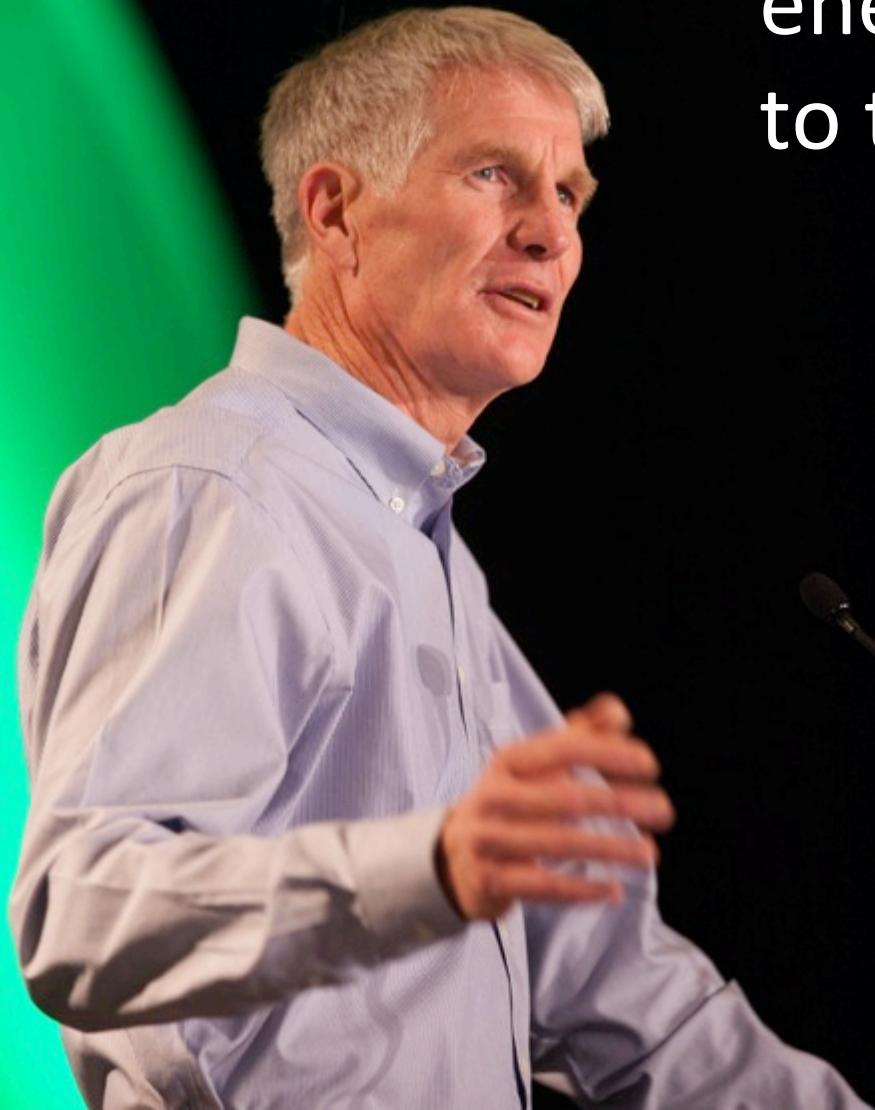




Humility is in order.

Eventually, the politics of energy has to surrender to the physics of energy.



We are the Oil
Tribe, consuming
one-quarter of the
world's supply.

We have built an
entire way of life
around cheap oil.





“Betting on oil depletion is like betting on rust.”

How can so many bright people have reached such distinctly different conclusions?

Somebody has to be wrong, and the truth may not lie in the middle.





Charging the National Petroleum Council with analyzing oil and gas is akin to asking the tobacco industry to forecast lung cancer.



“Apple touts the iPhone as a *killer app*, but the original killer apps—oil, natural gas, electricity—remain central to our civilization’s operating software.”

Cleopatra's idea of a good time was to have sixty slaves row her along the Nile.

Tugging on the oars, with some encouragement from the lash, this crew could produce about eight or ten horsepower.

...



Put differently, the queen of Egypt, the world's richest woman, had about 200 times less power at her disposal than a typical soccer mom in an SUV.



“Go outside and pop the hood of your car.

There in your driveway sits an engine more powerful than anything on the planet two hundred years ago.

Your neighbor has one, too.

From an energy perspective, both of you are astoundingly rich.”





In an effort to reassure politicians, these groups have become purveyors of petro-prozac.



Peak oil is not the end,
nor even the beginning
of the end of the Oil
Age.

Indeed, at peak the
world will have more oil
available than it ever
had before; to the
casual observer all will
appear well.


We are engaged in a one-time hydrocarbon feeding frenzy the likes of which the world has never seen before and will never see again.

When our grandchildren ask where all the oil went, how will we answer them?



“Oil shale has one-third the energy density of Cap'n Crunch, but no one is counting on the Quaker Oats Company to become a major energy producer soon.”

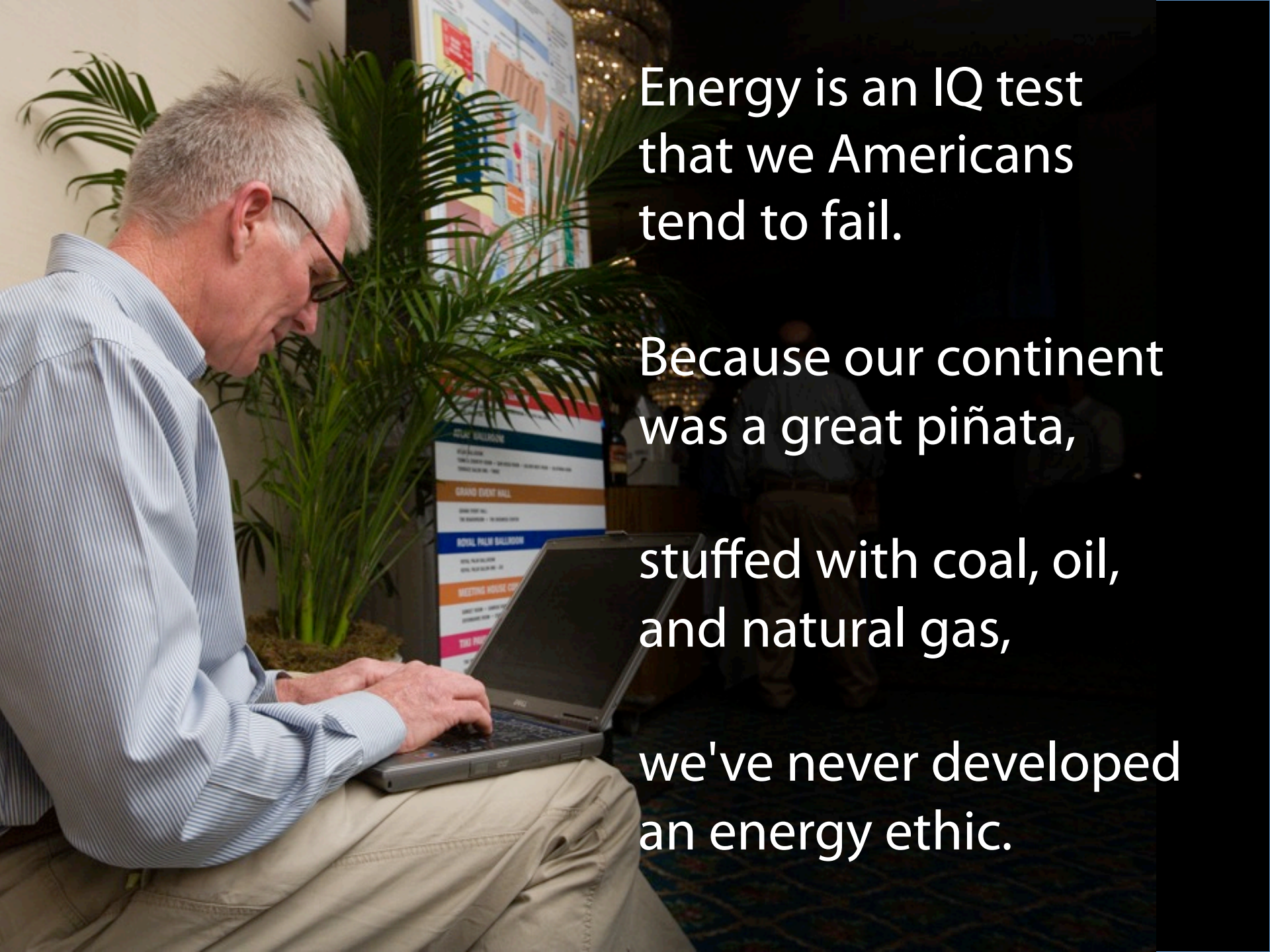


A man in a light blue shirt and khaki pants is standing at a wooden podium, gesturing with his right hand while speaking. Behind him is a large projection screen displaying a close-up of his face. To the left of the speaker, three other men are seated at a long table covered with a dark cloth. A large, glowing green oval light fixture is positioned behind the seated men. The setting appears to be a formal conference or lecture hall.

The American future isn't a romance with abundance, it's a plea bargain with depletion.



“Using coal-fired electricity to wring oil out of shale rocks is like feeding steak to the dog and eating his Alpo.”



Energy is an IQ test
that we Americans
tend to fail.

Because our continent
was a great piñata,

stuffed with coal, oil,
and natural gas,

we've never developed
an energy ethic.



Lowering gas prices to help consumers is like lowering the price of cocaine to help addicts balance their checkbooks.



“Cars consume about 6x as much energy in oil each day as people do in food.”

A Martian examining Earth with a telescope at 8 a.m. during the work week, seeing all those garage doors simultaneously open, would have to conclude that the automobile is the dominant life form on the planet...



And that the small insects
inside the vehicle,
tending its needs,
repairing it,
filling it with gasoline,
were the larger beast's
servants or slaves.



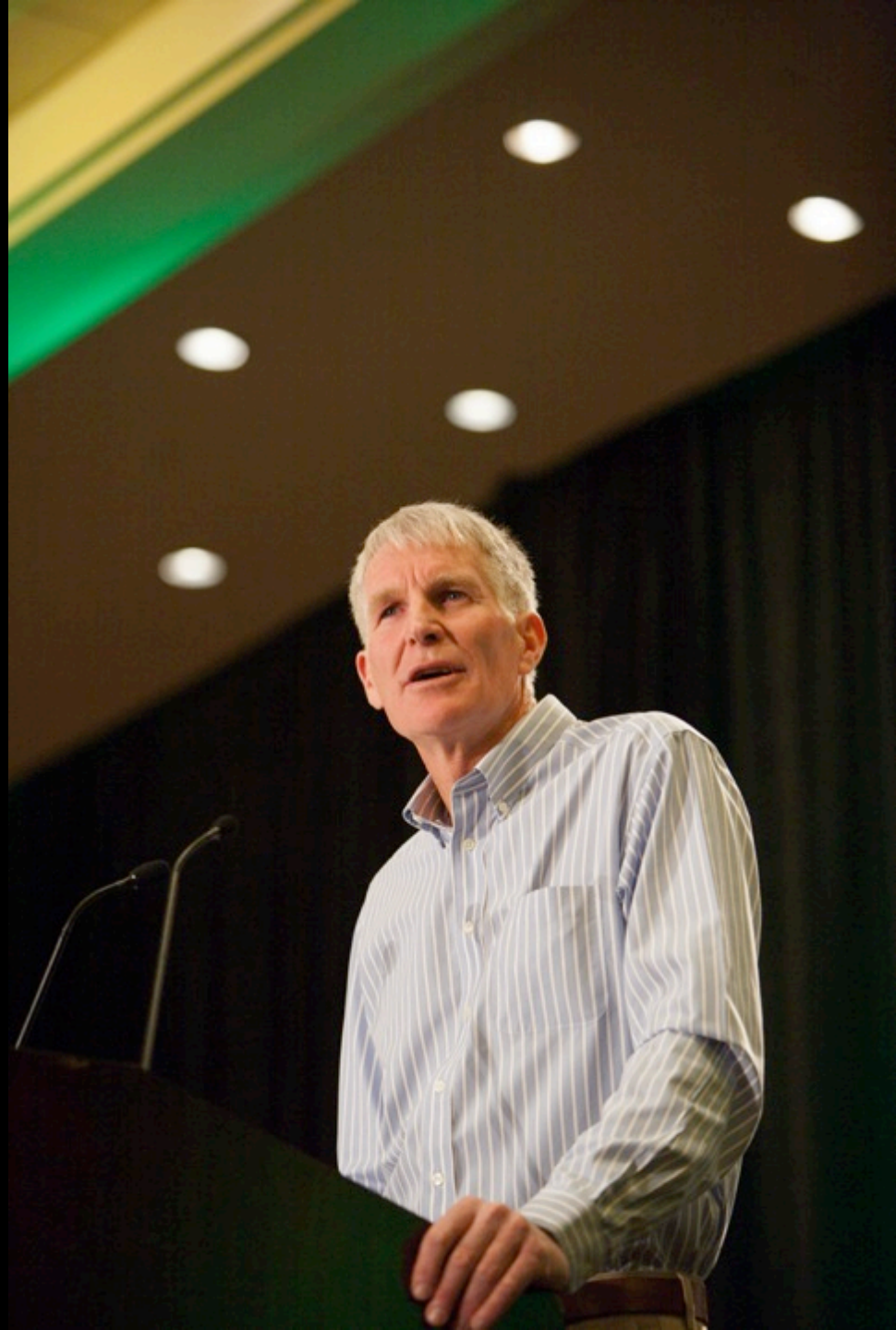


Debunking peak oil is like railing against gravity or aging.

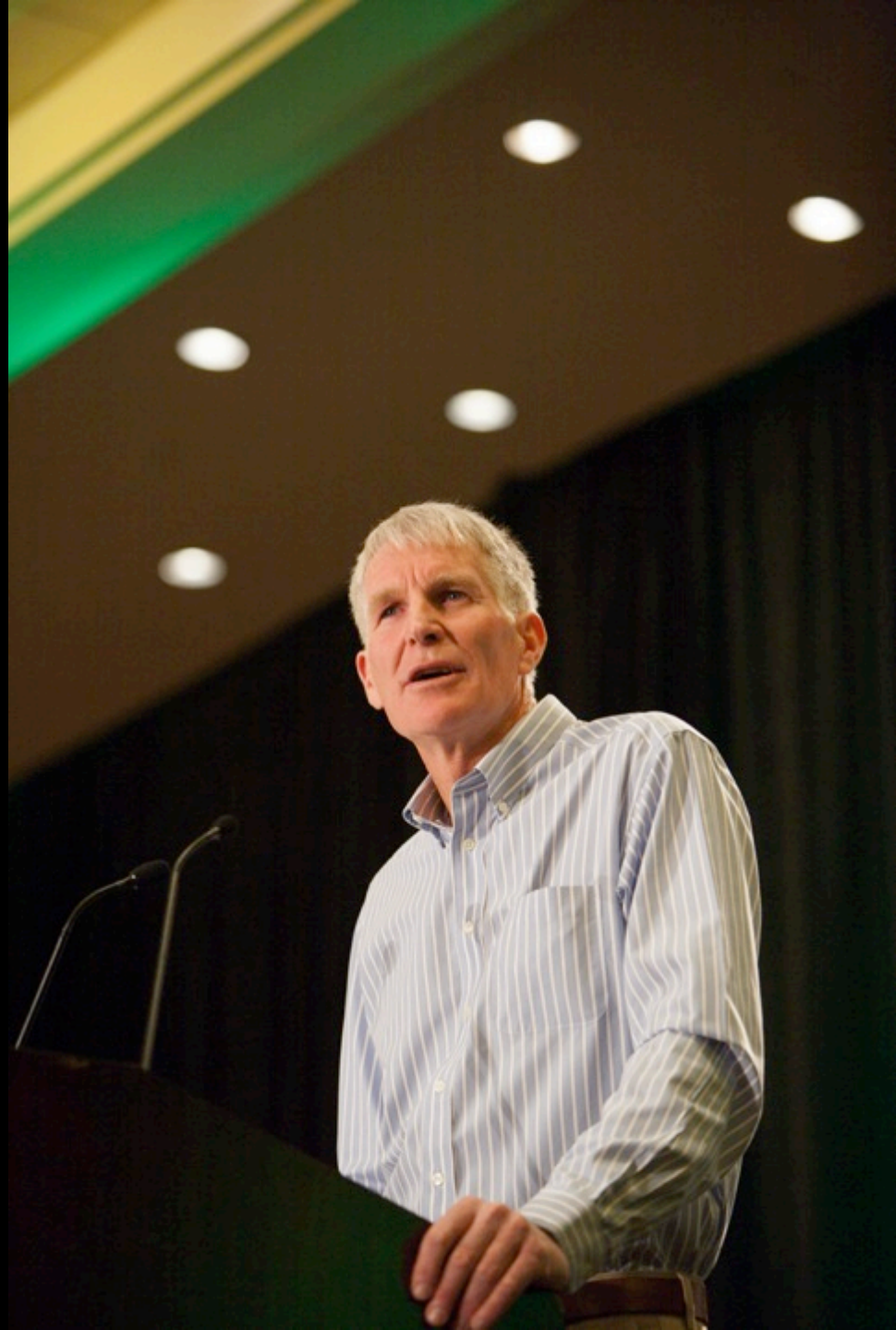
I've run the numbers and they suggest a solar electric system could pay me 5% for decades to come. No, the sun doesn't shine at night, but it comes up fairly reliably every morning. Maybe this could be a good partnership, the sun and I.



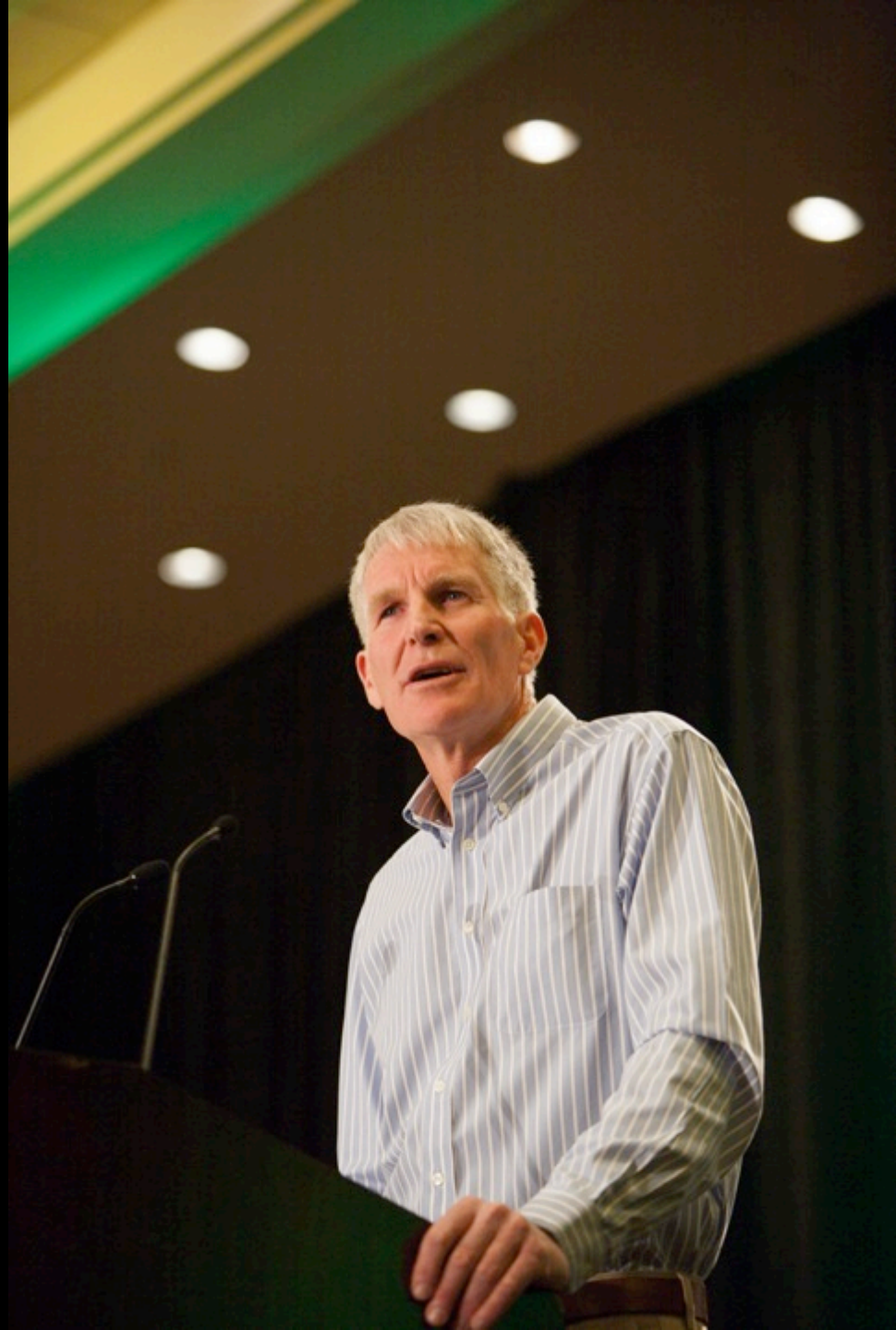
Those of us alive today
tend to believe that we
are living in a normal
time, that malls and
expressways are the
nature of things.



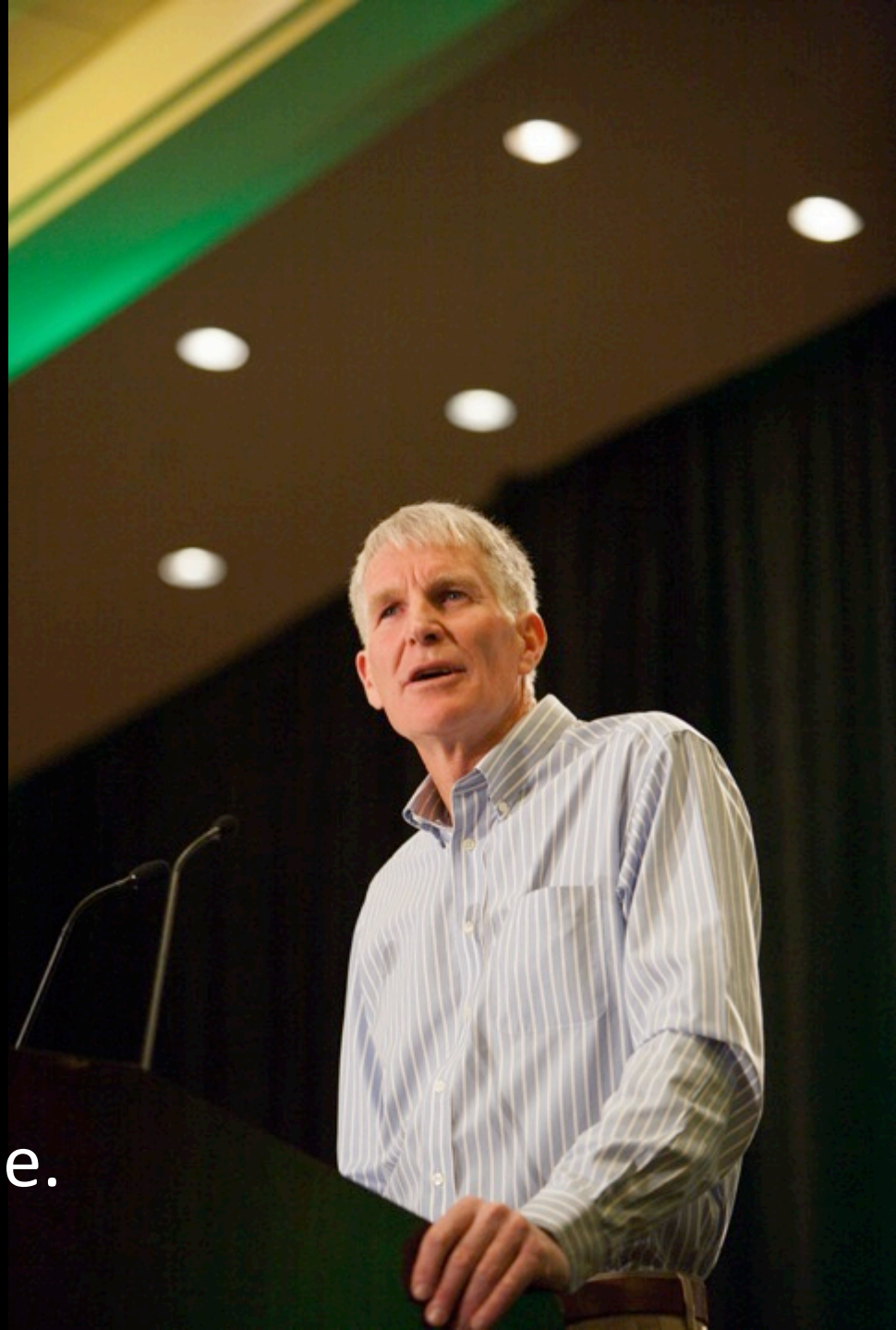
From an energy
perspective, however,
this is lunacy.



In recent times, we
have read about the
Pashtuns, Uzbeks, and
Tajiks in central Asia,
strange tribes with
curious customs.



But contemporary
Americans are arguably
the world's most
exotic people,
members of The Oil Tribe.





The level of energy ignorance in this country hampers efforts to develop sensible energy policy.



That is not hype, it is a hallucination.

In my experience,
raging moderation and
reasonableness is the
way to carry the day.

