

Britain's Tony Blair Is Decomposing Like Gore

by Mark Burdman

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. Vice President Al Gore are ideological and political soul-mates. As we have been documenting in recent issues, Gore is psychologically and politically decomposing. Now, the same is happening to Blair. Informed sources have told *EIR*, that both phenomena are political expressions of the growing turbulence inside the Anglo-American elites, as the process of global financial disintegration accelerates.

On May 4, Blair had suffered a giant setback, when his enemy inside Labour Party ranks, Ken Livingstone, won the race for London Mayor, and when voters in local elections around the country, delivered severe defeats to his "New Labour." Blair had hoped to recoup support, by attempting to cynically exploit the birth of his fourth child, Leo; he even took a two-week paternity leave after the birth, to build up his "homey" image. But, as soon as Blair returned to active politics, he immediately fell into deeper trouble.

Handbagged!

His worst fiasco since becoming Prime Minister on May 1, 1997, occurred on June 7, 2000, when he addressed some 10,000 members of the Women's Institute (WI), a middle-class group, many of them housewives, who come from the core constituencies of Middle England. After his initial efforts to gain sympathy by playing on his paternal image, the ladies began to jeer, boo, and heckle him, turning finally to slow hand-clapping, a typical form of protest in Britain. Then, significant numbers of the crowd of women in attendance at Wembley Stadium, began to walk out. All of this was to protest his attempts to defend his government's economic and social policies.

Blair was visibly unnerved at this response, his face twitching and contorting, and his usual ape-like smile disappearing.

The next day's British press roasted him, with headlines including "Blair Bombs at the WI"; "WI Puts Blair in His Place"; "Blair Handbagged by WI Hecklers." In an editorial entitled "Mr. Blair Gets the Bird," the pro-Labour *Guardian* wrote on June 8: "Things have come to a pretty pass, when a Prime Minister is heckled by the Women's Institute. A body whose name has been a byword for courtesy and deco-

rum resorting to a slow handclap and a walkout — and inflicting this punishment on no less than the head of the British government." The paper went on: "But a more pressing subject has to be addressed: Something is going wrong with this government. . . . The government has endured six months of persistent misfortune. . . . Middle Britain [is] fleeing the New Labour tent in droves."

Remember Ceausescu, December 1989!

Some commentators were much nastier. *Daily Telegraph* writer Boris Johnson likened Blair's distressed face to that of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, in the days preceding Ceausescu's fall, in December 1989.

Wrote Johnson:

"You remember that fantastic TV moment, when the people can take it no longer? There is Nicolae Ceausescu, the great Conducator of Romania, standing on the Presidential balcony in Bucharest, and haranguing the crowd with all the authority of a man who believes his rule is unchallengeable. It is December 1989, and the cameras of Romania's state-controlled television are trained on the Great Leader as he churns the freezing air with empty slogans. And then suddenly there is an inexplicable noise, and you realize with a shock of joy that it is the Romanian people, and they are answering back, my God, . . . and I remember the look of bafflement that suddenly crosses Ceausescu's face. He looks again. He squints. He can't believe it; he tries to say something else, and then he's lost them altogether, and by that stage, we are cheering at our television screens, and the end of Ceausescu is only hours away."

Johnson went on: "And of course, I do not mean to liken Tony Blair to the Romanian dictator, no, no, not really, but yesterday, as he spoke to the Women's Institute, he had, to judge by his behavior, something like the same premonitory shock. Here he is, at the height of his powers, with a seemingly invincible majority. For three years, he has bathed in the choreographed approval of his audiences. . . . Men and women, young and old, have melted before his flashing eyes, his floating hair, his glistering teeth. This was his first public fixture

**To reach us on the Web:
www.larouche.com**

after producing his fourth child, amid tumultuous national gurgling.”

And then, with the horrible reception yesterday before the WI: “What happened? Did you watch his eyes flicker, as the first heckling broke out, how he faltered? And when they gave him a slow handclap! He gabbled in bewilderment. Amazing!”

Similarly, the June 10 *Economist* magazine headlined its coverage of the WI event, “Blair’s Ceausescu Moment.”

Spectacular Political Shocks

After this episode, it was revealed in the British press, that the Blair entourage had been warned by senior Blair adviser Philip Gould, *not* to speak before the Women’s Institute. According to a memorandum leaked to the London *Times* on June 13, Gould had written about Blair: “TB is not believed to be real. He lacks conviction, he is all spin and presentation, he just says things to please people, not because he believes them.”

Echoing this, Frank Field, former minister for welfare reform in the Blair Cabinet, blasted Blair for being “all spin and no delivery.” Field is the latest of several former ministers and senior Labourites who have warned that Blair’s policies are causing massive disaffection within traditional Labour

constituencies.

There are also reports, that when Blair returned from “paternity leave,” he got into a shouting match with his Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, because both men had been holding discussions with leading “Old Labour” stalwarts, during Blair’s absence. Even though opinion polls are claiming that the opposition Conservatives are now only slightly behind Labour, British sources stress that the main immediate threat to Blair, does not come from the Conservatives, but from inside the Labour Party itself.

A senior City of London figure told *EIR* that Britain stands on the eve of a number of “spectacular political shocks,” that will do great damage to Blair’s credibility. He said that Blair has become expendable, in the eyes of highest-level British establishment power blocs, because he was originally supposed to have been instrumental in “penetrating continental Europe” on behalf of the British oligarchy. But now, this strategy is falling apart, in the face of anti-British moves by France, Germany, and other European countries. Also, the British elites are adapting to the perception that the Gore candidacy in the United States is collapsing, and given the close Gore-Blair axis, this has obvious implications for the British Prime Minister.

EIR SPECIAL REPORT

The True Story Behind The Fall of the House of Windsor

Reprints of EIR’s 1994-1997 groundbreaking exposés

What political battles lie behind the assassination of Princess Diana? Why do 22 out of 30 top terrorist groups have their headquarters in London? *EIR*’s series on the House of Windsor is indispensable for understanding today’s news.

The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor
(Oct. 28, 1994)

The Sun Never Sets on the New British Empire
(May 24, 1996)

Britain’s “Invisible” Empire Unleashes the Dogs of War,
(Aug. 22, 1997)

Epilogue: Can the House of Windsor Survive Diana’s Death?
(Sept. 12, 1997)

Order from:

EIR News Service

P.O. Box 17390 Washington, D.C. 20041-0390 Order number EIR 97-004 **\$75**

