

Burning Trash

One of my professors and friends at Caltech and UC San Diego was Dr. Sol Penner. He was a very remarkable scientist and a fine engineer.

He emigrated from Germany during World War II. Many of his relatives were murdered by Hitler.

Dr. Penner used to refer to me as “Arthur” with a very distinct clipped German accent. I can still hear him say it.

One of his projects was refining the bazooka to make it into a practical weapon. He could handle designing the bazooka, but even he was stymied by the insanity of government bureaucracy.

Later in life he got involved working with a company trying to build a plant to burn garbage in California.

The bureaucrats objected that the plant might put pollution into the air.

The plant Dr. Penner was working on had air purifiers on it. They were able to show that the air leaving the plant was cleaner than the air coming in!

Dr. Penner had designed a plant that burned garbage, converted it to energy, and actually cleaned the air as it did it. But that wasn't enough for the bureaucrats. They wanted the air purified further and refused to allow the plant to be built.

Such is the nature of bureaucrats. They don't accomplish anything. They just interfere with productive people.

The reason we don't have good incinerators in Oregon is obvious.

We need more freedom and less bureaucracy!