



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

It's no longer a question of whether he's going to get the boot, but only when.

naming Cheney aide John Hannah as another Fitzgerald informant on the Vice President's direct role in the Plame leak.

All these factors point to a very nasty "November Surprise" for the Vice President.

Too Late

"November Surprise" scenarios aside, the reality of the current situation is that a post-November departure of Cheney will be too late. The issues that will decide the fate of the United States and the world are playing out over the next 60-90 days, and if Cheney remains on the job during that period, the chances of avoiding catastrophe are slim.

On the other hand, as Lyndon LaRouche emphasized in a series of recent interviews and discussions, if Cheney is dumped from office now, these otherwise impossible crises can be solved.

What are the most pressing crises? First, Iraq: By all estimates, unless a viable coalition government is installed in power in the next 60 days, Iraq will degenerate, hopelessly and irreversibly, into a civil war of ethnic and religious cleansing, that will soon spread into neighboring Persian Gulf states.

The desperation of the Iraq situation was underscored over the weekend, when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw flew to Baghdad, for two days of hard-nosed talks with top Iraqi officials. According to U.S. intelligence sources, the trip was a fiasco.

As *EIR* revealed on April 7, in a cover story titled "Halliburton's War," Cheney was *the* number one saboteur of an exit strategy from Iraq in May 2003. At the same time, he nixed bilateral talks with Iran, that offered the last best hope for cooperation on a wide range of issues. Now, Cheney is pushing for a bombing attack on Iran's nuclear research sites, as early as this month, according to a number of Washington sources.

The other crisis that is hitting now is the imminent bankruptcy of General Motors, which could be triggered by a

United Auto Workers strike against Delphi, GM's major parts supplier. Financial community sources warn that a GM bankruptcy would likely trigger a blowout of the credit derivatives market, and a possible meltdown of the international financial system.

By dumping Cheney and his longtime partner in crime, Don Rumsfeld, President Bush would at least stand a chance of starting out with a new team, willing to tackle these grave crises.

On March 30, the *Financial Times'* Washington commentator, Edward Luce, bluntly called for Cheney and Rumsfeld to be sacked. Citing the resignation of White House Chief of Staff Andy Card, and his replacement by Office of Management and Budget chief Josh Bolton, Luce wrote that the housecleaning has to go much deeper, to do any good. "Sacking Dick Cheney or Donald Rumsfeld, the two figures most associated with the Administration's disdain for the advice of others, would tear up Mr. Bush's record of unbroken loyalty to his friends. But it would signal loud and clear that he was sincere in wanting to change direction."

Libby Spills the Beans

According to the latest filing by Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, Lewis Libby testified that Vice President Cheney thought it was "very important" for key aspects of the National Intelligence Estimate to come out publicly, but that he (Libby) was reluctant to discuss it with Miller because it was classified. Fitzgerald continues:

"Defendant [Libby] testified that the Vice President later advised him that the President had authorized defendant to disclose relevant portions of the NIE. Defendant testified that he also spoke to David Addington, then counsel to the Vice President, whom defendant considered to be an expert in national security law, and Mr. Addington opined that Presidential authorization to publicly disclose a document amounted to a declassification of the document."

A few days later, Cheney specifically designated Libby to speak with the press, in place of his usual press spokesman, about the NIE and Wilson's trip, including disclosing information from a cable authored by Wilson. On this occasion, Libby spoke to *Time* magazine's Matt Cooper, and again to Judith Miller.

What is absolutely clear from Fitzgerald's account, is that Cheney—not Bush nor anyone else in the White House—was the one running the operation to discredit Wilson, and that he was personally directing Libby's activities.