

SUJET 2

Le sujet porte sur la thématique : « Environnements en Mutation »

Partie 1 (16 pts)

Prenez connaissance du dossier proposé, composé des documents A, B et C non hiérarchisés, et traitez en anglais le sujet suivant (500 mots maximum) :

Taking into account their specificities, show how these documents illustrate some of the tensions in American society regarding environmental policies and the polarization of the issue.

Make sure to address:

- the political divide;**
- the role of lobbies;**
- the social implications**

Partie 2 (4 pts)

Traduisez en français le passage suivant du document B :

President Biden had made tax overhauls a critical component of his climate agenda, along with a \$150 billion program designed to replace most of the nation's coal- and gas-burning power plants with wind, solar and nuclear power over the next decade. In his American Jobs Plan, President Biden called for eliminating "billions of dollars in subsidies, loopholes, and special foreign tax credits for the fossil fuel industry." Clean energy can provide more sustainable jobs, President Biden argues.

(lines 35-40)

Document A

Greta Thunberg's Speech at The U.N. Climate Action Summit

September 23, 2019

United Nations via YouTube

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, addressed the U.N.'s Climate Action Summit in New York City on Monday. Here's the full transcript of Thunberg's speech, beginning with her response to a question about the message she has for world leaders.

"My message is that we'll be watching you.

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

"You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

"The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control. [...]

"How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone within less than 8 1/2 years.

"There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

"You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

"We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.

"Thank you."

Document B

In Your Facebook Feed: Oil Industry Pushback Against Biden Climate Plans

By Hiroko Tabuchi

Published Sept. 30, 2021 “The New York Times”

The ads appear on Facebook millions of times a week. They take aim at vulnerable Democrats in Congress by name and ask citizens to call their representatives in Congress, warning that the \$3.5 trillion budget bill — one of the Biden administration’s biggest efforts to pass meaningful climate policy — will wreck the United States economy.

The paid posts are part of a broad attack by the oil and gas industry against the budget bill, whose fate now hangs in the balance. Among the climate provisions that are likely to be left out of the plan is an effort to dismantle billions of dollars in fossil-fuel tax breaks — provisions that experts say incentivize the burning of fossil fuels responsible for catastrophic climate change. [...]

The American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry’s biggest trade group, has been central to efforts to push for continued tax breaks for oil and gas. It is using a front group, called Energy Citizens, that API also used a decade ago to successfully thwart a “cap and trade” plan that would have set a ceiling on emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases, while letting companies buy and sell special permits to stay under that ceiling.

In the first six months of this year, API spent more than \$2 million directly lobbying Congress on issues including taxes, according to federal disclosures. API, whose members include Exxon Mobil, Chevron and BP, has also run a seven-figure TV campaign opposing various measures in the reconciliation package.

And on Facebook, API has spent almost half a million dollars to run hundreds of ads attacking the bill since Aug. 11. Those ads, which include at least 286 that targeted individual members of Congress, have been viewed at least 21 million times. [...]

API was one of the first industry bodies to have extensive early knowledge about climate change, said Benjamin Franta, a Stanford researcher and co-founder of the Climate Social Science Network, a global network of scholars studying climate politics. “It was one of the earliest in the industry to downplay the threat of climate change and promote more fossil fuel expansion,” he said.

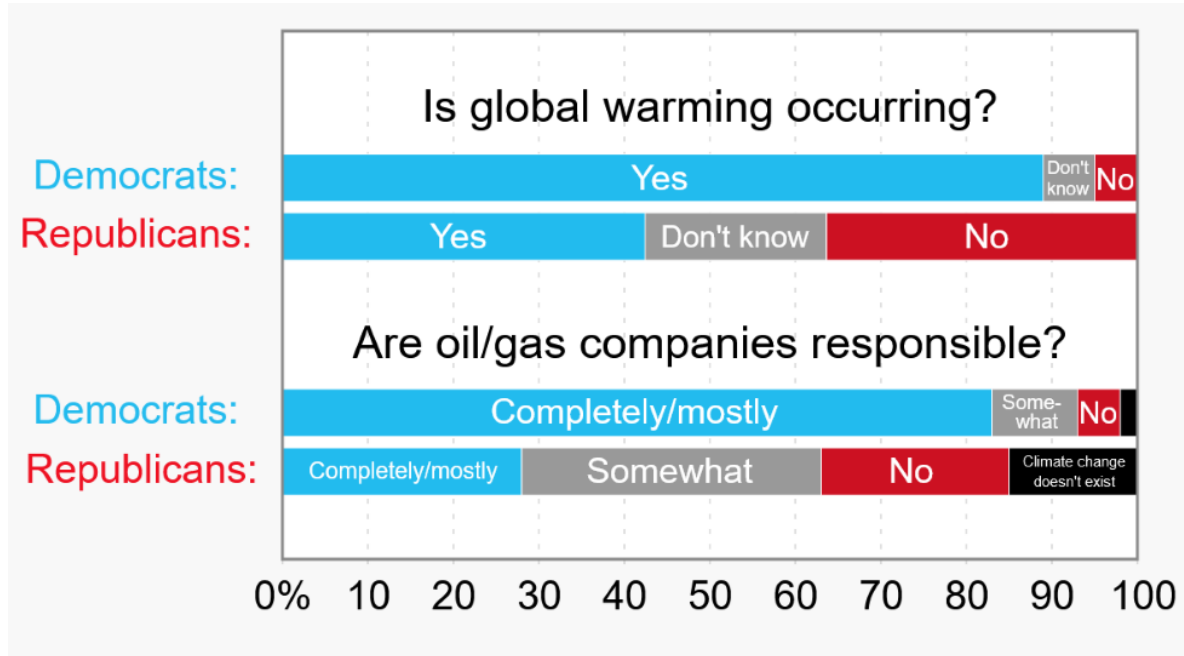
Environmental groups are countering with their own spending on ads. League of Conservation Voters and Climate Power, for example, said they have spent \$3.2 million on digital ads since August, including ads against Republicans in Congress, like Maria Salazar of Florida, who voted against the bill.

[...]

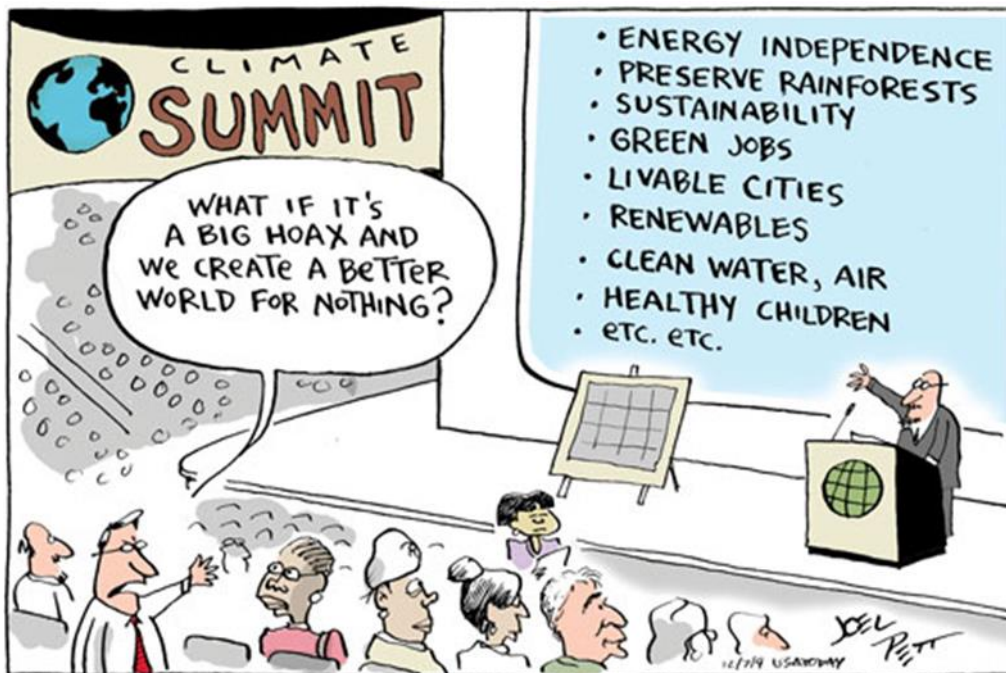
President Biden had made tax overhauls a critical component of his climate agenda, along with a \$150 billion program designed to replace most of the nation’s coal- and gas-burning power plants with wind, solar and nuclear power over the next decade. In his American Jobs Plan, President Biden called for eliminating “billions of dollars in subsidies, loopholes, and special foreign tax credits for the fossil fuel industry.” Clean energy can provide more sustainable jobs, President Biden argues.

Document C

Findings from a 2021 survey on the existence of global warming published by Chris McGreal in "The Guardian", 26 October 2021



Document D



Joel Pett « USA Today » 7 December 2009