

CCHQ RESPONSE TO BROWN RESHUFFLE

1. Peter Mandelson on Gordon Brown and his Government

Mandelson: Brown's record on economy is overblown. Brown's economic record is 'not all it's cracked up to be' (Peter Mandelson, The Sunday Telegraph, 8 January 2006).

Mandelson: Miliband is the future. 'I don't know whether Gordon Brown needs cheering up but I stick to my view that David Miliband should make his contribution. I am not suggesting there should be a leadership race. People should focus on what Miliband is saying and that debate has to take place in the autumn. The Government needs to rediscover... itself as the agent of change' (Peter Mandelson, BBC R4, Today, 30 July 2008).

Mandelson: Brown's Government jumps on bandwagons. 'think the party has got to (pull) itself together and refocus. It must make sure it presents itself, and what it stands for, in a way the public can understand...Jumping on passing bandwagons, hobby horses or marginal issues is not the way, in my view, for any government to present itself if it is going to sustain its support in the country' (Peter Mandelson, The Guardian, 28 April 2008)

Mandelson: Labour leadership should skip a generation. 'I would like to see the new generation of younger Labour MPs deciding for themselves who they want to see leading the Labour Party.' (Peter Mandelson, The Sun, 26 March 2007).

Mandelson to Brown: I can destroy you. According to Tom Bower, Mandelson 'frequently screamed' down his mobile to Brown 'I love you, but I can destroy you' (Peter Mandelson, Gordon Brown: Prime Minister by Tom Bower, Harper Perennial, 2007 p.152).

Mandelson: There should have been a leadership contest (1). 'Michael Howard was crowned leader of the Conservative Party. How did the public react? With an indifferent shrug. David Cameron, in contrast, came from nowhere in a contest, set out his stall, made his pitch and to a degree captured the public's imagination. I think that the next leader of the Labour Party has to do the same' (Peter Mandelson, BBC TV, Sunday AM, 25 March 2007)

Mandelson: There should have been a leadership contest (2). 'Do I think the party would benefit from a contest? Yes I do. Do I think whoever was elected would benefit from having a contest? Certainly. I think the prospect of a coronation is off putting to the public' (Peter Mandelson, Al-Jazeera English service, 23 March 2007)

Mandelson refused to back Brown as PM. [Would you like Gordon Brown as Prime Minister?] 'That depends on the choice doesn't it? I mean you're presented with a choice, a number of individuals and you say who will be best' (Peter Mandelson, Al-Jazeera English service, 23 March 2007).

Mandelson criticises Brown's lurch to the left and return to class warfare. 'If the Labour Party reverts to that sectional, class-based way, then we can say goodbye to power altogether' (Peter Mandelson, New Statesman, 2 October 2008).

Mandelson: Brown should stop war on 'Blairites'. 'There is an attempt to brand all critics of the government as Blairites in order to isolate them and present their cause as one half of a destructive civil war...They are not Blairites or Brownites or bitterites. They are people who want the party to be successful, to win again.' (Peter Mandelson, *New Statesman*, 2 October 2008)

Mandelson: after a year of Brown, Labour needs renewal. 'it is no use just attacking the opposition. We need to be confident in our own message. Labour's renewal has to come from within, not from simply refining our anti-Tory strategy, as some seem to think. That's not the way to a fourth term. When you have been in office this long, your main challenge is to renew yourself. If we cannot do that we will lose.' (Peter Mandelson, *New Statesman*, 2 October 2008)

2. Brown and Mandelson's poisonous relationship

Peston: Brown's 'poisonous' relationship with Mandelson. "The sheer hatred and mistrust of Mandelson that was engendered in Brown was poisonous to him and the Party for years" (Robert Peston, *Brown's Britain*, Short Books, 2005).

Mandelson aide: Brown holds Mandelson in contempt. 'In recent months Gordon Brown sought to re-establish his links with Peter through a series of strategy meetings and many phone calls. It was a reflection on the Prime Minister's perilous position that he sought advice from someone who he pursued a vendetta against for more than a decade following his failure to replace John Smith as leader of the Labour party in 1994. In that time Gordon Brown's acolytes have held no-one in greater contempt than Peter, their reaction to this news, as with most things that they say to the press, is probably unprintable'.

Source: <http://wpbenjamin.livejournal.com/10190.html?mode=reply> 3 October 2008.

Extracts from Alistair Campbell's Diaries:

Blair: Brown-Mandelson hatred threatened to 'bring the whole show down'. "TB (Tony Blair) also spoke to Peter M and said he wanted him to meet GB tonight and sort a few things out. He said if they did not work together he would have to take drastic action, because he was not prepared to let them bring the whole show down".

Campbell: Brown-Mandelson hatred the bane of Blair's life. "I said the real bane of TB's life was GB and Peter's inability to get on".

Campbell: Mandelson and Brown really do hate each other. "Once we had arrived at Bournemouth (conference) we had a session on the speech and agreed to restructure it. We had a very good laugh when we imagined what it would be like to go out and deliver a truth speech - Conference, Gordon and Peter really do hate each other."

3. Labour figures and others on Peter Mandelson

Whelan: Mandelson has a 'destabilising effect on the government'. 'Geoffrey Robinson is only saying what most MPs, what most Labour activists and, in fact, what most of the cabinet believe, and that is that Peter Mandelson has a very destabilising effect on the government, and really they'd be better off without him' (Charlie Whelan, *BBC Radio 5 Live*, 16 October 2000).

Mandelson undermines other Labour figures. “I have witnessed many good people undermined. Their names are a roll call of honour: Mo Mowlam, Michael Meacher, Clare Short, David Clark, Gavin Strang, Gordon Brown, Nick Brown and Robin Cook. All have been on the receiving end of 'sources close to', code for P. Mandelson” (Mark Seddon (Editor of Tribune Magazine for seven years and former member of Labour's NEC) Daily Mail, 18 October 2000).

John McDonnell: ‘Extraordinary step backwards’. “This is an extraordinary step backwards into the worst elements of the Blair era, to reinstate possibly the most divisive figure in Labour's recent history” (PA, 3 October 2008).

Brown ally: Mandelson cannot be trusted. “Douglas [Alexander] will know that Peter cannot be trusted with top-level information” said one Brown ally. “That must make planning pretty tough” (Labour insiders, cited in Sunday Business, 14 November 1999).

4. Brown’s hypocrisy on spin

On 27 June 2007, on the steps of Downing Street, Gordon Brown solemnly promised the British people that he would deliver ‘change to build trust in Government’. ‘This need for change cannot be met by the old politics’ Gordon Brown said. He added: ‘This is my promise to all of the people of Britain and now let the work of change begin’.

Brown’s promises on spin, honesty and a new type of politics

Brown: ‘a different type of politics’. “It is about a different type of politics – a more open and honest dialogue” (Gordon Brown, Labour leadership acceptance speech, 17 May 2007).

Brown: ‘no spin, no briefing, no secrets’. In May last year, Gordon Brown dispatched Harriet Harman to proclaim: “In future, under a Gordon Brown regime, we need to have no spin, no briefing, no secrets, and respect for Parliament” (BBC Newsnight, 29 May 2007).

Brown: ‘tell the truth’. “I think people should tell the truth... generally, my advice is to people to tell the truth” (Gordon Brown, Press Conference, 12 June 2008).

Brown: ‘presentation no substitute for policy’. “I have never believed presentation should be a substitute for policy... For me, my parents were – and their inspiration still is - my moral compass... They taught me the importance of integrity and decency, treating people fairly – and duty to others” (Gordon Brown, Labour leadership launch speech, 11 May 2007).

Brown: we will renew democracy. “I have no doubt that the best answer to disengagement from our democracy is to renew our democracy. And that means more change” (Speech to Labour Conference, Bournemouth, 24 September 2007).

Brown: Labour are the party of change. “we the Labour Party must renew ourselves as the party of change” (Gordon Brown, 24 June 2007).

Brown: we need a new type of Government. “the way we govern must change too. That is why in Manchester this year it is time to adapt and rethink New Labour policy. What we faced in 1997 and what faces us again today is the need to forge a new kind of government” (Gordon Brown, Parliamentary Monitor, 9 September 2008).

5. Brown too weak to move his critics

- **David Miliband:** 'I predict that when I come back on this programme in six months or a year's time, people will be saying, "wouldn't it be great to have that Blair back, because we can't stand that Gordon Brown"' (David Miliband, Question Time, BBC TV, 8 February 2007).
- **Alan Johnson:** 'Gordon Brown is not lights, camera, action' (Alan Johnson, Daily Mail, 26 May 2008).
- **James Purnell:** [commenting on leadership speculation among Labour MPs] 'I mean, I'm worried that we're 20 points behind. I'm not going to condemn people or question their motives' (James Purnell, New Statesman, 18 September 2008).
- **John Hutton:** 'It would be an absolute f***ing disaster if Gordon Brown was Prime Minister and I will do everything in my power to f***ing stop him' (A Cabinet Minister widely reported to be John Hutton, BBC Today programme, 8 September 2006; The Observer, 1 July 2007).
- **Jack Straw:** 'As Shakespeare said, sorrows come not single spies but in battalions and that's, in a sense, what has happened' (Jack Straw, Dispatches, 9 June 2008).