

Britain's Post-Brexit Turmoil

by Conrad Black

It must be the balmy summer weather that makes me wonder if most people except me are losing their minds, and if our leaders, the beneficiaries and personification of the great democratic systems for which previous generations proverbially fought and which most of the people to whom statues have been erected throughout the Western world created or defended, have become the proper subject of what Alexander Pope called a dunciad. I have determined to avoid comment this week on the presidential campaign, after harping on it almost without interruption for months. It is bracing, self-confirming, to do so, like Washington Dimsdale telling Marlene Dietrich in *Destry Rides Again* that "a man has gotta choose between the bottle and the badge."

Without reflecting on the political implications of it, I cite the spectacle of FBI director James Comey testifying before a congressional committee about his decision in the Clinton e-mail case as illustrative of the pandemic of nonsense that is abroad. Under close questioning, he certainly seemed conversant with the facts, and, after acknowledging that many assertions of Mrs. Clinton's about her e-mails were false, still clung, not only to his advice that no indictment was called for, but also that there was no reason to believe an offense had been committed. I haven't examined the evidence beyond what is easily available in the media, and from that I never thought a criminal prosecution was justified, unless the Congress has a claim that Mrs. Clinton lied under oath. But surely there was a misdemeanor, which could have been resolved with a plea and a modest (to the foamingly rich Clintons) fine. That would have been better for everyone, including the Democratic candidate, than this farce, which crested between Bill Clinton's interview with the attorney general on her official airplane and the FBI director's po-faced exculpation

of the indefensible.

To apply this theme to my contention here last week, that Britain has become so politically [*National Review Online*](#).