

Funding the Future

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The Guardian [reports this morning](#) that:

More than a dozen people are drawing up legal action against Labour, after they were named in an incendiary leaked report that threatens to plunge the party into financial peril.

Claims covering the Data Protection Act, invasion of privacy and libel are all being considered and could be submitted to the party as soon as this week. The party, individuals and some media commentators are all said to be the subject of legal complaints as a result of the [document's release](#) and remarks made about its contents.

I have not given this leak much attention because I am not, to be candid, terribly interested in Labour's in-fighting.

That it happened is beyond dispute. That there were gross errors of judgment on all sides is I am sure absolutely certain. But is this the issue of the moment which many in Labour seem to think it is? Politely, no it isn't.

But there are several things to say. First, now we know why Labour cannot talk about this: anything it says can only make matters worse.

Second, the infighting will continue as a result because it would seem that this is all that matters to some in Labour (and people wonder why I chose not to join, even at the time when Corbyn was using my ideas?).

Third, the cost of all this could easily sink the Labour Party: people are not going to donate to bail out a party that has collapsed for this reason.

And fourth, this has massive consequences.

With a government that is utterly incompetent in power we are still not seeing effective opposition, because it is internally crushed.

And we are not seeing opposition with any confidence that it can present alternatives because it probably has very good reason to wonder whether it has any real chance of

meeting the costs of the claims that are going to land on it, and so survive this fiasco.

And as a result, we are in an even deeper mess.

Or are we? Is this the moment for political realignment to begin?

This government's hold on credibility is in tatters when the Sunday Times has turned on it over PPE today.

Labour remains a tired force.

And the crisis is only going to get much, much worse, especially if the madness of Brexit is piled on top of everything else.

Labour might be entering its death throes, but so too might the Tories be doing so.

The hope is that democracy survives this.

There is, of course, no guarantee that it will.

But if it does realignment has to be on the cards.