General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News
Creator: Tom Brokaw, Campbell Brown
Event Date: 03/28/2001
Air/Publish Date: 03/28/2001

Description
White House officials decide to abandon the 1997 Kyoto treaty, which aimed to limit greenhouse gases that are thought to be a major cause of global warming.

Keywords
- Environment
- Global Warming
- Greenhouse Effect
- Carbon Dioxide Emissions
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Pollution
- Kyoto
- George W. Bush
- Christy Todd Whitman
- Dick Gephardt
- EPA

Citation

MLA
Transcript

George W. Bush Abandons Kyoto Treaty

TOM BROKAW, anchor:
Now to another controversial decision on the environment from the Bush administration today which announced that the president considers a worldwide treaty on global warming worthless. The United States, after all, was a leading force for that 1997 Kyoto treaty, which is aimed at limiting greenhouse gases that are thought to be a major cause of global warming. NBC's Campbell Brown joins me now from the White House with this latest battle. Campbell.

CAMPBELL BROWN reporting:
Tom, tonight the White House is calling the global warming treaty bad for the economy. But the decision to abandon it is giving new ammunition to Democrats. After first promising during the campaign to set limits on carbon dioxide emissions, a key contributor to global warming, then reversing his campaign promise, the president today takes the reversal a step further, pulling the U.S. out of a landmark international global warming treaty.

Representative RICHARD GEPHARIDT (Democrat, Missouri): The new president came to town saying he would change the tone and change the climate in Washington. I guess we didn't realize it was the actual climate that he wanted to change.

BROWN: An embarrassing decision for Bush's EPA administrator, who sources say, was essentially left out of the loop. And only weeks earlier, based on Bush's campaign pledge, was telling U.S. allies Bush supported limits on carbon dioxide emissions. And yet Whitman is now taking the heat for the president on this and other controversial decisions. Today on Capitol Hill defending the EPA's move to postpone setting new standards for cancer-causing arsenic in drinking water, while promising the environment remains an administration priority.

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN (U.S. EPA Administrator): This is an administration that's going to surprise everybody with how much we're, how much progress we're going to make.

BROWN: The outcry over the president's decision on global warming is not just coming from Democrats but also U.S. allies, and the president is expected to hear more complaints tomorrow when he meets with
German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.