

Jones' Background

Special Advisor, White House
Council on Environmental Quality

Co-Founder, Ella Baker Center for
Human Rights

Senior Fellow, Center for
American Progress

Founding President, Green for All

Co-Founder, Color for Change

Founding Board Member, Apollo
Alliance

Board Member:
One Sky

Social Venture Network

Rainforest Action Network

Bioneers

Circle of Life

EDUCATION

Yale Law School

University of Tennessee
at Martin



this issue:

Van Jones, Special Advisor,
White House Council on
Environmental Quality

Who is Van Jones?

On March 10, 2009 the White House announced that Van Jones had been appointed as Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation in the Council for Environmental Quality.

Jones, an author, is an environmental and race activist. His recent book, *The Green Collar Economy*, was a New

York Times bestseller. To say that Jones hates President George W. Bush and the Right would understate his position by several orders of magnitude. Of all the appointees ALG has reviewed so far none has used as much vitriol as Jones. Reading Jones' writings easily leads one to conclude that he doesn't deserve any appointed position, especially one in the White House.

Jones has written several articles regarding Hurricane Katrina and essentially claims the hurricane was the result of Bush energy policies, e.g., more carbon emissions equal

Green jobs zealot...

higher temperatures which in turn supercharged the hurricane. He also lays into Bush with extreme animosity regarding the aftermath of

the storm and even titled one of his articles *Blame Bush for Drowning New Orleans*.

Jones laments his own lack of action on Katrina, and in a back-handed way, claims that the government prevented

other people from helping:

"My fore-bearers would have known better than to expect the U.S. government to prioritize saving Black people from serious danger, in the first place. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., would have gone down there immediately. He would have defied FEMA and led a peaceful march to bring in food, medicine and water. And Malcolm X or the Black Panthers probably would have commandeered vehicles, crashed the roadblocks, braved gunfire—saving our people, by any means necessary." Fn.1.

“ We are clear-cutting rainforests on a continental scale. And we are clear-cutting a whole generation of Black and brown children by stuffing them into prisons. ”

What you really need to know about Van Jones in his own words.

Sources for further reading:

Van Jones, *Blame Bush for Drowning New Orleans*, HuffingtonPost.com, September 3, 2005. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=24&contentid=31>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

Van Jones Biography on Ella Baker Center for Human Rights website. Available online at: <http://ellabakercenter.org/page.php?pageid=16&contentid=100>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

Van Jones to CEQ, White House Blog, March 10, 2009. Available online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/03/10/Van-Jones-to-CEQ/>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

About Van Jones, vanjones.net. Available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=3>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

Van Jones, *Behind Enemy Lines: Inside the World Economic Forum, Globalize Liberation: Hot to Uproot the System and Build a Better World*, City Light Publishers, 2003. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=22&contentid=30>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“A major American city wiped off the face of the Earth—along with possibly THREE TIMES as many Americans as perished on 9-11. Meanwhile, the U.S. president keeps playing golf and attending fund-raisers.” Van Jones, *Now Let's Rescue America: None Key Steps for the Left, after Katrina*, HuffingtonPost.com, September 7, 2005. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=24&contentid=48>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“I once thought that we needed a feisty David to defeat the corporate Goliath, or a regal Moses to challenge the fundamentalist Pharaoh. But Katrina forecasts the way that the Earth herself is beginning to rise up against advanced industrial society. No one can defeat an enraged Mother Nature.” Van Jones, *In Katrina's Wake: We're All in the Floodplain Now*, Orion Magazine, September 2006. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=24&contentid=40>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“But the CCPOA [California Correctional Peace Officers Association] isn't just defending its members. It actively twists laws to ensure that lots of human beings (mostly Black and Latino) are locked in cages. It profits by trafficking in human flesh, and gobbles up billions of dollars in the process.” Van Jones, *The Case for Arianna: GOP's Recall Bid Gives Left Shot at California Governorship*, Alternet.org, September 10, 2003. Copy available at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=22&contentid=55>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“In this state, we saw teachers being given pink slips, while prison guards got a 7.5 percent pay raise. That's how powerful this union is. And they have a stake in maintaining these factories of maintaining abuse for children. We say no.” *Factories of Misery and Child Abuse: California's Youth Prisons*, Edited transcript of interview of Van Jones by Amy Goodman on Democracy Now, April 16, 2004. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=21&contentid=35>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“We are clear-cutting rainforests on a continental scale. And we are clear-cutting a whole generation of Black and brown children by stuffing them into prisons.” Van Jones, *Two Crises, One Solution*, YES! Magazine, Summer 2005. Copy Available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=23&contentid=56>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

“White polluters and white environmentalists together ended up steering poison into communities of color.” Van Jones, *Two Crises, One Solution*, supra.

“But the safest communities are not the communities with the most police and the most prisons. In the safest communities, you never see police. In the safest communities, there are no prisons.” Van Jones, *Two Crises, One Solution*, supra.

“But in all that coverage, nonwhite faces were hard to find. (Wired did not show a single person of color.) Such reporting can leave the impression that global warming is somehow a "white issue." Or that enthusiasm for clean energy, green choices and smarter policy is limited to wealthy elites.” Van Jones, *Include Blacks in Green Coverage*, HuffingtonPost.com and Alternet.org, May 31, 2006. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=23&contentid=42>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

Fn.1. Van Jones, *Now Let's Rescue America: None Key Steps for the Left, after Katrina*, HuffingtonPost.com, September 7, 2005. Copy available online at: <http://vanjones.net/page.php?pageid=24&contentid=48>. (Accessed April 8, 2009.)

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