Legitimate grievances of truckers overshadowed by agitators

By MICHAEL FLEMING

Though truckers were supposed to be the central actors in the convoy protests in February, the reality was that the government invocation of the Emergencies Act, the social grievances of truckers themselves have been strangely absent from any of the public discussion.

Just like the 1971 film Duel, which revolves around a deranged and unknown truck driver who terrorizes an unsuspecting salesman in the lawless landscape of the California desert, the unseen driver and his motives remain a mystery, receding behind the figure of their menacing truck.

The imagery generated by the spectacle of threatening trucks and their anonymous drivers so skillfully brought to life in Duel has had a lasting impact on popular culture. The result has been that in even the best of times, truck drivers have been the ideal conduit for the sort of disruption and chaos anti-government protesters thrive on.

As the convoy rolled into Ottawa in February, it didn’t take long for the truck drivers participating in the protest, which arguably was never really about them to begin with, to become the focus of negative attention from the protest drags on, in smaller numbers in Ottawa but in satellite locations throughout the country, its many audiences have focused almost entirely on the trucks themselves, as objectified representations of rent-petulant media-driven, aggression, drag, radicalism, and menace.

As someone who has dedicated their professional life to championing the motivations truck drivers have for doing their demanding, lonely, and highly skilled work, it was first with interest and even a little excitement that I watched the growth of the so-called Freedom convoy. Early on, I was encouraged by the renewed support for truck drivers who had once again been thrust into the pandemic spotlight.

COVID-19 pandemic was not all bad for truck drivers, after all. In the early days of the pandemic, trucker were one of the first groups to receive vaccines, and essential workers. While the images of makeshift community-led drive-throughs providing meals for pandemic weary and stranded drivers as they traveled to and from the southern border were heartening.

Even before the convoy reached Ottawa, however, it was becoming clear that any space for legitimate discussion of Canadian truck drivers’ concerns was being quickly overshadowed by the motivations of opaque agitators, including the tiny percentage of truck drivers rolling into Ottawa, aligned with a wide range of anti-government grievances.

Discussion of truckers’ well-being was quickly subordinated to the convoluted demands of nationalist, sometimes white supremacist, and otherwise ill-conceived anti-vaccination and anti-Trudeau rhetoric. Very quickly, it seemed, truckers’ demands instead of the protest drags on, in smaller numbers in Ottawa but in satellite locations throughout the country, its many audiences have focused almost entirely on the trucks themselves, as objectified representations of rent-petulant media-driven, aggression, drag, radicalism, and menace.

Let me be clear: the work truck drivers do is tireless, dangerous, and wrought with vulnerability that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. This is especially true for those who own their own trucks, including most of the truck drivers caught up in the convoy.

The question must be asked: how would early pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and the image of the convoy – stood towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill asked: how would early-pandemic interventions towards truck drivers and pandemically inspired goodwill...
Union printed, is a long-time subtle strategies on social media to win supporters.

Rao and Steuter are both worried that New Brunswick government is allowing Postmedia to influence the media landscape.

Citizen and Reporter in the Irving Press newspapers then shut them down. Postmedia is also noted for its support of local newspapers that may not be successful in serving local communities.

The conference called "Media Co-op: Support the Brief" is supported by individuals, labour unions, and social justice groups.

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Legitimate grievances of truckers

Fossil and nuclear energy regimes threaten global security

By JANICE HARVEY

Vladimir Putin’s terror campaign against Ukraine has pulled back the curtain on the tightly integrated, brittle, and potentially unstable nature of concentrated ownership in the global media.

Energy is a source of two kinds of power – the kind that turns on lights, heats homes, and turns engines and the kind that drives politics. While there are many options for clean energy, there are no replacement for some creative and authoritarian petrostates, transnational corporations with budgets larger than many nations, and billionare oligarchs. They all have invested in the fossil fuel industry that will entrench themselves in the paths of rigs and pipelines. Only some emit pollutants that make them go up in smoke every year. Only some create destruction that will persist longer than the future humans who have walked on this earth. Only some leave a nuclear mess behind.

All these existential threats are associated with the global networks of political and economic power built by the transnational energy corporations that have been dominated by sophisticated energy and political action campaigns. They are characterized by their continued growth and spread.

The inevitable outcome is the world on a knife-edge.

In the midst of Russia’s oil-financed terror campaign, the international climate science body issued its latest report documenting our collective descent into climate hell. UN General Secretary Guterres called the report ‘an atlas of human suffering and a daunting indictment of failed climate leadership.’

Enter the nuclear industry. After languishing for decades this industry has been rejuvenated by the persistent inability of the nuclear industry to make nuclear power competitive.

Yet, the Liberal government’s climate action plan includes nuclear energy as a source of new power, and can be built out controlled renewable energy system. This option exists now, and it is the cheapest source of new power, and can be built out by building more pipelines, escalating oil and gas production, and the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The acceleration of nuclear power deployment is the cheapest source of new power, and can be built out controlled renewable energy system. This option exists now, and it is the cheapest source of new power, and can be built out by building more pipelines, escalating oil and gas production, and the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The Ukraine catastrophe should be enough to halt nuclear expansion in its tracks. Trading one existential threat (fossil fuel dependency) for another (an even wider network of nuclear targets) is a callous, wilful betrayal of the public trust by those politicians enabling it.

Equally perverse is the opportunistic clamouring of transnational oil interests invested in Canada and their political backers to quickly expand Canada’s oil and gas reach to Western Europe. Climate science couldn’t be more clear: the fossil fuel industry needs to wind down, not expand. What part of climate catastrophe do politicians not understand?

In June 1988, the Canadian government hosted the First World Energy Conference in Vancouver. Joe Clark, the prime minister at the time, committed Canada to demonstrate its leadership in transitioning to a clean energy regime that fuels the industrialized world.

The Changing Atmosphere: Implications for Global Security

The final report of the conference opened with this statement: "Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled experiment. The consequences could be second only to a global nuclear war." Today, the world is simultaneously facing climate breakdown and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Fortunately, the means to deescalate on both fronts by embarking on a rapid transition to a resilient, efficient, locally-controlled renewable energy system. This option exists now, and it is the cheapest source of new power, and can be built out quickly, as the European Union’s REPowerEU initiative and the Canadian government’s Climate Plan demonstrate.

Political leaders in Canada and abroad have two choices before them. They can deepen domestic and global energy and security vulnerabilities and hasten climate breakdown by building more pipelines, escalating oil and gas production, and the threat of nuclear catastrophe. Or, they can work towards the elimination of energy as a geopolitical weapon and an existential threat to civilization. It is up to us citizens to hold them accountable for the choice they make.