



GEORGE GALLOWAY

NO-ONE should confuse the Prime Minister's notice to the electorate that he is only prepared to put up with them for five more years as a sign of confidence on his part.

It is a demonstration of the weakness of his position, not strength.

Tony Blair may still be waving to the rapturous crowd at the new Labour conference, but as the savage reduction in his majority in Thursday's Hartlepool

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by-election shows, he is still drowning in a sea of contempt among the British public.

And when the chief chimp is spotted as being past the zenith of his power, in his physical decline, sending out signals of his own mortality, it is not long before the other chimps begin to prepare themselves for the coming struggle for power.

Brighton saw assembled the only remaining of people in the land prepared to stand clapping rhythmically their hero-worship of a war criminal.

It is to their collective disgrace that,

Fuelling the fire of impeachment

instead of booing Blair out of the conference hall, delegates heckled instead the man who stood up to disrupt the criminal's speech by telling him that he had "blood on his hands."

The subsequent debate on Iraq, which the leadership first tried to sabotage until they saw it could be won, will go down as one of the darkest days in modern labour history.

Thanks in large part to the cowardice and cynicism of the so-called "awkward squad" trade union leadership — Curran, Woodley, Prentice and Hayes — new Labour went one worse than last year.

Then, they simply voted not to discuss the elephant that was Iraq, which

was wandering up and down the aisles of their conference.

This time, they decided to back the actions of the war criminals, support the occupation — at a vast cost that these union leaders seem prepared to pay — of Iraq and presumably, therefore, to meet full-on the bloody consequences, as more of our men come home in boxes or finish up as hostages in cages.

The British state subverted the trade union leaderships at Brighton and co-opted them into a bloody and catastrophic colonial adventure. And the state brought along its very own Iraqi Quisling — Abdullah Muhsin, a trade unionist for 18 months who is now masquerading as the spokesman of the working class of Iraq.

Muhsin, until recently a pillar of the Iraqi Communist Party, is a spokesman for the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions.

Brought to Brighton as a guest of the party whose government is violently occupying his country, Muhsin was touted around the trade union delegations like a circus act.

His party piece was to break down in tears as he begged the delegates not to vote against Blair on Iraq. Muhsin broke down and wept at meetings with five different trades unions in Brighton.

If it was the case that our brave trade union leaderships can't bear the sight of tears, perhaps the Stop the War Coalition — whose platforms used to resound to the promises of undying support from Woodley and Hayes — should have brought along Rose Gentle, whose son Gordon was slaughtered on the altar of the war or, better still, the families of the tens of thousands killed by Bush and Blair in the war and occupation that British labour backed this week by a majority of six to one.

Much media focus during the conference was on whether or not Mr Blair had "apologised" over Iraq. He had not.

Anyone who understands the English language knows that while he said he "could" apologise that is not the same as doing so.

Indeed, he removed the word "sorry" from his previously circulated press copy of his speech upon delivery.

But what good would an apology have been?

Sorry is for when you tread upon someone's toe or cause a minor bump to someone's car — try saying "sorry" to someone whose car you have written off.

You can't apologise for killing thousands of people, breaking a sovereign country into pieces and creating the conditions for extremism and terrorism to explode and infest that country, its geographical region and the world.

You can't say sorry for making a secret deal with the illegitimate leader of a foreign power to subvert domestic and international law — it was Mr Blair himself, remember, who told us that a war in Iraq for "regime change" would be illegal after, as leaked Foreign Office documents show, he had pledged to Bush to join just that.

Thirty years ago, the

path to the impeachment of President Richard Nixon began with the Pentagon Papers and the break-in at the psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg.

This week, a Cabinet official in London was arrested over leaks of British government secrets and a new set of Pentagon papers was obtained by Andrew Gilligan — the former BBC reporter crushed to the verge of suicide by the hysterical vindictiveness of the Blair-Campbell conspiracy around the death of Dr David Kelly.

'Sorry is what you say when you tread on someone's toe or cause a minor bump to a car.'

These documents establish beyond a shadow of a doubt that Tony Blair lied and lied and lied again, betraying his party, Parliament, the people and, not least, the armed forces of the country.

They show that — as the earlier leaked Foreign Office papers indicated — Blair agreed to join Bush in a regime change war on Iraq in early 2002 and that British military commanders were up to their knuckles in the detailed preparations for war when Blair was lying to Parliament that there were absolutely no such preparations.

If Britain had a Parliament worthy of the name, these Pentagon papers would be added to the pyre being prepared for the impeachment of Britain's Prime Minister.

● *George Galloway is Respect MP for Glasgow Kelvin and a columnist on the Scottish Mail on Sunday.*

Have Republican Rasputins hijacked the Democrats? A very US coup

LAST year, the day after Republican Governor Arnold was elected in California, I called up four different offices of the California Democratic Party.

I told each of them: "My checkbook is open. Tell me who is organising the effort to recall Governor Schwarzenegger and I will send the cheque immediately."

Not one office called me back and, of course, the Democratic Party never bothered to mount any such effort. The Republicans had, in essence, hijacked ordinary democratic processes with no opposition from the people you'd expect to oppose them — namely, their opponents.

Why? I formulated a conspiracy theory — the Republican Party has infiltrated the Democratic Party. Key positions are controlled by right-wing Rasputins who, at every turn, advise Democrats to do the opposite of what they should do.

For instance, shortly after election day 2000, I went to the national headquarters of the Al Gore campaign to volunteer. I walked inside the glass doors and was told that the office was shutting down permanently.

Who made the decision to close the Gore campaign HQ when the election was still six weeks away from being decided and when the Republicans were swearing that they had not yet begun to fight?

Who told Al Gore that he should concede the election? Who told him that he should not utter a word of protest over the course of the next two years? Worse, who told him to say, in a speech to Democrats, that "George W Bush is my president!"

Who told the leading Democrats that, despite the singular circumstances surrounding the selection of George Bush as president and the fact that 50 per cent of the electorate had voted for Al Gore anyhow, they should act as if Bush had won 100 per cent of the vote?

Who told them to vote for all of his nominees — including the vicious John Ashcroft — and all of his legislation, including that which eviscerated the environment, including his tax bribes for the super-rich?

What Democrat allowed Theresa LePore — a Democrat in 2000 — to be in a position where she could design the infamous "butterfly ballots" in Florida without checking to see that LePore was once a Republican? And here's a surprise — following the election, she switched party affiliations once more.

Who advised the Democrats not to talk about Bush's disgraceful way of escaping the draft during the Vietnam war, except briefly in 2004?

Who told the Democrats not to touch the issue of Bush's alleged cocaine use, his girlfriend's alleged abortion — when abortion was illegal — or the disgraceful and documented conspiracy in 2000 to disenfranchise black voters in Florida and other states?

Who advised the Democrats — including Howard Dean himself — to steer clear of sounding too "angry," when it



THE FIFTH COLUMN

with PROFESSOR JONATHAN FARLEY

was clear that this anger was what had made Dean so popular in the first place?

Who told Dean's fellow Democrats to turn on him when Saddam Hussein was captured, in effect doing Bush's dirty work for him?

With the Senate so evenly divided, who told the Democratic governor of Georgia to appoint Zell Miller to the US Senate, a "Democrat" who recently endorsed George Bush for president?

What Rasputin told Kerry not to respond to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, who called Kerry a liar and a coward and who dominated the news — crippling Kerry — for weeks? And still, Kerry's campaign advisers tell him, not to attack Bush personally!?

Why did the Democrats allow the Republicans to have their convention after theirs and in New York City, so that Republicans, not Democrats, could focus on September 11 2001?

Speaking of 9/11, who advised Kerry to distance himself from Michael Moore? Why did the Democrats not run full-page newspaper ads condemning the Republicans for such a shameful act?

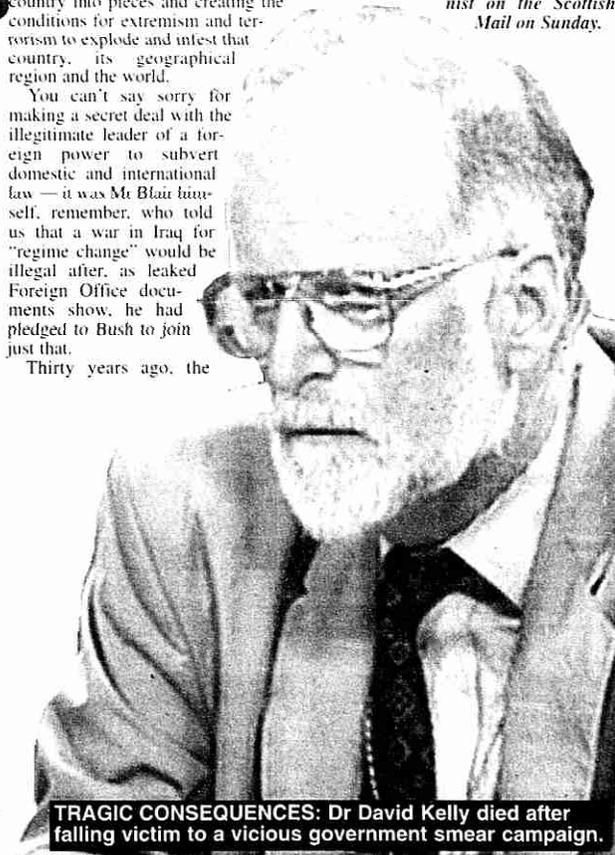
The Republican Party convention ended on September 2, causing Bush to miss a September 1 deadline to file as a candidate in Florida.

This gave the Democrats a legal way to keep Bush off the ballot there. Yet the chairman of the Florida Democratic Party declined to pursue this option, saying: "To keep an incumbent president off the ballot in a swing state the size of Florida because of a technicality, I just don't think would be right."

The US is becoming a one-party state. Democrats refuse to fight. They are like the boxer who aims to throw the match. He has to put up a good show before hurling himself on the ground, but the fix is in.

Be afraid. You are witnessing a slow-motion coup d'etat, in broad daylight.

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TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES: Dr David Kelly died after falling victim to a vicious government smear campaign.