

1 Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on Stress

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3 *Note: This article was first published in the Sunday Express on 19 December*
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6 Stressed! David Blunkett says he was stressed! The self-regarding,
7 tremulous, “look at me, aren’t I the most decent, honest, honourable man you
8 have ever met?” former Home Secretary says that in the last three weeks, “I
9 have taken more stress probably that any other politician has ever managed
10 to take”.

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12 What a vain and foolish man he is. He has no idea what real stress is. Does
13 he really believe that his little problem with the mistress, the nanny, and the
14 visa compares with what Tony Blair must have endured when sending British
15 troops to Iraq? Does he really think that his little bit of discomfort, brought
16 upon himself, remember, is in the same league as that which Tony Blair must
17 have experienced when ordering the Black Watch to Fallujah to support the
18 Americans, knowing, as he did, that there could be a terrible loss of life that
19 would not only destroy him and his Government but be on his conscience
20 forever?

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22 John Major must have had more sleepless nights during the Gulf War. David
23 Blunkett can boastfully say that he has “taken more stress probably than
24 another other politician has ever managed” when every single one of you can
25 imagine the trauma Margaret Thatcher must have gone through after
26 committing the Task Force on the hazardous journey to retake the Falkland
27 Islands.

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29 Silly man. He doesn’t know he is alive. He doesn’t live in the real world. He
30 hasn’t a clue about what real stress is. The good decent hardworking people
31 who have paid into a company pension scheme all their lives only to see the
32 company go bust and their pension disappear at the very moment they were
33 about to retire know what anxiety, depression and stress is. So does the man
34 just made redundant in his fifties with no hope of a job, so does the single
35 mother, the mother with a terminally – ill child, and the widow facing a
36 penurious future alone. That’s stress. David Blunkett still has a well-paid job,
37 lavish expenses, and an assured pension. He has been forced to resign not
38 because, as he wants to believe, because he loves his son, but because he
39 abused his public position to help his married mistress. He should stop
40 bleating about how hard done by he is, stop telling us what a wonderful man
41 he is. He’s neither. He’s just a bullying and self-obsessed marriage –
42 wrecker.

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