds, and said, "Look, this is just marketing." And an exposé was done in *Businessweek*, called "The ESG Myth" [Environmental, Social and Governance investing]. And they said the only thing they could find was a little fewer of fossil fuel companies in their portfolios. But the only other difference was charging higher fees. And so, I told these pension fund managers, "Look, stop

buying into this," because they are buying into it too because they enjoy the higher fees. So I have the fun at this stage in my life of trying as much as possible, Ralph, as you've always done my dear, to telling the *truth*.

Ralph Nader: Well, Hazel, you went further than that. You did very practical yardsticks. Tell us about the 12 Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators, only three of which were quantifiable in money. One of the indicators is urban air quality. Tell us about that.

Hazel Henderson: Right. Yeah. Well, the Calvert Group I worked as an advisor with them, basically just for travel and all of that, I wasn't paid by them in any formal way, but we had an advisory council to develop these kind of new metrics. And so, basically we came up with 12 aspects of quality of life and amazingly enough, if you looked at it scientifically, literally there were only three of them that could be conducted in money terms. And an example I can use is by air pollution, urban air pollution. We now have 9 million excess deaths a year on this planet from air pollution. And you wouldn't measure air pollution in money terms. You would measure it scientifically in parts per million of junk in the air. So you see, we went to what we call "science-based investing." And basically, science-based investing is looking at the risks in the real world and doing away with the financial community's magical thinking.

Ralph Nader: Well, Sarah Bloom Raskin was blocked from becoming vice chair of the Federal Reserve recently because she once made –

Hazel Henderson: I saw that.

Ralph Nader: Yeah. She once made a speech saying the Federal Reserve should crank in climate disruption in some of its calculations. Give us your view on the Federal Reserve here.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah. Well, the Federal Reserve, the way it's set up, it really perpetuates inequality. And it's really the way the plumbing is set up. And I have there again on the website with a link-through, I have referenced the articles by four really brilliant women who have disassembled the operation of the Fed and how it actually contributes to inequality. And a perfect example is, okay, if they try to buy up dud mortgages - they're real estate mortgages - and that immediately flows through into housing bubbles which then burst like they did in 2008. See, they don't have any systemic analysis. And the women economists like Rana Foroohar, who is at the *Financial Times*, I follow her very closely; Stephanie Kelton, whose wonderful book is called *The Deficit Myth* [: *Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy*]. Everybody should read that book. And the one on the Fed is *Engine of Inequality* [:*The Fed and The Future of Wealth In America*]. All these wonderful studies are out there that really show how fundamentally we have to change the design and change how the plumbing works so that it doesn't feed everything back into Wall Street, which is what happens now. The textbooks say it's supposed to trickle down. We know instead it goes right back into the money center banks.

Ralph Nader: You've talked about daily free photons from our sun. Let's assume you were the sun, and you suddenly became organic instead of inorganic, and you prepared a message to the Earth. What do you think the sun should tell to the Earth and humankind and natural resources?

Hazel Henderson: Well, the sun, our wonderful mother star, has been trying to tell us of course for millions of years that all the free photons that shower our planet every day provide all of the abundance we will ever need if we learn how to capture those photons as well as plants did. Plants created the first technology called photosynthesis. All we have to do is to learn from plants to capture it as well as they do, and we will have abundance for literally millions of years. And that's what the sun is really trying to tell us. We live in an abundant universe. And this is our birthright. We grew out of this universe like flowers. We've gotten this idea that we have to teach our children all of this false stuff, but basically we live in an abundant universe, and let's just get with the program.

Ralph Nader: Instead, we dug deep for fossil fuels and created one of the greatest crisis facing the world today.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah, and then subsidize the use of them.

Ralph Nader: Yes, to make matters worse. Let me quote from one of your articles. Quote, "Reframing the politics of polarization and survival through cooperation and sharing at all levels requires restoring the age-old traditional values of the Golden Rule while valuing Love Economies," - you underlined "valuing Love Economies." "Those fundamental formerly unpaid invisible, caring sectors that undergird all our markets and price-based transactions. Currencies and prices are tokens of what we value and measure, by which we still keep score of our agreements, goals and strategies." Explain that. Give us some examples of what you mean.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah. See, you can't turn them into physical objects. This is the mistake that's going on now. That basically these tokens of value, which everybody now is trying to monetize and trying to turn into cryptos and all of this. Basically, a crypto currency is a digital noun. It has no meaning until somebody decides to wrap it up in a beautiful set of dreamy ideas that will be all of these wonderful people who will manage this currency and make sure that it's always held to the highest standards. Come on, this is just marketing. It's all marketing.

Ralph Nader: And manipulation.

Hazel Henderson: And manipulation, like IEG [Independent Evaluation Group <https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/>]. I do hope somebody will go on that website. You'll be horrified. And creating all of these new assets out of thin air.

Ralph Nader: Increasing concentration of control, removing them more and more from the real life of people, abstract tyranny, all that. You've really helped build a tremendous network. You have 800 libraries all over the world that have your books and materials. You've done documentaries, you've done television programs. Tell us a little bit about what someone called once "the Hazel Henderson International Pragmatic Transformative Network."

Hazel Henderson: [chuckles] Well, I just put one foot in front of the other and try every day to move in honoring what I've always called the Love Economies. And I mean, the most absurd thing with this predatory market model is "okay, are you really saying then that everything must be price-based, so you are telling me that an infant must pay its mother to change its diaper?" I

mean, there's a level of absurdity of this which we just have to keep telling the truth about. Most of us grow up in loving families where we do things for each other. And if everybody is familiar with this model. And we have to honor it and reward it. And just keep telling the truth about it.

Ralph Nader: Well, anthropologists call this “the gift economy.” Actually, on a day-to-day basis, between billions of people in neighborhoods, communities, villages, farms, you name it, there is far more transaction completely outside the monetized market system. If they ever monetized it, it would be multi-trillions of dollars. But that's what you're really talking about.

Hazel Henderson: Exactly. Right. Yeah. We don't see the level to which it works. It just works. Every day. In every way. All over the world.

Ralph Nader: And how is this network of yours? Describe this network. I think this is what's extraordinary about you, Hazel, is the pragmatic nature of your idealism. Describe the networks that you've helped build and are still underway in different dimensions.

Hazel Henderson: Well, there's one now which I'm very promoting quite a lot, and that is a network of people who understand that we have to unpack all of these algorithms, and there must be complete disclosure. And this is happening actually in Britain. They have a new law now that say that all algorithms must be fully exposed so the people understand what the recommendation algorithm is. And of course, in most of these - like Facebook - the recommendation algorithm brings you deeper and deeper into the kind of false thinking that you began with. So you start off with saying, "Well, I believe in this or that," and then they'll introduce you to a whole bunch of other people, and before you know where you are, you're deep down a rabbit hole of anger. And that's the way they make their money. And so, we have to expose that. And a lot of good people are doing that, like Kara Swisher. She has a column now in *The New York Times*. And she goes after it every day. But we need a whole lot more people to really expose algorithms.

Ralph Nader: How would you replace the omniscient monetized myopic power of giant corporations astride the globe, escaping national jurisdictions, pitting countries against one another for maximum profit, hollowing out communities? What's the approach there?

Hazel Henderson: Well, the only approach really in every one of these areas is telling the truth as loudly and often as you can. And I have no ambition or an expectation that I'm going to make that much difference or even any of the networks are going to make that much difference. The thing is that the planet basically is in charge, and they will run up sooner or later against the planet. Whether it's the new heat with garbage dumps exploding in India or whatever, the lessons of the planet will win. The planet will always win.

Ralph Nader: What can be called the revenge of an abused natural world, which is what global warming is.

Hazel Henderson: Right, but I don't think the planet thinks about revenge. A planet just does what it does. There's no intentionality there. The planet just is. And we will have to learn to respect the planet's lessons or else we will join the next extinction. We are being tested now to

see whether we are a suitable species to continue. The planet isn't in danger. Another species will take over and have a crack at the next stage. Who knows? The planet will be fine.

Ralph Nader: Well, with deforestation, depletion of the oceans, global warming, habitat destruction –

Hazel Henderson: All that will heal if we leave the scene. If we become a part of the extinction, all of that will heal. It may take a while. But other species will take over, whether it's kudzu or whatever. But it'll all heal. It can, and the planet does that.

Ralph Nader: Hazel, the young generation tends to get very quickly discouraged. They have a short-term stamina. They have the iPhone in their hands, accessible to all kinds of information, but it becomes a self-limiting addiction in the way it's used. What would you say to [the] young generation, and I know some of them are very alert, like Greta [Thunberg] and others, but the majority, vast majority seem purposeless, they seem drifting and they're asking for help and direction. What would you say to them?

Hazel Henderson: Well, the first thing is get off those screens for a bit because they really are so poisonous. And I think a lot of young people are beginning to realize that. Get out in nature, take a walk in the woods, and meet with your friends without devices for change, and share real information. And a lot of them are beginning to do that and realizing how unhealthy it is to spend most of your life on small screens. Because it just shifts you sort of into this left brain cognition where you really get a distorted view of what's actually happening on the ground. And that's the best way they can, I think, ground themselves, which is what many of them are doing now.

Ralph Nader: And what kind of groups in your network do you think they should be alerted to and join, and revive, and invigorate?

Hazel Henderson: Well, my gosh, I mean, there are so many that I can't really enumerate them now. But those groups, I mean the self-help groups with young people, I know that they exist and just go search them and find them and join up with them because they are — in many countries, you have this kind of reaction. I know it's going on a lot in Britain where I grew up. But also, I've worked in Latin America for many, many years. And a lot of the people in Latin America are always still much closer to the Golden Rule kind of societies and will slip back very quickly into that kind of understanding.

Ralph Nader: Hazel, have you written much or connected with the cooperative economics, like consumer cooperatives which you have started in your native country? Tell us about that.

Hazel Henderson: Yes, what people don't even know is that right now, today, there are more human beings employed in cooperative enterprises than in all the for-profit corporations combined. And that's UN data that you can go on un.org. And the year 2013 was the year of the cooperative, where they have all of this information. And I have, of course naturally being a Brit, starting off as a Brit, I have been promoting cooperatives for years, and also worker-owned companies. I worked a lot with Louis and Patricia Kelso on the Kelso plans, where you end up

with the workers owning the company. And if it's done right — of course it can be done badly - but if it's done right, the workers end up owning the company.

Ralph Nader: And the press almost ignores this vast cooperative economy around the world. It's all these stock-held corporations that get the attention, that advertise for public radio, public broadcasting.

Hazel Henderson: That's why we need all these alternative media. And I'm only one strand of all of these small alternative media companies. And if people go on our website, they can see some of our media partners, like a group called the Green Economy Coalition, which is the first — really the largest global network of NGOs [non-governmental agencies], all kinds of people devoted to accelerating the shift to the Green New Deal, the green economy. On my website - the “Partners” page - you can click through to all of these partners. We even found one crypto which we thought could be a good one. And that's called SolarCoin. And it's run by a guy who used to be an asset manager and realized it was all crap. He was with Bridgewater [Associates]. And instead, he went back and learned biology and wrote a book called *The Nature of Value* [: *How to Invest in the Adaptive Economy*], and then started SolarCoin, which is a rewards currency. And you can't earn a SolarCoin unless you have a third party verify that you have generated off your roof top or your company's rooftop a certain number of kilowatt-hours of solar electricity.

Ralph Nader: How fascinating.

Hazel Henderson: That would be a good crypto because it's totally backed by physical assets that are much more valuable than gold.

Ralph Nader: You wrote *Building a Win-Win World: Life Beyond Economic Warfare*. You've made many trips to China. And the tensions between China and the United States have been building up. What's your approach to China?

Hazel Henderson: Well, I still have so many good friends in China. And I was invited there by the State Council as a futurist, recommended by Alvin and Heidi Toffler who wrote *Future Shock*. I did my first lecture in China in 1986. And they have made me professor of all kinds of institutes. The article I wrote that updated all of this is called “Can the USA and China Find Paths to Common Prosperity?”, which is the Chinese model, what they're looking for now. And both societies, our society and China, are dealing with exactly the same problem – out of control fascist markets and greedy billionaires. Now, what do *we* do with our greedy billionaires? We put them on the cover of *Time Magazine*, or we try to bribe them in some way to behave better. Now, in China, the party says, “Well, guess what? Here's the new rules. And that is that you, Jack Ma, can sit down and shut up. You are not going to bring [The] Ant [Group] public. We want you to spend more in your local community and give more to your workers.” And then the other very rich guy in China, Mr. Hui [Ka Yan], who is the head of Evergrande, the big real estate company that went bust — well, of course, nothing ever goes bust in China because if they want to save it, they will save it. But they said to Mr. Hui, “Well, guess what? The new rule is that housing is for people to live in, not for speculation or market purposes, so just deal with it.” And you see that both societies could come together as they have done on climate change - thanks to Al Gore at the COP [“Conference of the Parties” global climate summit] meeting,

the one that was in Copenhagen. So, we are already cooperating in many, many ways with the Chinese. And let's just focus on what we can agree on and what we can cooperate on.

Ralph Nader: Certainly, both regimes seem to bring the worst out of both of them. And there's a lot going on beneath the radar in China and the US that can foster those cooperative arrangements. Instead, it's one leader berating another leader. And China gets its back up. It's the Middle Kingdom, and if it gets its back up, it's going to be very harsh and brutal even on its own people.

Hazel Henderson: The point is that those stories make the media, the horror stories. Everybody wants the stories about fear and all the bad things. There are bad things going on in China, but on the other hand, the People's Bank of China - and I know those people very well - they developed a model of greening finance which could have been written by me. And Mr. Ma Jun is promoting that a lot now in the USA. So yes, let's agree with them about how to green the financial system.

Ralph Nader: The listeners want to learn more about this. Hazel's been a producer of *Transforming Finance*, the TV series — *Transforming Finance*, and publishers of the Green Transition Scoreboard. David?

David Feldman: Thank you, Hazel. One of the things we've learned from Ralph is that corporations can't self-regulate, and you've pretty much said that.

Hazel Henderson: Right.

David Feldman: They're like children. They will do whatever they can get away with. How do we infantilize them? What language could we use to infantilize corporations so they stop infantilizing us?

Hazel Henderson: Gosh. Well, certainly I'm using this term, "magical thinking" for the way they operate, but I haven't yet really thought of a good term that really could put them properly in their place. But it's something to do with a sort of rather infantile temptation model.

Ralph Nader: Yeah. I think what David is illustrating is one of our young scientists many years ago went to a processed food convention and they were giving awards to the people who developed the most tasty chemicalized whipped cream and things like that. And he jumped onto the stage and took over the podium. It was Michael Jacobson who started the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Hazel Henderson: Yes. I remember him so well.

Ralph Nader: And just by way of illustrating, in a world desperate for nutrition and desperate for food safety, they were giving out awards for this kind of tripe. And I think this kind of lucrative trivia ought to be elaborated more apropos David's question to show that these people are trivializing the planet into profitable death for themselves. That's why I use the word "omnicidal."

Hazel Henderson: Yes. And so also that they have weaponized the word "innovation". Innovation for what? Innovation for what purpose? Is it sixty-five new brands of hair cream, or is it innovation to create better solar energy companies, a shift to heat pumps and solid things like that?

Ralph Nader: Innovation for Trident submarines, each one of which can blow up 200 cities in a few hours, or innovation to get clean drinking water in locales all over the world.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah. So I think a lot of us have to really politicize and focus on these words, these classifications, and how careful we have to be about classifications, and which ones *help* us understand what's going on, and which ones *confuse* what's going on.

Ralph Nader: Hannah, how about the young generation asking a question or comment?

Hannah Feldman: Thank you, Ms. Henderson. First, I want to humbly suggest “corporate hissy fit” or “corporate temper tantrum.”

Hazel Henderson: Yes, I like that. That's great. Temper tantrums, see that was the one they used when the Fed removed the “put” and said, "No, we're not going to always bail out Wall Street." And Wall Street had what they called temper tantrums.

Ralph Nader: Hannah makes a very good point. I think personalizing corporate behavior is good. Like when hospitals, to make more profit, get mothers who give birth and they get them out of the hospital very, very fast, they can be accused of Attention Deficit Disorder. [Hazel laughs] And then General Motors refusing to curb its pollution can be accused of — in other words, you use psychological language to personalize them and then people will get more interested in them. Right now, most people don't know who the CEOs are that are running the country. In the old days, they knew it was Andrew Carnegie and John Rockefeller and Jay Gould and others. They don't know the rulers now.

Hazel Henderson: Now, that's exactly right. No, I love this. This is terrific, Hannah.

Hannah Feldman: I got a “PG&E is grounded.” [Pacific Gas and Electric Company]

Hazel Henderson: Uh huh.

Hannah Feldman: Well, I do have a legitimate question, if I may. So California's Attorney General is trying to put ExxonMobil in the corner.

Hazel Henderson: Oh, I like that.

Hannah Feldman: All of it.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah, you're good at this.

Hannah Feldman: Thank you. I sit, I just absorb all of everyone else's brilliance, and then I --

Hazel Henderson: Well, we all do. We all learn from each other. It's wonderful. That's the Golden Rule.

Ralph Nader: I was going to say, GM refusing to curb its pollution over the decades needs to be taught something about toilet training.

Hazel Henderson: Yes. Yes. Great. I love it. I love it.

Hannah Feldman: So I have a question about ExxonMobil's potty mouth. So, the *LA Times* reported recently that California's Attorney General is subpoenaing ExxonMobil, looking for information related to their efforts to minimize the public's understanding of the harmful consequences of plastic, and perpetuating the recycling myth. And a spokesperson for the corporation said, quote, "We reject the allegations made by the Attorney General's Office in its press release. We are focused on solutions, and meritless allegations like these distract from the important collaborative work that is underway to enhance waste management and improve circularity." So I'm just curious what your reaction is to —

Hazel Henderson: Oh, my god. Well, this term, "circularity", which was a — there's another term we have to unpack, because the Ellen MacArthur Foundation really promoted that. She was the woman who sailed around the Earth solo, and she's based in London. And she has a thing, a newsletter called *The Circular Economy*. And that now is also being basically politicized in the worst possible way, where everybody is sort of, "Yeah, well, we're part of the Circular Economy," was some completely trivial kind of thing. Now, there's some good operations in the Circular Economy, one I'm an advisor to, which is a company called ECOR Global, E-C-O-R, global.com. And what they do is they take the wastes from, say right now, from Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam and right there on the spot, turn them around in a very small energy-efficient unit on the premises to the next day's needs. That's the real circularity. And they can also turn a lot of them into chairs and tables and lampshades and kind of upgrade them. So, there's one to look at and you can look at some of the beautiful things that are actually possible in a real circular economy.

Ralph Nader: Well, as we conclude, Hazel, what would you like to say more? We've only tapped a fraction of your observations.

Hazel Henderson: Well, all I can say is that I'm very honored to be involved with all of you, and basically thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to sound off a bit on all the things I care about. Let's all keep telling the truth together.

Ralph Nader: And let's have you tell our listeners the website again.

Hazel Henderson: Okay. It's ethicalmarkets, that's all one word, ethicalmarkets, plural, dot com. And from there, you can reach all the other sites, you can click into all the partners, everything is free. And please use it, send us your news that you want us to publish. And it will just widen the Golden Rule and the cooperation.

Ralph Nader: And we should mention that one of your greatest books, *The Politics of the Solar Age* [*Alternatives to Economics*], has influenced a lot of young people over the years all over the world. Thank you very much, Hazel.

Hazel Henderson: Yeah, and it's now free. It's free. And also my earlier book, *Creating Alternative Futures: The End of Economics*. Both those books are on free downloads from our website.

Ralph Nader: Exemplifying your principle that the most important things in life are free, espoused by the Golden Rule, right?

Hazel Henderson: That's right. It's true. So it's such an honor, Ralph. And you know how much I have admired you and loved working with you all these years.

Ralph Nader: Well, it's more than reciprocal. Thank you very much, Hazel.

Hazel Henderson: A pleasure.

Steve Skrovan: We've been speaking with the indefatigable Hazel Henderson. We have a link to Ethical Markets at ralphnaderradiohour.com. Now let's hear from our corporate crime reporter, Russell Mokhiber.

Russell Mokhiber: From the National Press Building in Washington, D.C., this is your Corporate Crime Reporter Morning Minute for Friday, May 6, 2022. I'm Russell Mokhiber.

A former employee at Abbott Nutrition, Sturgis, Michigan infant formula plant [filed? 54:06] concerns about food safety violations directly with senior FDA [Food and Drug Administration] officials in October, months before two infants died and another was hospitalized from bacterial infections after ingesting formula made at the plant. That's according to a report from *Politico*. In a 34-page document sent to officials October 19 and 20, the whistleblower outlined allegations of lax cleaning practices, purposefully falsified records and efforts by plant officials to keep the FDA from learning about serious issues related to the plant's own system for checking for bacteria in formula, among other things.

For the corporate crime reporter, I'm Russell Mokhiber.

Steve Skrovan: Thank you, Russell. Welcome back to the *Ralph Nader Radio Hour*. I'm Steve Skrovan along with David Feldman, Hannah Feldman and Ralph. That's our show. I want to thank our guest again, the remarkable Hazel Henderson. For those of you listening on the radio, we're going to cut out now, but for you podcast listeners, stay tuned for some bonus material we call "The Wrap Up." A transcript of this program will appear on the Ralph Nader Radio Hour website soon after the episode is posted.

David Feldman: Subscribe to us on our *Ralph Nader Radio Hour* YouTube channel. And for Ralph's weekly column, it's free, go to nader.org. For more from Russell Mokhiber, go to corporatecrimereporter.com.

Steve Skrovan: And the American Museum of Tort Law has gone virtual. Go to tortmuseum.org to explore the exhibits. Take a virtual tour and learn about iconic tort cases from history. And be sure to check out their online gift shop. You'll find books, posters and "Flaming Pinto" magnets, and mugs for all the tort fans in your life. That's at store.tortmuseum.org.

David Feldman: To order your copy of the *Capitol Hill Citizen*, the pilot issue is only \$5 to cover shipping, go to capitolhillcitizen.com. The producers of the *Ralph Nader Radio Hour* are Jimmy Lee Wirt and Matthew Marran. Our executive producer is Alan Minsky.

Steve Skrovan: Our theme music, "Stand Up, Rise Up", was written and performed by Kemp Harris. Our proofreader is Elisabeth Solomon. Our associate producer is Hannah Feldman. Our social media manager is Steven Wendt.

David Feldman: Join us next week on the Ralph Nader Radio Hour. Thank you, Ralph.

Ralph Nader: Thank you, everybody.