

Blair and Gore became cozy in the late 1980s, when the Labour Party began conducting “intensive investigations of the American political scene,” with a special effort to build ties to the “New Democrats.”

### Nostalgic for John Major

As for Blair, the insider view in London is that the crisis around him will continue to escalate, and quiet moves are

under way to find a replacement. From a reading of the British establishment press in the first days of 1999, it is clear that the knives are out for Blair and his coterie.

The Jan. 2-8 London *Economist* ran an editorial titled “A Christmas Catastrophe,” which accused Blair of having “connived” with Mandelson in the latter’s efforts to minimize the importance of his cover-up of the massive loan he received from Robinson. The magazine insisted that Mandelson and

## ‘Bra Queen’ supports the Third Way boobs

One of the more curious American connections of Blair’s “New Labour” has come to light, in the wake of the furor leading to his close buddy Peter Mandelson’s resignation as British Minister of Trade and Industry. Of the several scandals that erupted around Mandelson in late December, one concerns the fact that he never declared publicly, that he had flown on the private jet of one Linda Wachner, described in British press headlines as “the Bra Queen.”

Wachner is the chairman and president of Warnaco Group, Inc., a billion-dollar manufacturer of ladies’ and men’s underwear, as well as Calvin Klein jeans. With a personal fortune of \$100 million, she is the highest-paid woman executive in the United States. As a frequent guest at Wachner’s mansion in the Hamptons, the Long Island playground of the New York glitterati, Mandelson found easy access to the U.S. eastern establishment’s rich and powerful. Mandelson and Wachner would often travel together to Great Britain on her Gulfstream executive jet, giving her the opportunity to hobnob with the leaders of both New Labour and the Conservative Party, including Margaret Thatcher, and members of the British royal family.

Last year, Wachner contributed \$20,000 to Democratic Party candidates, but never contributed to President Clinton’s Presidential campaigns. She gave \$45,000 to the Republicans, and \$25,000 to the unsuccessful re-election campaign of New York’s Sen. Alphonse D’Amato. One can see on the walls of her Park Avenue office, autographed pictures of former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the eastern establishment’s New York-based policy institution.

Wachner is a big supporter of the *New Republic* magazine, which carries her frequent advertisements with homosexual overtones. The owner of *New Republic* is Martin Peretz, widely known as “Al Gore’s mentor.” Peretz has

transformed the magazine from its former left-liberal coloration, to a mouthpiece for neo-liberal “free market” policies and extreme right-wing Zionism.

Wachner represents the new generation of New York garment industry executives, who have taken the industry into the new age of corporate raiding and globalization. Since leading a \$550 million hostile takeover of the Warnaco corporation in 1986, she has systematically closed down the company’s U.S.-based factories, and established foreign-based operations in Mexico, Asia, and the Pacific, in locations notorious for deplorable slave-labor working conditions.

Warnaco’s board of directors includes:

**Joseph Califano**, top Democratic Party figure, had been special assistant to President Johnson and later served in the Carter administration as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

**Joseph H. Flom**, senior partner in Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, the law firm that invented junk bonds and the “artful crimes” of corporate-raiding and asset-stripping. Flom is also chairman of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for scholars. He was appointed to chair the center by President Clinton in 1994.

**Andrew G. Galef**, one of the leading corporate raiders of the 1980s, is chairman of the board of a company called MagneTek, a multinational energy technology company based in Al Gore’s own Nashville, Tennessee. Its new office building received the Energy Star from President Clinton, an award given by the Environmental Protection Agency for “energy-efficient” buildings.

**James R. Jones**, three-time Republican Congressman from Oklahoma and former ambassador to Mexico, is currently chairman of the the U.S Council of the Mexico-U.S. Business Committee, one of the key forums for the implementation of NAFTA.

**Walter F. Loeb**, a director of the Canadian Hudson Bay Company. This is the same company that founded Canada, operating along the same lines as the East India Company. Unlike the latter, Hudson Bay still exists as one of the largest companies in Canada, with a large retail store branch that markets Warnaco underwear.

—Dean Andromidas