

Lobby group calls for review of key climate change report

London. The Global Climate Coalition (GCC), a US industry lobby group, has called for an "independent review" of the controversy surrounding the rewriting of key parts of the latest report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the science of climate change.

But the call has been opposed by Ben Santer, a 'lead author' of the report and an atmospheric scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, who says there is no need for a review. "The scientific conclusions did not 'substantively change'," as alleged by the GCC, he says. He adds: "I am not going to take part in any 'kangaroo court' when the issue is already decided."

The GCC says that a panel of experts "whose evaluation and objectivity are beyond question" should comment on its recent allegations that the last-minute rewriting of Chapter 8, dealing with the extent of a 'human fingerprint' on global climate change, is against the IPCC's rules (see *Nature* 381, 639; 1996). Santer, as well as IPCC officials, denies the charge. □

Japan's spending aims high

Tokyo. The Council of Science and Technology, Japan's highest body responsible for formulating science and technology policy, has approved a plan to increase government expenditures on science and technology by a factor of about 1.6 by the year 2000. The increase will yield a total expenditure on science and technology over the next five years of ¥17,000 billion (US\$160 billion). But to meet this will require extraordinarily large annual increases in the government's science budget of about 12 per cent a year on average — far above inflation, which typically runs at two to three per cent.

The budget target was included in a programme that the government has been required to map out following the passage late last year of a new basic law for science and technology (see *Nature* 378, 227; 1995). The target is close to one proposed earlier this year by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the strongest party within the ruling coalition government (see *Nature* 381, 6; 1996). □

Japanese carbon emissions up

Tokyo. Japan's carbon dioxide emissions leapt to a record level in 1994, making it unlikely that Japan will meet a commitment to hold emissions to 1990 levels by the end of the decade. According to figures released last week by the Environment Agency, CO₂ emissions totalled 343 million tonnes in 1994, 5.9 per cent higher than in 1993 and 7.2 per cent up on 1990 emissions.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, agreed in 1992, Japan and other developed nations agreed to hold emissions at or below the 1990 level after the year 2000. But the Environment Agency says this goal will now be hard to achieve unless radical new measures are introduced to cut emissions. □

US engineers sack president

Washington. Members of the US National Academy of Engineering have voted overwhelmingly to remove the academy's president, Harold Liebowitz, from office, ending a bitter and protracted struggle for control of the Academy (see *Nature* 379, 761; 1996). The academy's council was informed of the 1,179-to-179 vote on Monday, after an independent auditor had counted the postal ballot.

Liebowitz was immediately removed from office, and the academy's vice-president, Morris Tanenbaum, assumed his duties. The council meets this week to decide the next steps — which will presumably include plans for a special election.

Ousting Liebowitz, in office for less than a year, has not been

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purify histidine-
tagged proteins,
put it on the
tip of a syringe

