

## Experts from trenches of Washington join the fray

Founder and Chairman of the Board David Lucas said a bipartisan group of professionals has been assembled to operate the new Council on Property Rights.

Bill Roundtree, a long-time Washington lobbyist who has represented British Petroleum Co., is president. Chief Operating Officer Bob Richards recently served three years as head of the Alexandria (Va.)



David Lucas

Williams and Jensen, a law group lobbyist; Jack Bonner and Associates, political activists

Chamber of Commerce. The council will work with several Washington, D.C. firms, including

who have phone banks to turn people out to vote; the John Hussey public relations firm; Ann Stone and Associates of Alexandria, Va., a mass-mailing fund-raiser; and the CATO Institute, a Libertarian-type think tank.

A bipartisan property-rights caucus will also be formed in the Congress and Senate, Lucas said.

"We have people who have

been in the trenches, Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals. We even understand that the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] might be interested in joining us," Lucas said.

Until the Washington headquarters opens, the council is using Lucas's address:

P.O. Box 706, Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29465; telephone 803-884-3892.

## Lucas charges 'drawbridge mentality'

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each one with its own manual on how to treat them — some running to 300 pages."

• A National Biological Survey. "They intend to survey every living thing in America — not just to identify where it lives, but the ecosystems that support it. Pending this action in Congress, the government will be able to come onto your property without a search warrant."

Tie these things together, along with a rewritten wetlands law, Lucas said, and "There won't be one acre of property free of government control left in America."

Lucas declared the issue is not one of environment, but rather power and control by no-growth advocates.

He said that not all, but most of this group "don't care about people who need houses, and want them to go away."

"It's the old drawbridge mentality: 'Build a wall around us. We don't want these people here.' When you stop people from being able to buy a decent house at a reasonable price, you shut down the economy... So you perpetuate the cycle."

Lucas said this is not just a small issue. "It's the root cause, in the last 30 years, of what's been happening to this country. Ronald Reagan took the stops off and encouraged developers and builders to do business, and we had a wonderful decade. Bush came in with his people at the EPA. And now Clinton's group has it locked down tighter than a hat band," he said. "By the time Al Gore gets through with us, what's going to be left to develop?"

### AN ALTERNATIVE

The Council on Property Rights intends to act on legislation. Taking the lead from California's Proposition 13, it will also push ballot initiatives as a way to change regulations.

"We want to show minority groups this is nothing more than the continued violation of civil rights," Lucas said. "Who suffers the most from slowdown of economic growth? Do you think major corporations do? It locks out the little guy. Only the big guy with a big cash-flow can afford to take the hit and pass the costs on. The medium and small guys go out of business and the big guy gets a better market share. That's why Exxon and other big corporations contribute to Sierra Clubs. They talk about property rights groups being backed by big business when, in fact, one of those organizations — Sierra Club — has a yearly budget bigger than all the 500 small-property land-rights groups put together..."

"The most endangered species in the U.S. is the private property owner. That's the endangered species I'm out to protect," Lucas said.

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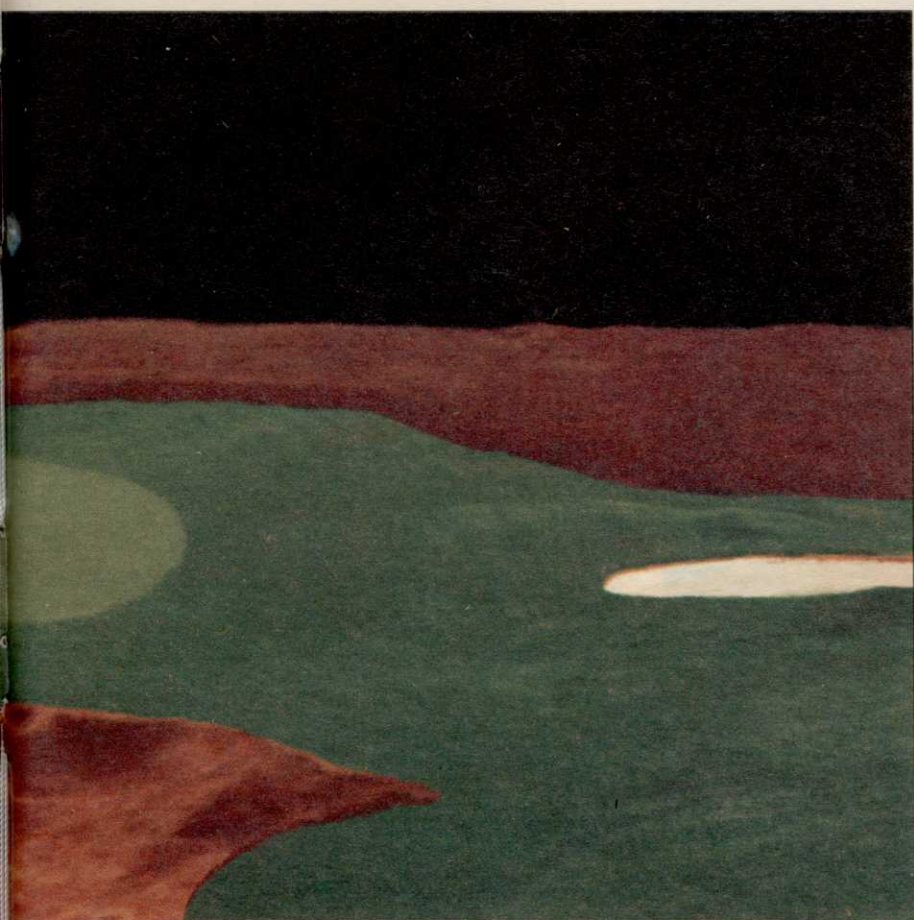
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