

RALPH NADER RADIO HOUR EP 261 TRANSCRIPT

Steve Skrovan: Welcome to the Ralph Nader Radio Hour. My name is Steve Skrovan along with my co-host David Feldman. Hello today, David. How are you?

David Feldman: Very good. Good morning.

Steve Skrovan: Good morning. And we also have the man of the hour, Ralph Nader. Hello, Ralph.

Ralph Nader: Hello, everybody, just hold on to your seatbelts. You're going to be challenged.

Steve Skrovan: Yes, on the show today, we're going to welcome back journalist Dahr Jamail. Last time Mr. Jamail was on the show was a little less than a year ago and it was the 15th anniversary of the Iraq War. And Mr. Jamail told us about his reporting from Iraq and in particular about the brutal battle of Fallujah. But in addition to being a war correspondent, Mr. Jamail is also an avid mountain climber. It is in those mountains where he has witnessed another kind of violence, violence to the planet. Turns out that those mountain slopes are the frontlines of the climate crisis. His book on the subject is entitled The End of Ice. And he's not talking about the immigration enforcement. He's literally talking about the melting, disappearing ice and its consequences for human life on the planet.

He's gonna to take us beyond the abstract theoretical models. Doing a true reporter's job, he has gone to where the action is. And as always, we will take a minute after that to check in with Corporate Crime Reporter, Russell Mokhiber. And then we're going to see if we empty our inbox as Ralph answers your latest questions. But first, let's find out where has all the ice gone.

David?

David Feldman: In late 2003, award-winning journalist, Dahr Jamail, went to the Middle East to report on the Iraq War where he spent more than a year as one of only a few independent U.S. journalists in the country. Mr. Jamail has also written extensively on veterans' resistance against U.S. foreign policy. He is now focusing on climate disruption and the environment. His book on that topic is entitled The End of Ice. Welcome back to the Ralph Nader Radio Hour, Dahr Jamail.

Dahr Jamail: Thanks for having me. It's great to be back.

Ralph Nader: Thank you, Dahr, for coming on. I just want to start with this remarkable book. By the way, listeners, you've never read a book like this. Dahr goes to these places. He starts out with the Denali Mountain in Alaska which he climbed. And he's gone to the coral reefs of Australia, going to the Amazon, going to South Florida as the waves lapped up into that highly developed area. And he's gone to the western part of the United States, to the mountains of California, and on and on. And that's the way he writes. And he combines that by interviewing the leading experts who are there, who are working there, who never get much attention, and who've spent a lifetime trying to warn us about what's happening. Dahr, I'm going to just read a paragraph on page 212.

And listeners, don't turn off by the overwhelming nature of this because you're turning off your posterity, your descendants if you do that. And I'm quoting "similarly disrespect for nature is leading to our own destruction by desecrating the biosphere with our pollution and having caused earth's sixth mass extinction by annihilating species around the planet, we are setting ourselves up for what I believe will be ultimately our own extinction. This is a direct result of our inability to understand our part in the natural world. We live in a world where we are acidifying the oceans, where there will be few places cold enough to support year-round ice, where all the current coastlines will be underwater, and by the way, it includes many of the major cities of the world, and where droughts, wildfires, floods, storms, and extreme weather are already becoming the new normal. During my years of reporting from Iraq, I felt the mixture of sadness, guilt, anger, powerlessness, anxiety, despair and grief. I went to Iraq to report on how a violent, chaotic occupation was crushing the Iraqi people and shredding the fabric of their society and culture." Now why did I quote this? Because you're dealing with an author who has both cognitive intelligence and emotional intelligence and he comes at the issue of climate disruption. He refuses, as I do, to use the words climate change. As so many environmental groups do, it's climate catastrophe, climate crisis. If you don't believe it, read this book, *The End of Ice*. But we both come at this from different angles, Dahr. I looked at your index; you didn't have an entry for Congress, the White House, or corporation. And that's what I want to talk to you about in addition to your findings. Because if we're going to change in any transformative manner from fossil fuels and nuclear into energy efficiency, renewable energy, if we're going to make all these other changes to save the oceans, the waters, rivers, the mountains, from the Amazon to the arctic where you went. Whether we like it or not, we're going to have to go through Congress, which means we're going to have to look at ourselves in the mirror. Congress has been a disaster as the White House has been. In 1993, there was a report by Bill Clinton and Al Gore warning about climate catastrophe. It had all kinds of pictures and graphs and urgency and they put it on the shelf and did nothing.

They gave the auto industry eight years of holiday and betrayed all their verbal warnings and concerns and that included Gore who wrote a book saying the motor vehicle is one of the greatest threats to the planet. So I want to ask you, how are you going to motivate people, by fear, by optimism, by a sense of posterity, or by zeroing in on Congress and the White House?

Dahr Jamail: Well definitely not by fear. That's been batted around lately--fear and panic, it's time to panic, and I do not think that is the way to go for multiple reasons. But to cut to the chase and at the risk of sounding extremely cliché, my goal of the book was to inspire people to reconnect to the planet. So the motivation I would cite that I am hoping for is love of the planet and all of the planet's beings. That if we really reconnect and understand, we are from and of this place, and how we treat this place is directly how we treat ourselves and vice versa, then we're going to start behaving differently. And another angle on that same idea is that I interviewed Cherokee elder in the book named Stan Rushworth and he reminded me that the western colonial settler mindset is that we have rights, what are my rights. But his indigenous perspective is what are our obligations. We are born on to this planet with obligations to take care of it because it's sacred and then obligations to do good work for our future generations, to protect the future generations. So I hope that in reading this book, which is full of extremely intense information as you said, but then when I get to the end of it and bring some of these indigenous voices and their stories into it and my own experience of the journey I've taken from being so angry and just putting out information, and for a while I was trying to scare people, trying anything possible to wake people up, but the book really changed my perspective that I don't take that tact anymore and I hope that people are moved and motivated by love of the planet, love of each other, love of future generations, love of their children to do the right thing.

Ralph Nader: We had on a few weeks ago, Paul Hawken, who I'm sure you know, and in his book, *The Ecology of Commerce*, stimulated the transformation of the Interface Corporation, the biggest carpet tile manufacturer in the world based in Atlanta under the leadership of the great late Ray Anderson. And he is into this movement around the world and he put out a beautiful book on it called *Drawdown*. And he cites thousands of groups all over the world trying to save the water, and clean the air, and preserve the land, and protect the forest, etcetera. And when I asked him what is *Drawdown*, he said reversing the carbon dioxide parts per billion. In other words, not just slowing it down with these greenhouse gases especially methane, but reversing it, bringing it down. I guess it's about 410 or 420 parts per billion now. And it struck me that he was using optimism. He was saying look, we got to do something. I mean let's not just fall into dread anxiety and fear. But from what you say in your book, *The End of Ice*, everything is exhilarating and multiplying. So, educate us about this multiplier effect; take Greenland and the permafrost and how it multiplies its deadly effect once the melting starts.

Dahr Jamail: That's right. So we actually just set a global record on February 9th where the Mount Lowell Observatory measured daily average atmospheric CO2 concentration of 414.27 parts per million CO2 in the atmosphere. The last time, there was much CO2 in the atmosphere the steady state temperature of the planet was seven degrees sea higher than right now and sea levels were 23 meters higher than they are today. So at the current level of CO2 in the atmosphere, we're basically waiting for the planet to catch up with the injury that's already been done. So people like Hawken and others that are talking about the necessity, not just the goal, but we don't have a chance unless we start drawing a massive amount of the CO2 out of the atmosphere. There is no question about that. The IPCC discusses that numerous other groups. There's a giant push in regenerative agriculture, which Hawken also mentions in his work and all of that is absolutely imperative. Geoengineering, of course, is being thrown about more every day; now that is extremely worrisome.

Ralph Nader: Explain that. That's more than carbon sequestration--driving the carbon dioxide into the ground, storing it there.

Dahr Jamail: Well, that's right. It's basically using, instead of regenerative agriculture and planting more trees and regenerating soil so it can sequester massive amounts of carbon and all of this, if done on a massively wide scale like government mandated, funded, etcetera, then that could have a serious positive impact. But geoengineering, you bring manmade geoengineering into it and it's things like let's put a giant balloon up in the stratosphere to try to block the sun from certain parts of the country and then simultaneously release different sulfides or iodides to reflect more of that sunlight back into the sky, back in to space. And so, with unforeseen consequences, while those technologies are being discussed, other scientists are being very critical of them because, look, okay, that would reflect the sunlight back in the space, but then we have no idea how that would affect rainfall patterns across the globe. Like that could simultaneously cause major droughts across prime-agricultural areas, etcetera, so it's an extremely dangerous proposition. But then getting back to your original question of the feedback loop, so I outlined several of them in the book, but the most famous one being the melting and reduction of the Arctic summer-sea ice. It's reducing dramatically at the current observational trend of decline, it looks like, we'll probably, not for sure, but probably start having periods of ice-free summers in the Arctic over the ocean there within probably about five years from now, if not a little bit sooner. And so, as that ice reduces, it exposes more the blue ocean to absorb the sunlight, which warms the ocean faster, which melts the ice faster, which then cause the . . . etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Another way to put positive feedback loops are the more something happens, the more it happens.

Ralph Nader: Like a deadly vicious circle, right?

Ralph Nader: Precisely.

Ralph Nader: Okay. Let me get down to where people have more referential experience. South Florida. You went on to South Florida. This is a mind-blowing chapter called "The Coming Atlantis". This is just one slice of what's happening. The insurance industry now is getting more concerned. There are some homes in South Florida cannot get 30-year mortgages. Miami Beach may disappear; over half of Florida's population is just a few feet over sea level. The sea level is increasing. And at the same time, you had eight years of Rick Scott, a former corporate criminal in the healthcare industry as governor. And Rick Scott basically was a smaller version of Trump. He's now Senator. People of Florida elected him narrowly Senator last November. Here's a quote that really caught my attention. And I'm quoting you, Dahr Jamail, author of the book (The) End of Ice, "You could write an entire book on what would happen to industrial infrastructure in Florida as sea levels rise. But one major source of concern is the Florida aquifer. Once that water is contaminated by saltwater, it's over. And some of the next experts I would speak with, believe it was not a matter of if, but when that aquifer becomes contaminated. Describe the scene in South Florida--the homes that are going to be flooded, the kind of climate refugees that are going to be produced, the head-in-the-sand nature of the political leadership, the one bright light where they're requiring new homes to be built with solar panels--give us a sense. Because our listeners, I found this out, you know, since the 1980s when I started talking about this, Dahr, is they understand what you're talking about, but they can't connect to it. And one thing you say is, one reason they can't connect to it is they don't commune with nature enough that not only are people watching screens, but they live in urban areas. That's why you refer so much to indigenous peoples in your books who have to be part of nature and respect it more. So talk about the scene in South Florida which can literally disappear in terms of human habitation.

Dahr Jamail: It was absolutely the most surreal experience of the entire book, so it's very perfect that you bring that up as an example of this disconnect and it's surreal for many reasons. I mean when I was there, Rick Scott was still governor and as we know, he forbade the use of the terms global warming and climate change by state employees while he was governor and now of course he's Senator. But when I was there, the level of denial that is there that's so rampant is it's in your face. And as evidenced by the rose of McMansions in Coral Gables right on the coast. Going to Miami Beach is really incredible, the amount of money there and what's

right at sea level or just within a couple of feet of it. And it's surreal in that at high tides and certainly at king tides, you have people literally walking through flooded streets in broad daylight. There hasn't been any rain or anything. They're literally walking through saltwater. Oftentimes you can see fish swimming down the streets and they just put on rubber boots and walk through it and carry on as though everything's fine. And why are they even staying there, right? I mean that's what really struck me. And so, I went out in Miami Beach with... then city engineer of Miami Beach was Bruce Mowry, who was tasked under the mayor at the time with raising different parts of the streets three feet to try to buy themselves time to prepare for the coming deluge. And yet he knew, he admitted to me openly like, yeah, we're doing this based on the mid-level projections of the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] warnings even though these are consistently too low. And I asked him why not prepare for the worst-case scenario, since that actually seems to be the track that we're on right now according to the leading scientists studying sea level. And he just didn't answer the question. He says well we're preparing from mid-level. So that aside, what already was happening is, when you raise streets in some areas, then where is that water going to go when it rains and floods? Well it's gonna go down, you know, whatever's below the streets. And so, in one instance, a giant high-rise fancy condo, the ground floor of it flooded and then it couldn't get the insurance money from it because the insurance company said well actually since the streets are raised, that's now a basement, so you're not insured. So, you can see just this one tiny little example. You mentioned the groundwater, the aquifer, becoming contaminated by saltwater, there are a million different ways that this is going to play out catastrophically there. And when I interviewed Dr. Harold Winless at University of Miami, another sea-level rise expert, he said, Look, these political leaders and I know some of them for sure know and understand climate destruction is real and the sea levels are coming. And he named Marco Rubio specifically. He said, "I know that he knows, and instead of pushing to have a government-controlled, mandated and funded evacuation of essentially the entirety of South Florida, a closing down of the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant that's just south of Miami at six feet elevation, doing remediation of all these environmental toxic sites, and getting ready for what is to come, and moving archives, and museums, and hospitals, and homes, and finding a way to relocate these people to higher ground; a massive project of millions of people, instead, they're denying that it's even happening. And he said, "Look, there's only one way I can frame that is the people like Rubio and all the others there doing this--it's criminal negligence."

Ralph Nader: Well that's the phrase for it. I mean, we really have to up our language. I mean look, what we're seeing here is political, corporate leaders who are taking this planet of ours right down to local communities omniscidal path. The word omniscidal has to become very

common. We have the Omnicider-in-Chief in the White House, Donald Trump, the Omnicider-in-Chief. He is telling everybody that climate disruption is a hoax. And there are a lot of people in Congress, Republicans mostly, who are saying it's a hoax. And there are some governors like Rick Scott, it's a hoax. Now you have billions of people led by politicians and corporations, and by the way, you know one of your rare references to corporations, you mention Exxon/Mobil. Listen to this listeners, 100 corporations in this world account for 71% of the CO2 greenhouse gases released on our planet. And the governments let them get away with it. So, we have an omnicidal situation. Now let me part company here. My belief is only fear is going to drive people to the level of urgency in a declaration of global emergency. It's only fear. It's like the people running from a fire suddenly realize that they have to do something to put it out because although the mass media has not saturated us with the kind of material in your book, they have reported quite a bit of it over time. And not only that, but we've had enough disruptions that we've connected with climate disruption--the fires in California and the floods in New Orleans and the Gulf area, etcetera. I don't think anything short of fear. For example, fear of a viral epidemic leads to people getting vaccinated. It's not just reading about the viral epidemic. It's empirical, sensory fear that's got to do it. And when you describe Florida, the fact that people are not climbing the walls: they're going to lose their homes, they're going to lose their schools, they're going to have to get out of South Florida. If you think this exaggeration, listeners, talk to some of the people who are in charge, the chief engineer at Miami Beach and the mayor who left office recently, and how endangered Miami Beach is. So the key is how are we going to motivate people to declare this a global emergency. Trump's pulled out of the Paris Climate Accords which are not even enforceable, they're just voluntary goals. So, we're headed for disaster in every continent and your description, the Amazon is totally horrifying. We'll get to that in a moment. But, let's talk about if we don't name the main culprits here that are stopping change and causing disaster at the same time. If we don't do that, if we don't take off the shelf, the enormous solutions we have, to convert very rapidly to renewable energy much faster than we're doing now with wind power and solar panels on roofs in places like Texas and Georgia, creating a lot of jobs. I don't see what's going to happen. Because if this continues, the reaction of the public is going to be spectacularly dangerous especially with demagogic politicians and corporatists twisting what we know is true into propaganda. So what's your sense of how do we motivate people. I mean this book of you should have been number one bestseller. It should've produced even more stories in Florida. The major press in Florida in the Washington Post and New York Times is that the head of the New England Patriots, Robert Kraft, was caught with prostitutes. And that's the major story from Florida. This is omnicidal media. What do you say about this, Dahr Jamail?

Dahr Jamail: Well, I intentionally did not go after the government or corporations in this book because there's a lot of other people doing that, doing a great job of it. This book was essentially an homage to the planet and it was also a wakeup call to try to take people to these places since most people, as you mentioned earlier, are living in urban environments and are not getting out into nature enough and certainly not consistently to watch these changes over time. So, I try to bring that to them in a very personal way along with it being backed by science and voices of people literally on the frontlines studying these places. So that's why I, aside from a few cursory ventures into it like the statistic you mentioned about a hundred companies being responsible for 71% of all the CO₂, that was not my aim of the book. My aim was to essentially try to reintroduce, reconnect people back into what's happening to the planet. And I had tried, Ralph, for years, I mean, I've been now almost 10 years doing stories on climate change for Al Jazeera English, for Truthout, for other outlets, and horrifying stories. I mean I wrote about the possibility of human extinction back in 2013 for a piece for Tom Engelhardt's website that went viral, so I've been pursuing that. And I don't know what does it take really to spark that fear, but when people . . . I mean, so far what I can see is like what happened in Paradise, California when the entire city got incinerated by wildfires. Well those people get it that their lives are changed. They're now living in the climate disrupted future. They lost everything. Dozens of people lost their lives. People lost loved ones, everything that they owned. They get it. The people in the panhandle of Florida that just lost everything to hurricanes or in the Carolina's just this past fall, they get it. So I don't know, Ralph. I mean part of me, frankly, is pretty just amazed and my jaw is on the floor like the example I gave in Florida. People just put on their galoshes and slog through the water and then go to their job and then come back down to their home and think this is just going to go on in perpetuity. I don't know what it's going to take. I've put out . . . you read my monthly Climate Dispatches and in each one is a horror show, and so I don't know. I mean I've tried using just the fear and not sensationalizing anything, but literally just collating the last 30 days of all the scientific studies and putting them in one place. And it's horrifying. I mean just from the intro of a Climate Dispatch, I just wrote that we're going to run next Tuesday on Truthout, 2018, the fourth warmest year ever recorded. The only warmer years were 2015, 16 and 17. We're now, according to the Met Office [Meteorological Office: national weather service for the UK], in the middle of what's going to be the warmest decade since record keeping began, so get ready for more record-warmest years. You know, all glaciers, according to one of the USGS [United States Geological Survey] scientists I went out in Glacier National Park with, Dr. Dan Fagre, we'll probably not have any glaciers anywhere in the contiguous 48 by 2100. There'll probably not be any glaciers in Glacier National Park by 2030.

Ralph Nader: We've already lost most of the glaciers already. This isn't just the future projection, right?

Dahr Jamail: No. They used to have 150 when it was a park and now they're down to 14. They're going faster than anyone projected even the scientists like Fagre, who was weighing in on it 20 years ago. His jaw is on the ground. We could not have glaciers in the Himalaya by 2100, the highest mountain range on the planet. I mean I can go down just . . . I could speak for an hour of just shocking, horrifying sci-fi-level scary scientific studies. I'm just quoting studies. And I don't ... so what is it going to take for people to really . . . what would, beyond that, shock people into a level of fear like fires under people's rear ends. Okay, it's time to start taking some seriously radical action and forcing the change in the government that's not happening so far.

Ralph Nader: Well you put your finger on it. What this going to take is ask the question, who has the power to change things dramatically? It's the Congress and the White House and that's how our focus has got to be. And it takes less than 1% of the people reflecting what the majority would like happen in congressional districts to do that. Now what exactly do we need? We need a huge reorientation of public investment to get rid of the military empire and direct it to our national survival and how we can help the globe to survive as well. Who can do that? Only Congress can do that. Who can deploy and give great visibility day after day to the experts, to people who've been on the scene like you, reaching tens of millions of people every month in small groups and speaking, and lecturing around the country, and going to the schools, and getting more and more of these kids who are really waking up to this nine, 10, 12-year-old kids who are putting it to the politicians when they meet them. Who can do that? That's the Congress. You see, who can take the solutions on the shelf that are being blocked by fossil fuel nuclear vested interests and get them deployed faster creating all kinds of jobs in residential areas as Walter Hang of Ithaca has pointed out--a program of energy efficiency that can cut energy enormously fast in terms of weatherizing homes and so forth. It's the Congress working with the state legislatures. So, we're talking 535 people, Dahr, who put their shoes on every day like you and I and our listeners. We're talking 740,000 men, women and children in each congressional district. You take 1% or even half a percent and you can turn those people around in Congress fast, so that's the leverage. Just like you have the multiplier closed loop in Greenland with the permafrost melting, you can develop a multiplier effect fast in Congress. Congress can instruct the White House. It's the most powerful branch obviously of government and the most personal one; we know their names. So, I understand, people like Tom Steyer, Al Gore, George Soros, very rich people, they've spoken out again and again on climate disruption although they still use the word "climate change," which is not a way to wake people up. When

I was growing up in New England, Dahr, climate change meant summer, autumn, winter, and spring. And then they keep saying, Congress isn't where the action is, "It's gridlocked; it's hopeless. It's back home." But when you organize back home, what's the tool? The tool has got to be the Congress. That's the turnaround lever. And so you know I can understand you're going through the great experts that you reported in your book especially Mr. Wanless. We'll talk about him in a minute. In Florida, the geologists, they don't focus on that and that's what leads to the despair and the hopelessness. We changed our economy in World War II so fast that it was stunning. GM began building tanks, changed its factories from building cars to building tanks in less than a year. We built liberty ships faster than you can almost count them. That was the war momentum, you see? So we got to get the equivalent of war. War on the disruptors of the global climate and the inanimate disasters that they're producing with the trees, and the forests, and the coral, and the shores, etcetera. So let's go to Mr. Wanless. Why don't you describe him and what he told you?

Dahr Jamail: So, Dr. Harold Wanless, he's extremely renowned, prestigious sea-level-rise expert. He studies it from a paleo perspective so he, you know, watches what happens as the earth has gone through all these different eras and epics. And it is also unlike so many scientists that are much more reserved and are afraid to talk openly about worst-case projections and not just IPCC worst-case projections, but real worst-case projections--how bad things really look like they're going. He's openly critical of the IPCC and other scientists that won't really talk about it. And so, he talks about the fact that . . . he cites . . . I went in there talking to him about what I had seen on Miami Beach with the city engineer and what another scientist, a colleague of his, who is an IPCC author, was talking about the worst case scenario that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had just put out at that time, for sea-level rise by 2100 was 8.5 feet. And that was an upgrade that had happened right when I was there speaking with him!

Ralph Nader: How many feet?

Dahr Jamail: 8.5 feet by 2100. And . . .

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Ralph Nader: What would that do to South Florida?

Dahr Jamail: It would be gone. And Wanless interrupted me when I was talking about those two fellows and he was angry and he said "Look, it's over. We've kicked the bucket. People need to understand 93% of all the heat that we've added into the atmospheres have been

absorbed by the oceans.” To give you an idea of how much heat that is, if they hadn't absorbed it, the atmosphere today would be 97 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than it is right now. He said when you have that much heat in the oceans, all the melting from below on these ice sheets, like particularly the Western Antarctic Ice Sheet, we're seeing this exhilarate so dramatically. Just even since my book came out, the scientists are scratching their heads. Dr. Eric Rignot, lead author of the study that came out the week that my book was published, a study on the melting across the Antarctic that's happening, and it showed that there was a six-fold increase in melting since just 1970. And when the New York Times interviewed him about that study, his quote literally is "Antarctica is melting away." And so with that happening, that's the single biggest ice source on the planet and we're seeing similar exhilarations in Greenland and other areas, that's why Wanless said that . . . he cites the Hansen, the James Hansen study that came out that said we could see 10 feet by 2050. Wanless said we, if the rate of exponential change, these runaway feedback loops that are kicking in, collapsing ice sheets, things coming unplugged, we could see 20 feet by 2100, he said. And the thing that I have in the book that it's really essentially how I ended the section of the book with my interaction with Wanless that really blew me away, was he pointed out that when earth came out of the last ice age, and things warmed up and the ice melted, that CO2 levels in the atmosphere gained about a 100 parts-per million. And corresponding with that was melting of ice that led to a 100 feet of sea-level rise. So, it's pretty easy correlation, 100ppms CO2, a 100-feet of sea-level rise. So I thought about that for a second and I said okay, so when the industrial revolution began, it was 280ppm CO2 in the atmosphere. Now we're at 4 . . . it was 410 when I spoke with him. Now we're at 414. So, I said, okay, now we're at 410, so that's 130 parts per million CO2 in the atmosphere increase, so is that 130 feet sea-level rise? And he just nodded, yes.

Ralph Nader: Well, let's make it even more graphic. You cite in your book on page 104, there are four primary reasons why sea levels change. Can you list those?

Dahr Jamail: Well, the first and most obvious is the melting of land-based ice. So, ice that's already in the water, over the water, when it melts, it's essentially not going to add anymore to sea-level rise. So, land-based ice is where that's going to be the biggest contributor, which we've just spoken about and, of course, places like the Antarctic and Greenland being the key sources. The next one is thermal expansion of the oceans as water warms; it's basic physics, it expands. So that's another big factor. Another one is currents. The way the ocean circulation and the currents are, those are factors as they're changing and as more water is being added into the oceans as the ice melts, those are changing. And then another one is wind patterns. So as wind patterns and with extreme weather events and things like that, and all of these climatic

patterns are being disrupted, and this is why I use this term consistently because it's the most scientifically accurate, but as all these climate patterns are changing, the wind patterns are as well and that's a contributing factor. And that's why you see along the Eastern Seaboard, specifically in the U.S., that's the place being hit the most because it's a convergence of really all four of those factors hitting there. And particularly South Florida as both Wanless and Dr. Ben Kirkman, another sea-level rise expert there, told me that literally, South Florida and Miami Beach specifically, is in the bull's eye. It's like the perfect convergence of those four things happening the most intensely and particularly bringing in currents and wind patterns. And, again, so that's why it was so amazing to be at this place that literally is in the bull's eye of sea-level rise as much more than anywhere else on earth.

Ralph Nader: On that point, how long will it be before the Omnicider-in-Chief's, Mar-A-Lago mansion is under water?

Dahr Jamail: Well, it'll be one of the first to go. There's no question about that. And it's a matter of exhilaration. I mean literally right now in the last month, we had another report come out that, again, Dr. Eric Rignot, who I cited earlier, the Thwaites Glacier in the Antarctic, they just found a giant cavity underneath it. It's literally melting out from underneath where it's two-thirds the area of Manhattan and 300 meters high, so that that much ice just gone. And that glacier is acting as a plug for unlimited potential of sea-level rise to come behind it, so it's coming undone as we speak. And so, I think that the possibility of, you know, exhilarations happening fast enough to see 10 feet of rise even by 2050, is not unheard of. So will Trump still be around and alive given his hamburger intake for another 10 years or so, I don't know. But maybe . . .

Ralph Nader: It's amazing how people will accurately accuse him of being a racist, a sexist--all those words--Islamophobe, but we've got to start charging him with omnicidal. We have to use that word, omnicidal. People say what is omnicidal; it starts a discussion. Let's get to the two main responses that have risen to this global meltdown. One is called mitigation any other is called adaptation. And talk about it in terms in New York City. David thinks he's pretty secure in New York City. Talk about it in New York City in terms of a scenario of mitigation and adaptation. What's the hazard to New York City, first of all, in terms of time and flooding?

Dahr Jamail: Obviously sea-level rise and we've already had Hurricane Sandy as kind of a preview of what is to come. So, what happens when the subways become permanently flooded or you know, there's so many consistent extreme weather events and flooding events that those are gone. What happens when streets in the lower parts of the city become permanently flooded

or at least consistently flooded enough where they're essentially not usable on a consistent basis? What happens to all the buildings, the ground floors, the same thing is happening there. So mitigation is essentially a time buyer. It's essentially okay, can we build enough walls, install enough protections and pumps, etcetera, to buy us more time to adapt? I think, personally, I think most of the energy should be going to adaptation and mitigation because there's still a lot of people pouring energy in to, we can fix this, we can change it, and we can't. It's already baked into the system. A lot of the science shows that if we stop emitting all CO2 emissions on a dime today and engage in all the mitigation we could hope for, all the governments on the planet started doing the right thing, that we still got at least 3C of warning ahead of us that's already literally baked into the system. And from the brunt of that, I would cite the statistic I gave about how much of the heat the oceans have absorbed. So, it's all about mitigation, buying time. We're not going to fix this, we're not going to stop it, so how can we mitigate, beef up parts of New York City and then prepare for adaptation? Because planning, long-range-staying-sober planning is not for five feet, not for 10 feet, but if you look at what's baked into the system and then, of course, are we going to stop at 2100 just because okay, worst case projections most people talk about, end at 2100? I interviewed a living Antarctic NASA professor emeritus scientist who said look at 2200 and 2300; we need to be talking about 20 and 30 feet at least. How are we going to prepare for that? And the answer is adaptation.

Ralph Nader: I find one way to motivate people. You start with their daily experience. You say "Look, would you like to save money and have more fuel efficient cars and homes?" "Yes." "Okay, well when you have more fuel efficiency, you have less air pollution for you and your kids to breathe, you like that?" "Yes." "Well then when you have more fuel efficiency and less air pollution, you have a nice side effect." You have fewer global warming gases that go up into the stratosphere and start disrupting the climate. So, you start with the pocketbook, then you start with the immediate irritation of pollution and health, and then you go to the big issue. What do you think of that?

Dahr Jamail: I agree. I think it's brilliant. I mean I think that what people do respond to now, and that's why I cited those catastrophic situations earlier--the wildfires incinerating Paradise, California and hurricanes taking out towns and people's homes and belongings--is you have no choice but to respond to that, right. You've taken [away] choice or the decision to postpone or we can do this on Friday, or I'll look into that next week. But if people understand, no, look, there's a fire coming, it's going to be at your house in 30 minutes, what are you going to do--that kind of urgency. Maybe fear is an element of that, but again, just from my own experience of putting out these hard statistics, I do that now to really . . . I use the analogy of look, if you're

going to go do a wilderness trip, do you not want the most accurate map possible that's available so that you can make sure you make good navigation decisions and plan your trip? Everyone's going to answer yes. And so okay, well this information, and these statistics, and how far along we already are, it's really hard and scary to hear, but it's the accurate map. So now you have it and if you really understand that these are the facts, this is the best science that we have right now, and if anything it's going to be worse than this, so what do you want to do? What decisions do you want to make in your life? What's really, really important? What are the things that are most important for you to take care of and it's going to come down the people's loved ones, and their children, and their source of income--literally their own security and how am I able to pay my bills.

Ralph Nader: We're interviewing Paul Hawken. He has a list of the worst sources or causes of greenhouse gases and the first one was refrigeration. Air conditioning, refrigeration, and increasing conversion, in India, for example, to more air-conditioning because of the stifling heat. So, as you increase the heat, you increase the demand for air-conditioning; it becomes that kind of land- surface vicious cycle. But he mentioned two. He said if we get two, that'll be the best preventer. And I said what is that? He said "One, give girls education all over the world. And two, reduce population size." And of course if girls have careers and so forth, they will have smaller families and with more planned parenthood to use a phrase that Trump doesn't like, you have smaller population. Do you think that's . . . I mean quite apart from its probability; do you think that's the way to go in terms of sort of behavioral change or do you favor the leverage of wholesale technological transformations?

Dahr Jamail: Well, second one first, wholesale technological transformations are not going to get us there. And besides, time is against us there. And certainly it's the right thing to do to switch over to . . . I mean I live in the solar-powered house. It's certainly the right thing to do to switch over to renewables as abruptly as possible and start eliciting CO2 emissions and all of that. But to think that we can maintain the lifestyle that we have today is unrealistic because nothing is going to replace fossil fuel's capability to do that. But then getting to the population question, I am really glad to hear that is being spoken of increasingly. I mean just literally a couple of days ago, AOC was quoted as talking about, hey, maybe women need to think about having kids. Maybe it's not the best idea to have kids or have as many kids given this climate crisis that we're in. So, it's great to see people, especially someone like that with the publicity she's getting right now, talking about this; it's critical. There are 7.6 billion people on the planet; a lot of scientific studies show the natural carrying capacity for this planet is somewhere around one billion people. The reality is, some of the most dramatic impacts I think we're going to see,

we're already seeing in a lot of parts of the world, but even the west is going to see it sometime probably in the next handful of years. I'm not going to say a number. I've learned not to make predictions, but we're going to see enough drought consistently, that global grain reserves are going to be depleted, enough crop failures, nutritional loss and food, all these things that are happening with increasing warmth and CO₂, that food shocks and things like this, and the fact of different parts of civilization collapsing from extreme-weather events, failed states, economics, etcetera. When you lose the ability to grow and transport enough food to feed 7.6 billion people, there is going to be a major involuntary population reduction. So, the more we can do right now to make that as voluntary and as quickly as possible, the better.

Ralph Nader: We've been talking with Dahr Jamail, the author of the brand new book, *The End of Ice* and he went all over the world to document it. The late great environmentalist, Professor Barry Commoner, once wrote a book and he said, "The first law of ecology is everything is related to everything else." And we've just been given news in the last few weeks, Dahr, about the precipitous decline of insects. And I was talking about it with some people and they say, well, thank goodness. I mean, who wants insects? And we don't like spiders, beetles, mosquitoes. But scientists have said if we lose our insects, it's the end of the world.

Dahr Jamail: That's right. That's right. And that came out in *Biological Conservation*, the scientific journal, that we're losing more than a little over 2% of insects annually. We've already lost . . . well it's a rate that shows that we're basically looking at the extinction of 40% of the world's insects species over just the next few decades. And if these trends continue, and there's no reason to indicate that they're not going to--the trends being impacts of climate change, deforestation, loss of habitat, pollution, etcetera--that we could have no insects at all or functionally extinct, not completely gone, but not enough that exist to make a difference within 100 years; that means we do not have food, no more pollination of food and then everything of course that relies on instincts to eat--from the birds and animals and just go on up the food chain to us. So, we are literally... that coupled with another study that came out last week about current projections, current trajectories, rather, of CO₂ that we're on track to have 1200 ppm CO₂ within about 100 years from now if things continue. Corresponding with that, on its own, would be a 4C temperature increase of atmospheric temperatures globally, which would automatically then essentially dissolve stratocumulus clouds around the planet that cover about one third of the planet. And if those would essentially go away, which would add immediately another 4C, so that study alone is warning us about a possibility of an 8C temperature increase in 100 years.

Ralph Nader: Not to mention the role of earthworms. Look up the role of earthworms, listeners, you'll be stunned to see their critical role in soil and how many there are per acre right under your feet. Yeah, before we close, any questions from our two stalwart moderators?

Steve Skrovan: Yeah, thank you, Ralph. You know the Republicans always love to talk about Churchill who saw the coming storm. We have a political crisis in America. Have we ever marched in lockstep on a big issue other than World War II, because this almost requires an authoritarian government to combat this? I don't think we have a system set in place politically to tackle this.

Dahr Jamail: It really doesn't appear that we do. And so, one of the conclusions I had come to in the book, and I leave political organizing in ways to spark that and generate it and have that happen to--Ralph, you're it! I mean I would vote for you to lead that. And so, what I am trying to do in the book is essentially inspire people in their own lives to start making the changes right where they are, starting in your own house, go to your community, go to your town, and go to your state. And I'm lucky enough to live in Washington State where there's a lot of really, really good stuff already going on as far as where are we getting our food and water, what can we do to educate people, what can we do to make this town more resilient, what are we doing to adapt, etcetera. And I also want to put out, because so much of what we've talked about is so dire and so extreme and so scary, and also disheartening, that I quote Vaclav Havel, the Czech dissident writer and statesman towards the end of the book and he reminds us that as he said, "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something is worth doing no matter how it turns out." And that's where I get into this moral obligation that no matter how dire things look, that we are absolutely morally obliged to do everything we can in our power to try to make this better to try to adapt, to try to educate people. So all of this activism that's happening, I applaud all of it. But my motivation is not coming from a place of, I don't know what the results are going to be, but it's imperative to do it simply because it's the right thing to do.

Ralph Nader: So, let me ask this question, Dahr, just ideally, I mean, we all know the silliness of the media, the corporate-indentured media, let's assume you're living in an ideal media environment, what would you like to be doing in the next two years to further this book?

Dahr Jamail: Well ideally, if I could just write the script, I would be on all the major TV programs and talk shows and radio programs as well talking about having conversations exactly like what you and I have just had. Talking about this frankly, honestly, openly, letting people

know the hard facts about how far along we already are, telling the truth, bringing attention to other groups that are doing the same thing, and then ideally continuing to write more books on the subject. I mean there's a lot of other places around the world I'd like to go to and bring that information to people. This book would just be the beginning of that, as well as a project looking at, let's look into how people are adapting successfully, because there's a lot of that already happening too that's also not getting any attention. But just like you said, Ralph, I mean, we need media attention and I put my heart and soul into this book and I'm doing what I can to promote it, but as we know, and you better than anybody, that until you really break into that bigger mainstream media, your message is only going to go so far.

Ralph Nader: Well I hope you get to talk to preteens, nine, 10, 11, 12-year-olds; they really get it and they know how to shame their elders. And remember that Swedish girl that started at age nine, Greta, she took a time off from school every week and she just simply stood in front of the Swedish parliament. She certainly knew where the power was, where the leverage is. We need people to do that down on Capitol Hill. But I think the rise of youngsters on this issue, and they're very eloquent, and obviously they have the biggest stake, can begin certainly getting more media on the subject and begin turning it around. A lot of youngsters years ago asked their parents, "Why are you still smoking? Don't you want to be around us anymore?" Or they say, "Why don't you use the seatbelt? I want you to be with me in the future." And that had a stunning effect on people. I've had people tell me that including the former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Joe Califano. His 11-year-old came to him once and said "Why are you still smoking? I want my father to be around." And he stopped. He started an anti-addiction group at Columbia University on that hopeful younger generation. Now, thank you very much, Dahr Jamail and don't climb so many dangerous mountains in Argentina. We need you for many years.

Dahr Jamail: Well thank you so much, Ralph, and it's really my honor to be on your show. I really appreciate it.

Ralph Nader: And stay in touch. We'll do it again.

Dahr Jamail: Thank you. I look forward to it.

Steve Skrovan: We have been speaking with independent journalist, Dahr Jamail. We will link to The End of Ice at ralphnaderradiohour.com. Now we're going to take a short break and check

in with our Corporate Crime Reporter Russell Mokhiber. When we come back, Ralph is going to answer some of the questions you sent us back in a minute.

Russell Mokhiber: From the National Press Building in Washington, D.C., this is your Corporate Crime Reporter "Morning Minute" for Friday, March 8, 2019. I'm Russell Mokhiber. The Labor Department is investigating Fidelity Investments over an obscure and confidential fee it imposes on some mutual funds. That's according to a report in the Wall Street Journal. The annual charge, which Fidelity calls an infrastructure fee, is aimed at companies selling shares on the asset managers fund platform and was described in a 2017 internal Fidelity document reviewed by the Wall Street Journal. The fee, which appears to have been implemented in 2016, is designed to ensure that each fund firm meets the minimum required payment to Fidelity. "By marking the charge as an infrastructure fee, the fund firms may be able to avoid disclosing it to investors," the journal reported. "Fund companies that decline to pay the amount will be subject to a very limited relationship with the company," the document says. For the Corporate Crime Reporter, I'm Russell Mokhiber.

Steve Skrovan: Thank you, Russell. So we've got some listener questions we're going to do. David, why don't you take the first one?

David Feldman: I love these questions from David Kowalski. He listens to us on KPFA. I believe that it's in Berkeley. Hi, Ralph, love your show, very inspiring each week. I'm really intrigued with the comment attributed to you about not getting caught up in mood swings. What's your secret to this; do you meditate and practice yoga mindfulness? Is it your upbringing or genetic disposition? Are you a follower of the philosophy of the ancient Stoics? I was a little floored when I heard this comment on today's show.

Ralph Nader: No, none of the above, David. I just focus on the task at hand and I don't like to surrender. So perhaps it's not liking to surrender and give in to people, and corporations, and government agencies who aren't playing fair with people in this country and around the world. It's pretty simple. That's the way I grew up. Something is unjust, you work to make it just. You don't get discouraged to a point where you're not functional. And you don't get pessimistic because it has no function at all. And if you remain upbeat, keep going, and you get strengths from your various victories as modest as they may be, and you learn from your last mistake.

David Feldman: And I suppose, Ralph, it has to do with taking a long view and knowing that, I think it was Gandhi who said "You lose, you lose, you lose, you lose, you lose, then you win." And knowing that step backward could be on the way to a few steps forward, right?

Ralph Nader: That's true. A lot of people give up on the first try. They get discouraged and disillusioned, but if you know that you're going to often have to lose and lose, but you're gaining ground as you lose; you're learning, you're getting allies, and you keep going. But there's no function to pessimism. Just eradicate it.

David Feldman: When Nixon resigned in '74, did you delude yourself in thinking it's full steam ahead now, it's just nothing but blue skies?

Ralph Nader: For what?

David Feldman: Well, just it seemed like in '74 after Nixon resigned, the environmental movement was full steam ahead, the civil rights movement was chugging along; did you think we would hit this wall?

Ralph Nader: No, I didn't. I knew there'd be a corporate counter attack, there always is in American history when they lose ground and have to behave themselves and be regulated. But I never thought it would be this pronounced and partly because of the Electoral College, which elected two Republican presidents, George Bush and Donald Trump and partly because the people took the advances in health and safety such as, say for automobiles and cleaner air, for granted as if they didn't require constant citizen vigilance over the polluters and the corruptors and the cheaters in the marketplace. And that combination gave people like the Koch brothers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable the opportunity to recapture Washington big time.

Steve Skrovan: Well, thanks for that question, David. I want to thank our guest again today, Dahr Jamail.

David Feldman: Join us next week on the Ralph Nader Radio Hour when we speak with Rania Milleron and Nicholas Sakellariou about ethics in engineering. Thank you, Ralph.

Ralph Nader: Thank you, everybody. And if there's ever a book you need to read, listeners, The End of Ice by Dahr Jamail. He went all over the world and conveyed the message to you.

