

'Operation Thyroid Storm' could drive Bush from office

by Webster G. Tarpley and Kathleen Klenetsky

There is a distinct possibility that George Bush may not be President much longer, or, if he manages to remain in power, that he will become little more than a figurehead in a government run by the "permanent establishment."

Since Bush was hospitalized on the first weekend in May for treatment of a disturbance in his heartbeat, signs have multiplied that leading circles of the Anglophile liberal U.S. Eastern Establishment are preparing an alternative to Bush, possibly before the 1992 elections.

Despite efforts of the White House to downplay his disorder, the real extent of the President's thyroid-related mental debilitation is gradually emerging into view. Bush is coming into focus as a man on an emotional roller coaster, afflicted by obsessive rage states, and manifestly unable to function as President in a crisis. As this situation becomes more widely known, it is likely that Bush will be unable to govern.

Did thyroid launch war?

Questions are being raised far and wide about the effect Bush's thyroid disorder—whose common symptoms include hyperactivity, emotional lability, lack of concentration, impulsive behavior, and even psychosis and death—has had on the conduct of his presidency, and especially to what extent it contributed to his decision to launch the Persian Gulf war. Even the *Washington Times*, which violently supported Bush's Mideast adventure, ran an article in its May 23 edition headlined "White House Denies Thyroid Launched War."

One reason for this concern may be that Bush's health may be much worse than has been publicly reported, especially as regards the impact of his thyroid condition on his ability to make rational decisions. Secondly, the establishment may now estimate that the disastrous internal situation of the United States, especially in terms of the economic and social crisis, may make Bush's reelection uncertain, especially if a serious opposition were to appear.

An important signal piece in this direction came in the form of a commentary by William Hyland in the May 20 *New York Times* under the title "Downgrade Foreign Policy." A long-time associate of Henry Kissinger and currently a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the editor of *Foreign Affairs*, the quarterly magazine of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, Hyland is an important institutional figure of the foreign policy establishment.

Hyland's thesis: "The United States has never been less threatened by foreign forces than it is today. But the unfortunate corollary is that never since the Great Depression has the threat to domestic well-being been greater. . . . We need a new order in both foreign and domestic policy. President Bush should issue a broad statement of principles and aims for domestic policy, as President Truman did for foreign policy with the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the creation of NATO. . . . A doctrine that recognizes that we do, in fact, face a domestic crisis and that outlines a program for dealing with it is sorely needed." Hyland goes on to say that existing foreign commitments must be scaled down, and no new commitments assumed because of the "disastrous domestic agenda: crime, drugs, education, urban crises, federal budget deficits and a constant squeeze on the middle class, the backbone of our democracy."

Although Hyland's recommendations were seemingly addressed to Bush, it is well known that Bush adamantly refuses to change any key aspects of domestic and economic policy in the way that Hyland and his circles are demanding. This leads toward the conclusion that Hyland's emergency programs could only be implemented by a different President.

LaRouche was right—again

If some sections of the establishment are now admitting that Bush is off his rocker, they are only echoing a charge

first leveled by Lyndon H. LaRouche, the Democratic presidential candidate now serving a 15-year jail term on charges trumped up by Bush and his pals.

Eighteen months ago, just after Bush ordered the invasion of Panama and when he was considered politically invulnerable, LaRouche issued a statement analyzing Bush as "a person of rage-driven obsessions, and impulses flowing from rage-driven obsessions."

In November 1990, as Bush was moving toward war in the Mideast, LaRouche issued another statement warning that "There is no question that President George Bush is suffering a more acute form of implicitly schizophrenic paranoia than he showed during the height of the moments of uncertainty during the Panama atrocity by forces under his direction. The President, in short, is going nuts."

In a move that will surely drive Bush closer to the brink, given his personal rage-obsession with LaRouche, the June 2 *Sunday New York Times* ran an item in its "Political Talk" column, quoting former Syracuse Mayor Lee Alexander, who is currently incarcerated with LaRouche in Rochester, Minnesota, describing LaRouche as follows: "The man's a walking encyclopedia. He knows more facts and dates and places than anyone I've ever met." Alexander cited as evidence the fact that LaRouche "told me two months ago that there was something going on with Bush, that he was overstressed. He seems to have known about this thyroid thing before anyone else did."

Also calculated to drive Bush into a rug-chewing fit, is that fact that broccoli contains a natural counter to hyperthyroidism, since it was Bush's nemesis, LaRouche, who launched the "Eat it, George" campaign after Bush threw an infantile tantrum last year and insisted he wouldn't eat broccoli any more.

You can't govern with Graves' disease

While the White House has vehemently denied any link between Bush's thyroid disorder and his policymaking, even though the President himself conceded at one point that it has caused a "slowing down on the mental processes," the medical evidence overwhelmingly suggests otherwise. Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, medical expert for the *New York Times*, pointedly wrote recently that "most experts believe that people with hyperthyroidism do not make decisions as well as they would normally."

According to Abigail Trafford, editor of the *Washington Post's* health section and herself a victim of Graves' disease, "What's missing in all the upbeat press releases from the White House is the powerful emotional impact the disease has on many patients and the effects of hyperthyroidism on mood and behavior and judgment. And, while Graves' is, indeed, curable, it can take months, sometimes years, for people to get their thyroid function back to normal."

A leading Baltimore psychiatrist who is not politically hostile to Bush, believes that the President is suffering from

the full-fledged symptoms of Basedow's disease. The difference in name is more than a technical quibble: Graves' disease is the preferred term in the Anglo-American world because it is less associated with the symptoms of mental disturbance which are associated with Basedow's disease. According to the Baltimore specialist, there is no use in testing the water of the White House, the Naval Observatory, Kennebunkport, and Camp David, since it is well established that Basedow's disease is emotionally triggered. An emotional upheaval, psychic shock, or other trauma stimulates the pituitary gland into an overproduction of its hormone, which in turn provokes an overactivity of the thyroid, which speeds up overall metabolism and further exacerbates the emotional crisis. This pattern of overstimulation becomes a vicious cycle, which can become life-threatening if it is not treated. And precisely because Basedow's disease is emotionally triggered, a sudden increase in emotional stress can result in a renewal of erratic behavior.

According to this expert, successful treatment of a person with Basedow's disease requires that the patient not be operating in a stressful environment in which sensitive decisions of great consequence can become necessary without warning—not exactly a description of conditions at the Oval Office.

A Quayle regency?

Given Bush's condition, it is not surprising that talk of the 25th Amendment, which provides for the removal of the President in the case of disability, and of a possible Quayle presidency, has surfaced. A U.S. establishment insider close to the Harriman and Bronfman factions of the Democratic Party, reported privately at the end of May that as a result of his health problems, "It's possible Bush won't last out his term. We might see Quayle in there, but I can assure you, that will be for four-to-six months at most, he'll never be elected President. I know some options are in the works, but I can't talk about them." He advised: "Watch the Senator from Kansas," i.e., Bob Dole, who was the leading challenger to Bush for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988.

It is hardly an accident that Quayle has suddenly started receiving a spate of puff pieces in the media, not just in the United States, but also in Britain, where many of the decisions regarding U.S. politics are made.

The implications of Bush's nomination of Robert Strauss—the former chairman of the Democratic Party and official in the Carter regime—as ambassador to Moscow should not be ignored. The assessment of the Washington correspondent for the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, is on target. Strauss's appointment is a "very important decision" that represents the strengthening and reinvigoration of the "permanent government" of the United States, that had, in previous eras, assured "continuity and a bipartisan consensus," wrote R. Brancoli on June 5.