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Science For Sale: How The US Government Uses Powerful Corporations And Leading Universities To Support Government Policies, Silence Top Scientists, Jeopardize Our Health, And Protect Corporate Profits





Synopsis

When Speaker Newt Gingrich greeted Dr. David Lewis in his office overlooking the National Mall, he looked at Dr. Lewis and said: "You know you're going to be fired for this, don't you?" "I know," Dr. Lewis replied, "I just hope to stay out of prison." Gingrich had just read Dr. Lewis' commentary in Nature, titled "EPA Science: Casualty of Election Politics". Three years later, and 30 years after Dr. Lewis began working at EPA, he was back in Washington to receive a Science Achievement Award from Administrator Carol Browner for his second article in Nature. By then, EPA had transferred Dr. Lewis to the University of Georgia to await termination - the Agency's only scientist to ever be lead author on papers published in Nature and Lancet. The government hires scientists to support its policies; industry hires them to support its business; and universities hire them to bring in grants that are handed out to support government policies and industry practices. Organizations dealing with scientific integrity are designed only to weed out those who commit fraud behind the backs of the institutions where they work. The greatest threat of all is the purposeful corruption of the scientific enterprise by the institutions themselves. The science they create is often only an illusion, designed to deceive; and the scientists they destroy to protect that illusion are often our best. This audiobook is about both, beginning with Dr. Lewis' experience, and ending with the story of Dr. Andrew Wakefield.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is for everyone. Scientists, academia, farmers, rural and urban residents need to know how a nationwide waste management program can impact the health of everyone, but especially children. Dr. Davis takes us inside the US Environmental Protection Agency and how the scientists there have been silenced by corporate interests by political mandates to make all environmental policies under a "cost-benefit analysis." Unfortunately, the only "person" who will benefit from this method of regulatory decisions will be corporate interests and local governments. This book uncovers the dirty secrets that allows toxic sewage sludge municipal waste to be spread and sprayed on farmlands that may grow your food or food for the animals you eat. Nobody is exempt from the impacts of thousands of synthetic chemicals mixed together and condensed in the sewage sludge that may even be taken to another "Class A" level that will allow this toxic mixture to be put in your garden, your yard, the school playgrounds, parks, and all public places. The EPA was under pressure by Congress to quickly find a way for municipalities to get rid of their sewage sludge that was being dumped into the oceans. When condoms, needles, and other items started washing ashore in NJ, the folks got right angry. Congressional investigation showed that the places that the sewage was dumped into the ocean were dying and marine life was nil. So, the EPA Administration, without the backing and approval of their own scientists in the Office of Research and Development, decided sewage sludge that killed marine life would be good as fertilizer for farmland in 1993.

If you still believe that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Agriculture(USDA) protect human health and the environment and promote sustainable farming based on preserving natural resources--as both claim in their missions statements-- SCIENCE FOR SALE will finally disabuse you of that notion. As the author explains in Chapters 3-5 to spread millions of tons of processed toxics-containing sewage sludge annually on our farms, fields, forests, parks, and gardens "was [EPA's] worst conceivable plan of containing and disposing of the nation's industrial and municipal pollutants." Absent any credible science that supports this harmful practice, EPA, USDA, and the biosolids industry depend on "sludge magic" --their own term-- to assure us that land applying municipal and industrial wastes containing neurotoxins, carcinogens, mutagens, PCBs, dioxins, and pathogens will not cause any harm to health, agriculture, or the environment. They buttress this magic with millions of our tax dollars to fund a massive Public Acceptance Campaign consisting of silencing dissenters, misinformation, and outright lies. Those concerned about the increase in reported cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), should read Chapters 7 and 8. Here the author reveals to what incredible lengths industry, the UK General Medical Council, and the British Medical Journal will go to defame and silence a gifted scientist, engaged in valid medical research.

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