

Editorial

The Mad Hatter's War Party

President George W. Bush interrupted his conversations with burning shrubs at his Crawford, Texas ranch the week of Aug. 14, long enough to return to Washington for a series of high-profile Cabinet meetings and thoroughly scripted public appearances. His brief sojourn back to the White House demonstrated—in living color—that the President has truly gone stark-raving mad.

From his manic pronouncements that Israel had achieved a glorious military victory in Lebanon, to his parting shots about the U.S. economy's stunning performance, George Bush demonstrated a disconnect from reality that has world leaders stunned, and even creates some serious problems for those, like George Shultz and Dick Cheney, who are supposed to be providing adult supervision to the President from behind the curtain.

The race of events—from the total collapse of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, to the failed Israeli incursion into Lebanon, to the stunning electoral defeat of Sen. Joe “The Kiss” Lieberman, to the actual onrushing global financial collapse—has overwhelmed the President. His public displays of madness during the past week, leave little doubt that the President has lost it, and the prognosis is poor for any near-term return to his already-limited senses.

As Lyndon LaRouche observed, this creates a special kind of situation. Bush is clinically insane, and the carefully constructed management of the White House has suddenly broken down. The situation probably even has Vice President Dick Cheney scared. Cheney, already the most hated man in America, is the main impediment to the invoking of the 25th Amendment, which sets the procedures for the removal of a President from office if he is physically or mentally unable to perform the duties of office. Were Cheney to be installed as Bush's replacement, the hatred of this Administration would, in all likelihood, burst the dam, creating a whole new set of intractable problems for the financier crowd pulling the strings on the Bush-Cheney White House, through people like Shultz and Felix Rohatyn.

In the meantime, the drive for a new asymmetric world war continues, despite the setback in Lebanon. Israel's decisive defeat in its month-long campaign to destroy Hezbollah's military capabilities, while creating an existential crisis for the Jewish state, has hardly deterred the war party in London and Washington, and the international synarchist bankers who give them their marching orders.

Even as this issue of *EIR* goes to press, Cheney and the neo-cons are pressing for a renewed confrontation with Hezbollah by rival factions inside Lebanon, typified by the British intelligence-owned Druze leader Walid Jumblatt. On Aug. 19, Israeli commandos staged a raid deep into the Bekaa Valley, near Lebanon's border with Syria, attempting to assassinate a prominent Hezbollah leader.

Inside Israel, with the full blessing of Cheney and the neo-cons, the Likud Party's Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu is moving to unseat Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, to install himself in power. Were Bibi's maneuvers to succeed, as they certainly will, unless there is a significant intervention from sane forces inside the United States, the region will explode once again.

The essential issue facing all world leaders at this moment is World War III. Unless there is a concert of effort—led by sane forces within the U.S. political institutions—the synarchist bankers will stage one provocation after another, until the dam bursts and civilization plunges into the abyss for several generations at least. In Europe, Russia, China, and other parts of the world, there are institutions that see the crisis, and are willing to act, but only if there is a clear sign of leadership and cooperation from the United States.

Such leadership will not come from the clinically mad George Bush, or the sociopath Vice President Dick Cheney. This is a tricky and deadly moment that requires a degree of honest reflection and courageous action. The question so often posed by LaRouche to the American political institutions and to the American people is more appropriate now than ever before: Do you have the moral fitness to survive?