

of “green taxes” in the coming decade. Currently we tax people on their income or payrolls, while we subsidize gas-guzzling cars, throwaway consumption and toxic pollution. California is one of the few states that does not even have a severance tax on its dwindling supplies of oil. We need to stop taxing people for using their personal energy at work and start taxing people for wasting finite fossil fuel energy.

The fourth message of my dream is that we cannot achieve the great transition to an educated, multicultural, ecological society without ending the Machiavellian politics of the Special Interest State.

For 500 years, as my friend Matthew Fox points out, Western politics has been in the thrall of Machiavelli’s advice to the prince on governing the nation-state. Machiavelli’s advice was that politics is not about justice but about interests. “The fact is,” Machiavelli wrote, “that a (politician) who wants to act virtuously in every way necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous.”

It is noteworthy that Daniel Bell, who in the 1960s wrote a book extolling the “end of ideology” as a source of stability, has now written that corruption and greed are the deepest problems facing democracy after the Cold War. “In almost every society, the distrust of the political order and of politicians is rising, often feeding reactionary forces that seek to channel the resentments of a population into religious fundamentalism or rising nationalism,” Bell writes. Machiavellian politics, based on the primacy of means over ends, is creating the conditions of its own demise by breeding deepening public distrust.

Nevertheless, Machiavelli’s counsel to use deception, guile and appearances has reached a manipulative crescendo in