

schools, modernization of public buildings, and real estate markets.

The situation is similar for Jospin, whose name could emerge in two cases, including one involving kickbacks allegedly given by the Socialist Party to large supermarkets. A close friend of Jospin, a fundraiser for the Socialist Party, is directly targeted by this scandal. Jospin could also be implicated in a scandal involving the student social security organization, the MNEF.

A Ruling for Immunity

In principle, Chirac, as President, is protected from any juridical investigation, according to a finding by the Constitutional Council, which was issued when Roland Dumas (PS) was still its president. The finding of France's highest constitutional court, was that the President of the Republic, while in office, is not liable for alleged crimes or misdemeanors committed before his term in office. No prosecution could begin, until after he has left office. However, the French Supreme Court, which is the body that would decide such cases, has declared that it does not feel bound by this opinion. Although it would be very unusual for these two institutions of the judicial system to be at loggerheads, because they both represent the interests of the French establishment at the highest level, it should not be ruled out entirely, if all hell breaks loose.

Furthermore, the finding of the Constitutional Council has already been questioned by experts, and by the public. In a poll conducted by the Sofres Institute, and published by *Le Monde* on Oct. 5, Chirac seemed to fare well: 49% said that they believe the entire Mery affair was "political manipulation" against Chirac, 34% believe that it was "much ado about nothing," and 16% were indifferent to the entire case. However, 80% said that they thought that the President must testify if summoned by a judge; 72% said that the President should be ready to provide explanations to the French public, and 71% said that they considered the idea of immunity for the President of the Republic "not normal."

On Oct. 8, the stakes were raised. Raymond Forni, the president of the National Assembly, the third-highest state official, called on Chirac to explain himself either before the judges, or before the population. Days later, pandemonium broke out in the National Assembly, when a parliamentarian from the Green Party launched an assault against Chirac's "immunity" as President. He was followed by other parliamentarians, members of the Socialist Party. In response, some RPR deputies demanded explanations from Jospin, regarding reports that his former Finance Minister, Strauss-Kahn, had been in the possession of the famous Mery videotapes. Jospin, joined by Justice Minister Elizabeth Guigou, nipped the debate in the bud, making clear that such a debate would not take place in that form.

Following this eruption, the Presidency and the Prime Ministry came to some agreement for a truce — at least temporarily.

Queen's Britain Goes To Pot

by Mark Burdman

During the week of Oct. 9, Queen Elizabeth II made one of her regular "walkabouts" in Britain, meeting her subjects, and trying to demonstrate that, despite evidence to the contrary, she is a human being. But events took an unusual turn, when she was presented, by one admirer, with a marijuana plant. The next day, the media in Britain highlighted photos of Her Majesty holding the plant in her hand.

Buckingham Palace reacted with great haste, to insist that the Sovereign had been totally surprised when presented with this gift, and had not known it was marijuana. The Palace, of course, is super-sensitive, that such photos might convey the impression that "the Queen pushes drugs," and then, people around the world will start wondering, why a million or so slanders of Lyndon LaRouche have appeared in the international media in the past couple of decades, falsely attributing this quote to LaRouche.

Alas, all the denials from the Palace had a somewhat limited effect. It gave various commentators in the U.K., the opportunity to remind their readers that Elizabeth II's ancestor, Queen Victoria, had regularly used cannabis, in the 19th Century, supposedly for "medicinal reasons."

Beyond this, the walkabout incident came amidst a gigantic campaign in Britain, among the political class and others, to legalize cannabis, as a stepping-stone to wider drug legalization. For many, Her Majesty's holding a marijuana plant aloft seemed to be a deliberate stunt. One Scottish influential told *EIR*: "This was no mere accident. She probably goes into the back rooms, and smokes from time to time."

'Legalize All Narcotics Substances'

During October, Britain has been in a state of frenzy, over legalization of marijuana/cannabis and other drugs. This unhinged state of mind is not entirely surprising, given that the world is in a period of wildly exacerbating global financial and strategic crises. One characteristically British reflex, although one that is by no means shared universally in the country, would be to dive into the worst depths of degeneracy. The more diabolical elements in the Establishment would see such a conjuncture as the present, as the perfect opportunity to launch a global opium war, on the model of what was done to China in the 19th Century, including against the British population itself. Legalizing drugs would also be important, in their view, to provide new sources of funds, to feed the

financial bubble.

This mood is typified by an Oct. 11 commentary by senior London *Times* writer Simon Jenkins, an individual who has known his more clear-headed moments, in having opposed the 1999 Kosovo war and other foreign misadventures of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Since then, Jenkins seems to have had regular bouts of hallucinations, typified by his fanatical promotion of Blair's garish "Millennium Dome" monstrosity in Greenwich.

In his piece, Jenkins proclaimed: "I would formally legalize all narcotics substances," and not just possession and sale, but also supply. He praised as "convincing," the proposal made earlier in the week by a local British police chief, for "the entire market chain to be legalized"; for domestic production and consumption to be made lawful, pub outlets licensed, and distribution decriminalized; and cannabis, once legalized, to be taxed.

Jenkins expanded on the latter point, indicating the desperation in certain London circles, to get their hands on whatever revenues they can find. He reported that there is a growing and "unregulated . . . market in derivatives, of marijuana, coca, and poppy," the which market is very "anarchic." Should cannabis be legalized, this could be "regulated," and revenues generated by taxing the market.

He sophistically argued that "hard drugs are now the greatest menace to world stability, after war and natural disaster," and therefore must be "decriminalized." His other main argument, is that marijuana use in Britain has tripled since the 1970s, under conditions of illegality, and that that figure would drop, should it be legalized.

The fact is, in England and Wales, there are more marijuana smokers per capita than in any other European Union country, and according to the official EU drugs agency, Britain has the largest number of young users of any EU member. There is also a growing use of cocaine, heroin, Ecstasy, and other dangerous drugs. While Jenkins claims that such trends require immediate legalization, experts in the field insist that the enormous scale of use is worsened by widespread ignorance of the medical dangers involved.

Growing drug usage is also a consequence of the economic decay and demoralization brought about by the successive Margaret Thatcher, John Major, and Blair governments. Thatcher, who was Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990, fostered cultural degeneracy and criminality, with her ultra-"free market" radicalism.

Perpetrating Criminal Fraud

Jenkins was followed by other signs of derangement. In the Oct. 14 *Daily Telegraph*, prominent British media figure Sarah Dunant announced that she was performing an act of "civil disobedience" against Britain's drug laws, by announcing to the world, that she is an "occasional" cannabis smoker, and derives "acute pleasure . . . smoking dope with friends." All the more perversely, this 49-year-old Baby Boomer said

that she was doing this, because her 12-year-old daughter, in rage against catching her mother smoking dope, challenged her angrily, to do it publicly, and defy the law, if she felt so strongly about doing it.

The next day's *Sunday Telegraph*, part of the Hollinger Corp. chain, featured an article by 60-year-old former Vatican correspondent Alexander Chancellor, recounting how he was sent by the paper, accompanied by his 73-year-old brother, to Amsterdam, to smoke marijuana at several of that city's legal "cannabis cafés." The article carried a ridiculous photo of the stodgy Chancellor, who claimed he had never tried marijuana before, puffing on a joint. While he tried to be dismissive about the whole episode, his central message was that Holland, with its legalized cannabis, deals with the problem more effectively, and has a much lower rate of cannabis usage among young people, than in Britain, where cannabis is illegal.

The *Sunday Telegraph* also reported assurances from Britain's Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), that, based on a study of six (!) people, it has been "shown" that cannabis has few side effects, and will, in the coming years, be legalized "for medical use." Shortly thereafter, it will be "license[d] for social use."

The RPS claims, supposedly based on another study, that marijuana has proved a wonder drug for those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Yet, the same article reports an RPS admission, that cannabis negatively affects one's balance while walking. Himself suffering from MS, this writer can affirm without equivocation, that the last thing someone with MS needs, or should want, is the intake of any substance that has this effect, since balance difficulty while walking is one of the most common, and distressing symptoms of MS—and worsens, naturally, as the disease, which is almost always degenerative and has no known cure, progresses. And this leaves aside, the potential other destructive effects that cannabis could have for MS sufferers, in exacerbating muscle weakness, distorting brain and nervous system functions, and so on.

Advising cannabis for MS is, at best, to perpetrate fraud, and, more likely, a criminal act. The British and other pharmaceutical conglomerates undoubtedly are encouraging such filth, so that they can cash in, if and when cannabis is legalized. It is germane, that in the United States, the main funder of marijuana legalization campaigns, often on bogus "medical" grounds, is mega-speculator George Soros.

The drug-promoting *Times* and *Telegraph* chains are owned, respectively, by Australian Rupert Murdoch and Canadian Conrad Black, both big players in high-flying financial operations. Black likes to make a big deal about his conversion to Roman Catholicism and his moralistic views, but like his idol Thatcher, is a moral-philosophical degenerate.

Unbalanced Politicians

"Balance problems" is an adequate phrase, to describe the state of mind of a growing number of British politicians.

In the past days, Charles Kennedy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, has publicly called for the “decriminalization” of cannabis, and for the establishment of a “Royal Commission,” to study and reform drugs policy in Britain.

The situation in the main opposition party, the Conservatives, has become completely insane. At their annual party conference earlier this month, a crucial moment came when the “shadow” Home Secretary, Ann Widdecombe, called for the police in Britain to impose a mandatory fine, for someone caught in possession of, and/or smoking marijuana. While her policy is consistent with the current state of British law, and correctly adheres to maintaining the illegality of marijuana, her statement backfired—and only partially because Widdecombe, who physically resembles a cross between a Sherman tank and a pit-bull terrier, tends to make a caricature of law enforcement toughness, whenever she speaks.

In the days following her speech, a herd of Tories rushed to declare that marijuana smoking is fine. No fewer than eight shadow ministers or leading party spokesman publicly announced that they had, in earlier times, used cannabis. Agriculture spokesman Tim Yeo exulted, about how much he had enjoyed (assuming he still doesn’t) cannabis. Conservative leader William Hague made an embarrassing renunciation of Widdecombe’s cannabis policy, making himself and his Thatcher-loving party look more foolish than it already is.

Did Tony Inhale?

As of this writing, two current Cabinet ministers, members of Blair’s “New Labour” government, have also announced that they had used cannabis when they were younger. More can be expected to follow suit, as they pander to the current frenzy.

The government is nominally committed to holding firm on its anti-drug policy. But Blair, ever the political prostitute, has begun to shift ground. Interviewed on British television over the Oct. 14-15 weekend, he softened his views, declaring that “it is up to people to do what they want to do,” and that it would be “wrong” for him to advise parents to tell their children not to use drugs, if the parents don’t agree.

Blair was attacked for this retreat, by both the Metropolitan Police Federation and the Association of Chief Police Officers. Leading British anti-drugs campaigner Paul Betts, whose teenage daughter Leah had died of drug use in a highly publicized case some years back, said of Blair’s statements: “This is really unhelpful, and it worries me.” He said that it would be irresponsible, and wrong, to leave the matter up to “parental or user choice,” stressing that young people were getting into “deep trouble through cannabis,” and noting that, in his speaking tours throughout Britain, he had come across growing numbers of cases of young people “dropping out of college, or suffering psychological side effects” because of cannabis use.

For the moment, Blair is sticking to the story that he never

smoked marijuana, even in his days as a counterculture rock ’n’ roll freak, claiming that he would not, then, disobey his father’s disapproval of dope-smoking. The story is hard to believe, especially given the report in the Oct. 15 *Sunday Times*, accompanied by a photo of the scraggly, long-haired young Blair, that his 1970s rock group, “Ugly Rumors,” was named after words in a song by the Grateful Dead. The Grateful Dead specialized in what is called “acid (i.e., LSD) rock,” and was notorious, as one of the main promoters worldwide, of both “soft” and “hard” drugs.

Should Blair find it to his advantage with “the public,” he will change his story overnight, perhaps adhering to the infamous phrase of a certain American President whom he has befriended, that he “smoked, but didn’t inhale.”

How Thatcher Wrecked ‘The Common Good’

by Mark Burdman

During the week of Oct. 9, former British Prime Minister, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, celebrated her 75th birthday. It is appropriate, on this occasion, to ask, how will she be seen by historians of the future?



There is little doubt that, should civilization survive its current crisis without descending into a New Dark Age, the evaluation of Thatcher will not be that of her admirers and apologists, in Britain, the United States, and elsewhere, today. Rather, it will be that she was some kind of Genghis Khan in skirts, sweeping around the globe on her broomstick, handbag in tow, wreaking havoc on nations and peoples, with her anti-social fanaticism for the unbridled free market, and the imperative of greed and selfishness. Indeed, for civilization to survive, it is urgent that the Barrenness’s ideas be decisively repudiated now.

Happily, Thatcher has received some pre-birthday commemorations, in a couple of hard-hitting insights into the destruction she wrought as British Prime Minister.

The first, elements of which have already been reported in *EIR*, was a program aired in Germany during the first days of October, on both the Arte television network, and then on the second national television channel, ZDF. This was a