

Low Power Lightbulb - A Poem

For a number of years I have been working on sustainable technologies. Not surprisingly I was an enthusiastic supporter of the alternative energy programs which the Irish, and other governments in the West began to promote a few years ago. One of them was a drive to encourage the general public to install low power lightbulbs.

Then I began to notice that things were not quite what they seemed. I was never very convinced by the arguments in favour of low power lightbulbs, and as I examined each sustainable energy scheme on offer, I realised that despite the merits of some of the proposals, there appeared to be an underlying absence of sincerity in the government policies.

George W. Bush and Tony Blair have essentially disappeared from the political stage. Tony Blair's cohorts, Gordon Brown and John Prescott clung to office for a while after their master had departed. To the extent that democracy exists in the UK, one had to accept that they had the right to continue collecting their salaries - at least until the next election. It was reported that Mr Blair received £5M for the rights to his memoirs. I find it hard to imagine his memoirs being worth the paper on which they were written.

The UK Parliament would almost certainly have refused to support the second war against Iraq had the Lord Chancellor not reversed his Opinion on the legality of such a war. My understanding is that his appointment is a political one. Consequently, it seems fair to hold the view that the Lord Chancellor was simply Tony Blair's mouthpiece. The third key person in bringing about the present state of affairs in the Middle East was Bertie Ahern. Without his enthusiastic support, and provision of staging facilities at Shannon, the second gulf war may never have achieved the go-ahead. It was interesting to observe the surge in economic activity which took place in Ireland following the invasion of Iraq. One wonders whether Ireland's well known neutrality in world affairs was sold out for thirty pieces of silver. Mr Ahern resigned from office a while ago, bringing to an end a long running corruption investigation into his affairs.

I have the utmost respect for members of the armed forces. That might be expected since I am an ex serviceman. However, I have difficulty finding the slightest respect for the politicians responsible for utilising those Forces. I am of the view that only those politicians who have themselves seen active service, are qualified to vote on whether their country's Forces should be committed to any conflict.

Hence - Low Power Lightbulb.

Jim Cahill

Low Power Lightbulb

I must buy some low power lightbulbs
There still may be some in the shop
I can help save the layer of Ozone
And bring climate change to a stop

Yes I'm going to fit low power lightbulbs
For really it has to be said
The less that you use when you're living
The more there will be when you're dead

Now I'm fitting my low power lightbulb I
know its the right thing to do
To save the world from extinction
Make it cleaner for me and for you

Yes I'm fitting my low power lightbulb
They tell me its going to save oil
Where they make the electrical current
That I use for my kettle to boil

Aye I'm fitting more low power lightbulbs
The refinery lads say I'm swell
For they can crack heavier fractions
To make petrol and Avtur as well

As I fit all my low power lightbulbs
I'm sure Tony and George think I'm great
For they can put fuel in their aircraft
And they fly at a heck of a rate

While I gaze on my low power lightbulbs I
think of the chancellor's purse
I know Gordon is always so prudent
That inflation can never get worse

Yes I'm fitting a low power lightbulb
So John Prescott will not have to stint
And can keep his two jaguars purring
While he's busily making a mint

So I'm fitting more low power lightbulbs
There's bad guys out there I've heard tell
They're not letting us have their oil They're
keeping it down in their well

Sure I'm fitting a low power lightbulb
It's taking the world by a storm
And we're bombing Iraqis and Afghans
Because they won't comply with our norm

Yes I'm fitting a low power lightbulb While
destruction continues apace
In those countries where I am not living
I won't let my leaders lose face

I'll go on fitting low power lightbulbs
No matter the lives that are lost
And the folks who will come long time after
They're ones who must carry the cost

.....
As I fit my last low power lightbulb
I start to feel something amiss
That there's more to this energy saga
Than I grasped in my ignorant bliss

My muse upon low power lightbulbs
Is broken by noise from the sky
As overhead, transports fly troops to the war
And bring body bags home when they die

I'm not sure about low power lightbulbs
Perhaps they're not such a good thing
If the energy saved makes it simpler
To other folk misery bring

So I'll maybe not fit any lightbulbs
For perhaps I'll just sit in the gloom
I might even get up with the sunrise
Or work by the light of the moon

Yes I'll do without low power lightbulbs
And for Tony and George I've no prize
I'd like peace on this Earth with some goodwill to boot
Though our energy prices might rise

You can stuff all your low power lightbulbs
Since it seems every Joule that I've saved
Has been turned into death and destruction
By leaders corrupt and depraved

When I now think of low power lightbulbs
I wish George and Tony the worst
Electoral fate to befall them
By their tenure this earth has been cursed

May the glow of all low power lightbulbs
Remind us of those young and brave
Whose idealism led them to serve their homeland
Whose betrayal sent them to their grave

But if you think that low power lightbulbs
Will improve this sick world that we're in
I suggest that you might reconsider
Your illusions before you begin

Copyright reserved 2007
Distribute freely with acknowledgement of authorship

J W Cahill
www.swarfology.com