

BROWN DELIVERS CLIMATE CHANGE WARNING

Vatican conference told world may have gone ‘over the edge’

By u-t news services | 5:06 a.m. July 22, 2015

VATICAN CITY — Gov. Jerry Brown, in an ominous appeal on climate change, said Tuesday that the world may already have “gone over the edge” on global warming and that humanity must reverse course or face extinction.

Speaking Tuesday at a conference hosted by Pope Francis, Brown accused climate-change deniers of trying to “bamboozle” local leaders trying to cut emissions and said he had no faith that Congress will act on global warming.

“It’s up to you guys,” the governor told more than 60 mayors from around the world who were invited to the climate conference at the Vatican.

The governor reprised a message he has delivered in Sacramento and elsewhere, including a recent Toronto conference on the environment: Climate-change deniers are “troglodytes.”

The former Jesuit seminarian threw his weight behind the pope’s recent encyclical, *Laudato Si*, a powerful document in which Francis spells out his belief that creeping climate change is contributing to global poverty.

In an address to the conference later in the day, the pope urged the United Nations to step up its campaign to moderate the effects of climate change.

“I have great hopes for the Paris summit in December and hope a fundamental agreement is reached,” Francis said, referring to a key meeting at which a new United Nations climate deal should be signed.

Francis urged mayors to speak up, warning that “if the message does not come from the ground up, it will not have any effect.”