

Two respected officials and former RFF researchers died in recent months after distinguished careers in public service.

Blair Bower, an expert on water quality and land resources who worked at RFF from 1965 to 1973, died August 27 at the age of 82.

Bower collaborated with RFF's Allen Kneese on implementing market incentives to promote water supply and quality. He was co-author of several seminal books on environmental policy, including *Managing Water Quality: Economics, Technology, Institutions*—a 1968 volume that became a standard text in the field. In subsequent years, he published 10 other books on water, air, and environmental quality.

Bower was a private consultant to a variety of government agencies and nonprofit organizations, including the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration, World Wildlife Federation, Delaware River Basin Commission, New York Tri-State Planning Commission, World Health Organization, and United Nations Environment Programme.

Born in Pennsylvania, Bower graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in sociology and then earned a second bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He later received a master's in public administration from Harvard University.

He was a fellow and life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Soil and Water Conservation Society and a life member of the American Geophysical Union and the Water Environment Federation. Bower also was active in local policy organizations in the Washington, DC, region. He was a past member of the Environmental Improvement Commission of Arlington, Virginia, and the Maryland Water Sciences Advisory Board, and headed an Army Corps of Engineers study of the water needs of the Washington area.

Neal Potter, a research economist at RFF in the 1950s who later became a prominent public administrator in Montgomery County, Maryland, died May 27 at the age of 93.

Potter served 28 years on the Montgomery County Council, including a four-year term as

county executive beginning in 1990—a time when the suburban jurisdiction adjoining Washington, DC, was one of the fastest-growing and most affluent counties in the nation.

A nationally known proponent of slow growth, fiscal conservatism, and responsive government, Potter worked against considerable political pressures to ensure that commercial and residential development was part of a measured and deliberate process. He had a particular interest in transportation policy, tax

legislation, water and sewage issues, inequities in property assessments, and preservation of farmland and scenic rural areas. A *Washington Post* profile of Potter described him as "a tireless worker with an encyclopedic memory for facts and data."

Potter attended Johns Hopkins University and graduated from the University of Minnesota. He later received a master's in eco-

nomics from the University of Chicago. During World War II, he was an economist with the Office of Price Administration and later taught economics at Carnegie Mellon University and Washington State University. In 1947, he was a founder of the World Federalist Association, which advocates for global peace, human rights, clean environment, and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In the early 1950s, Potter was one of the first research economists employed at RFF. He worked on several RFF projects aimed at ascertaining potential scarcities of natural resources in the United States. He was co-author with Francis Christy of the 1962 volume *Trends in Natural Resource Commodities: Statistics of Prices, Output, Consumption, Foreign Trade, and Employment in the United States, 1870–1957*, which was acknowledged as a quantitative springboard for much ensuing research at RFF. In 1962, he co-wrote with Joseph Fisher a monograph titled *World Prospects for Natural Resources*. ■



NEAL POTTER

Blair was a pioneer in bringing interdisciplinary research into the service of policy and program design. His books and papers with the late Allen Kneese on water quality management even today remain a model of how to do this kind of work.

—LEONARD SHABMAN, RFF RESIDENT SCHOLAR

The newest feature in *Resources*, the RFF Index, is designed to give you a glimpse of the many ways members of the RFF community—researchers, board members, and University Fellows—are contributing to analyses of critical issues around the world, and to highlight media attention and recent articles by RFF researchers in the leading academic journals.

RECENT NEWS

GAO Climate Report. Three RFF researchers were among experts assembled by the Government Accountability Office to assess policy options to address climate change for the report, "Expert Opinion on the Economics of Policy Options to Address Climate Change." RFF had the largest representation of any institution among the 18 included experts, with participation by Fellow Joseph Aldy, Senior Fellow Roger Sedjo, and former Senior Fellow Billy Pizer.

Fighting Malaria with AMFm: No More "Business as Usual". In September, RFF, led by Senior Fellow Ramanan Laxminarayan, hosted malaria experts from around the globe to debate the merits of the Affordable Medicines Facility-malaria—AMFm, an innovative financing platform for malaria drugs. Kenneth Arrow, the Nobel Laureate in Economics who led the Institute of Medicine committee that recommended AMFm in a 2004 report, was among a dozen speakers to address the public forum, which brought the latest information to bear on remaining questions. The analyses presented at the forum will inform a November vote by the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to begin a large-scale pilot operation of AMFm, involving millions of people.

Preserving Farmland. The American Farmland Trust draws upon RFF research in its new fact sheet on transfer of development rights (TDR), a strategy for preserving open spaces and encouraging prudent commercial and residential growth. The document references extensive research and case studies of TDR programs around the United States by RFF Senior Fellows Margaret Walls and Virginia McConnell.

NASA, Senate Briefings. Senior Fellow Molly Macauley briefed the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee staff and conducted a media teleconference at NASA in September on how the U.S. government uses earth science information to manage natural resources and protect public health. Macauley and others assessed the decision-support tools that government agencies use to make predictions in such areas as agricultural productivity, air quality, renewable energy, water management, and the prevention of disease.

New Gilbert White Fellow. Wolfram Schlenker has been appointed as the 2008 Gilbert White Fellow at RFF, where he will examine the impact of climate change on agricultural yields. Schlenker, who did his undergraduate work in Germany, received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He currently is an assistant professor of economics at Columbia University.

JOURNAL ARTICLES OF NOTE

Benefits of Using Multiple First-Line Therapies Against Malaria ■ Maciej Boni, David L. Smith, and Ramanan Laxminarayan; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (forthcoming)

Should Urban Transit Subsidies Be Reduced? ■ Ian Parry and Kenneth Small; *American Economic Review* (forthcoming)

Adjusting the Value of a Statistical Life for Age and Cohort Effects ■ Joseph E. Aldy and W. Kip Viscusi; *Review of Economics and Statistics* August 2008, Vol. 90, No. 3: 573–581

BILLY PIZER TO TREASURY AFTER 12 YEARS AT RFF

Former RFF Senior Fellow Billy Pizer has joined the Treasury Department as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy. He leads a newly created office that will "develop, coordinate, and execute the Treasury Department's role in the domestic and international environment and energy agenda of the United States." Its portfolio includes oversight of international financial mechanisms—such as the multi-billion dollar Clean Technology Fund, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, and the Global Environmental Facility—to support environmental goals worldwide, as well as a focus on climate change and the development of climate-related policy options. While at RFF, Pizer served as a research director and applied much of his work to the question of how to design and implement policies to reduce the threat of climate change caused by manmade emissions of greenhouse gases. Specific research focused on the effectiveness of voluntary programs, the role of technology programs in pollution control efforts, and the effect of regulation on competitiveness.



BILLY PIZER