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Reel 16

Woman on Stage 0:18

Well hurt the trees right? What I find really ironic, if they're really concerned about the trees I suggest they march over to the biotechnology industry organization where scientists there are trying to come up with a way to completely destroy the rests of the worlds remaining forests, and they're doing that with genetically engineered trees. Food wasn't enough, people wasn't enough, now they're going after the trees too, we're not going to let them. Corporations like Monsanto chemical company known for dioxin, PCB's, and of course agent orange, which wiped out the jungles of Vietnam are now teaming up with corporations like International Paper, Wirehauser, Georgia Pacific, major multinational paper companies and timber companies that have wiped out the world's native remaining forests. And these two entities have joined together and said we have the solution to save the rests of the world's forests. Do we believe them? Somehow I think they're in it for money.

Second Woman on Stage 1:37

It is crunching up it is digesting biological and cultural processes. They're panting, they're privatizing they're closing upon ourselves and our ger-plazm. How unbelievably perverse is that. They are also enclosing upon cultural processes. Have you noticed when you walk downtown, downtown San Diego, downtown your own city or village you are noticing an increasing amount of not local merchants. Not just because we want to go back to a kinder gentler form of capitalism that is not what we want. We want to go forward to a new kind of floral economy where people like us can get together with other citizens to discuss what is the best way to produce in an ecologically and socially just way. That is the only way were going to get through this we need a new kind of economy that is in the hand of citizens not corporations, not government regulators. We need a new kind of democracy. We've got to get past the farce of representative state democracies that is a farce. We need to go back to the original meaning of democracy which was the ancient Athenian Polus. Yes they had patriarchy and slavery that is not.

Jim Thomas 4:16

There been quite an astounding change in the way our food is being produced and I think its true to say that most people in this planet and particularly America are very unaware of that. And that is that the genetic engineering of some the major food crops. The soya, corn, cotton, and then things like tomatoes, potatoes, squash, and so forth. What's now happening is that single genes which have the genetic information of one species are being cut out and put into entirely different species. Genes from a fish being put into a tomato, genes from a scorpion being put into a corn, genes from bacteria and viruses being put into soya beans, and those soya beans ending up in over sixty percent of all our

food. That's something that would never naturally happen in evolution, however, long you try to put a fish and tomato in the room together they'll never get together. What about the effects in the environment? You're releasing into the environment qualitatively pollution and that's different than anything we've had before. If your putting pesticides into the environment, even nuclear radiation. Nuclear radiation has a hard life, it may be millions of years, but after millions of years it breaks down in the environment. With genetic pollution because it alive, you're dealing with living things that produce seeds and pollen and get out into the environment and cannot be recalled, you've got a multiple life. Once you release something alive you cant bring it back, and it grows over time. Four or five major corporations have been responsible for producing chemicals. Monsanto who are probably very well known to you produce agents, produce PCB's, and have the world's best selling herbicide now ground up, and now producing the seeds as well, buying out the seed companies. And responsible for the entire chain of production. I think its very much moving the way food is produced. Away from the way most people want it to be produced. And that's why today we're having an organic breakfast, an organic breakfast with no pesticides, with no genetic engineering, and quite a different vision of the way food can be produced.

Man on Stage 7:06

We will be challenging this industry wherever they meet. Wherever they plan their crops there will be people to challenge that. Whenever they start patenting and genetically engineering human beings we will be there to resist. We will be there to stand for a different vision.

Freeman 18:03  
Inaudible question

Small Family Business Owner (Blond Woman)

I think that our family has perhaps given us more values than normal and I don't know why that is, but for me honesty is very big. Being kind and gentle to people, I spent many years when I wasn't so kind and gentle, but working with my mom I realized why they tried to teach that to me, but it takes some longer than others. Money obviously to be financially responsible, we always had a savings account. Respect, respect for many things. Respect for other people. Lets say we were on the bus and we were young children, and a woman would get on he'd always say "get up", "get up." "The women are the ones to get to sit, the ladies sit down." Well nobody does that anymore that's a forgotten value. I think because he was so much older he had some of those old fashioned values that he was able to give us. And probably if it had just been my mom we wouldn't have got that many of those she just would've assumed or perhaps not thought of them coming from the east coast were there very big deals. Taught to eat correctly. Meetings and at large corporations there's such a large bureaucracy and so many restrictions that you don't, you're sense of creativity is so stifled. And you're stuck with so much p. My dad, one of the things that was very tough for him as he got bigger and bigger was that side of it. Being a big corporation, having to worry about taxes and all of that, and here in a small corporation like we are we can make our own rules. If we want to change the way our sign logo is we just do it. And if we want to hire or fire we just do it, other than the

law we're not restricted. And my mother and I have flexibility in our vacations and we often give flexibility to others. We often allow our employees to go longer on their vacation because they want to go down to Mexico and it might take five weeks. We can, I think its basically the choices, we do have financial meetings and we do have production meetings, but they're once a month and they're short. Probably about the plants. You know my feeling about growing I love growing like my Dad did. He had a wonderful eye and I think I've inherited that eye. It's not always a positive one, because I can walk into the greenhouse and see that's there something wrong with a group of plants. It's an overall sense of maybe a little yellowing or shimmering I get the sense that there's a little bug in there, and my father could do that. He has a story, when he just left her three days, he went off to do some selling, he left her the greenhouse, she thought everything was great and he comes back and open the door to the house and says "how could you have missed this, this thing is full of mites. And she didn't see the mites, not everybody can see that. I like that part of it, if my dad was still alive I think I might have taken on plant pathology a little more. It's always been a great interest of mine. He always wanted me to go to Cornell, which I don't think I would've done because it's so far away and it's cold. But, I do wish now that I had continued with my education a little more. I'm not good with the mathematical side of it, my dad would always say 'common sense and a feel for growing cannot be replaced with education'. And we've seen that, some people have all the education in the world and can't grow plants.

Freeman

24:41

Inaudible question

Small Family Business Owner (Blond Woman)

I would describe my feeling the way I feel about plants as partly inherited and partly learned. I was closest to my father out of all the children, there's four, because we were so alike in personality also. And he and I would walk through the greenhouses when he'd be checking them at night, I was always the one he took. And I think I picked up a lot of that from him. I could see the same thing that he saw, and it is perhaps a personality thing, it's a way of glancing looking at the overall, its hard to say it really is. It like having an artistic way, you either do or you don't. I really love it. The challenge that we really face no in the year 2000 have to do with government and enviroment regulations. New requirements, it becomes more and more difficult with employees to fire them, to discipline them. Years ago I can remember they would spray the greenhouses and just hold their breath, as they went in there. And they'd back out spraying. The gentleman I know who did that, he did it for a job, he lived to be a ripe old age, it never hurt him but that's obviously something we know better about. Some things we're very appreciative of. But it makes it difficult, for instance when the guys are going to spray they have to put on cotton coveralls and then a rainsuit and then they have a hood and a respirator, and this takes them about 30 minutes. And you're talking about 30 minutes added to the day. And then they have to mix the chemicals and that has regulations. You have to have the label right there, it has to be the original label it can't be a copy. The label meaning the original label. We have to train the men frequently, pesticide handlers are trained on all new chemicals. All of these things are good but they add a layer of expense to us. Are we

doing it correctly, are they going to inspect us and fine us thousands of dollars even though we're trying to be the good guys. And the expense, let's face it, having someone come in and train your workers to do that is very expensive. We have to do it in Spanish, we can't do it otherwise we would. The big issue now is the water runoff, we are dealing with that we've gotten a grant and we're talking with different government agencies that are helping us come up with a system. We've replaced our little drip tubes, so that the water will be absorbed in the soil and not come out the pot. We've also added a surfactant to make the water surface break and be absorbed more easily. We WILL be collecting all our runoff, I don't at this point what will happen to this that's the real kicker. It's fairly easy to collect it. So far we've been doing a lot of measuring, testing, of the water. How much, what's in it, what levels at what time of day. We have an unusual situation. We're at the bottom of the hill by the freeway. All the water that comes above us we have to accept that water. So if the guys above us should choose not to do anything to that water we would be responsible, I'm sure they will. The water here goes down our little stream and goes directly down a pipe system that empties out into the lagoon, that's a problem. We don't like that and obviously the government doesn't like that. So while our water is fairly clean comparatively it's the nitrogen they're concerned about because of the algae growth. So we're all working on each individual little thing, it's fascinating, it worries us because it has to be done in a certain time frame. They always make it sound like we're going to shut you down, thank God I have good people working for me who can handle that sort of thing.