

From Daniel  
Bates in New York

**B**ILLED as a chance for Washington's finest to 'slice and dice' Tony Hayward, it didn't disappoint. BP's chief executive was subjected to a grilling so savage yesterday it was more like ancient Rome than Capitol Hill.

Wave after wave of criticism flew the way of the hapless boss and his company, confirming them both as Public Enemy No 1 in the U.S.

In four hours of savage questioning Mr Hayward was accused – continuously – of neglecting safety, cutting corners to make a quick buck, increasing risks and refusing to give any answers.

He was reminded of his crass comment that he 'wanted his life back' and told that BP 'blew it' when it came to safety in the Gulf of Mexico.

One congressman, Henry Waxman, known as 'the rottweiler', got so angry he refused to continue questioning the increasingly beleaguered 53-year-old.

Another, Michael Burgess, put Mr Hayward down when the latter said BP had 'drilled hundreds of wells around the world'. 'That's what scaring me,' retorted the Texan.

In a dark blue suit and red tie, Mr Hayward sat it out, trying to cut a convincing figure. At just before 10am he entered the room, looking confident and rosy-cheeked.

But over the next few hours the colour drained from his face.

Clearly anxious, he constantly fiddled with a pencil as he sat alone in front of a team of advisers, his body hunched over the microphone.

And the voice, loud enough at first, increasingly faltered until, like a nervous best man, he was asked to speak up.

It was almost too painful to watch.

His answers became shorter, his demeanour that of a man shattered and broken by the past 60 days until it got to the point at which you wondered if he would be able to summon enough strength to pull himself from the chair.

Not even profuse apologies could save him, nor the decision earlier this week to set up a £13.5 billion fund to help those affected by the oil spill.

Mr Hayward was washed up like one of those pelicans pictured covered in oil in the Gulf.

From the start he was put in the spotlight by Mr Waxman, Democrat chairman of the House of Representative's committee on energy and commerce, who told him that 'BP repeatedly took shortcuts that endangered lives and increased the risks of a catastrophic blowout'.

The committee had examined 30,000 pages of documents and found 'not a single email or document that showed you paid even the slightest attention to the dangers of this well,' he said to him.

'BP's corporate complacency is astonishing,' he said, adding that warnings fell on deaf ears and 'BP cut corner after corner to save a million dollars here and a few hours there. And now the whole

Gulf Coast is paying the price'.

When Mr Waxman tried to cross-examine Mr Hayward, he was 'stonewalled' and met with refusals to answer questions.

'You don't want to take responsibility,' said Mr Waxman.

'I'm just amazed at this testimony. Mr Hayward, you're not taking responsibility. You're kicking the can down the road and acting as if you have nothing to do with this company.'

He then turned off his microphone. The tone from the majority of the panel was just as hostile.

Mr Hayward was told that BP

disregarded questionable results from pressure tests after cementing the well and selected the riskier of the two options for its design.

In a streak of anti-British sentiment, Mr Doyle added: 'When you operate in our land and in our waters you are there because of the public's trust which allows you to be there, and you violated that trust.'

Mr Hayward was subjected to almost 90 minutes of near constant criticism before he even got a chance to speak. He tried to make amends with a flurry of apologies.

In a prepared statement he said: 'The explosion and fire aboard the

Deepwater Horizon and the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico never should have happened, and I am deeply sorry that they did.'

'When I learned that 11 men had lost their lives in the explosion and fire on the Deepwater Horizon, I was personally devastated. Three weeks ago, I attended a memorial service for those men, and it was a shattering moment.'

'I want to offer my sincere condolences to their friends and families – I can only imagine their sorrow.'

Mr Hayward said that there was nothing he had seen that suggested that anyone at BP had put

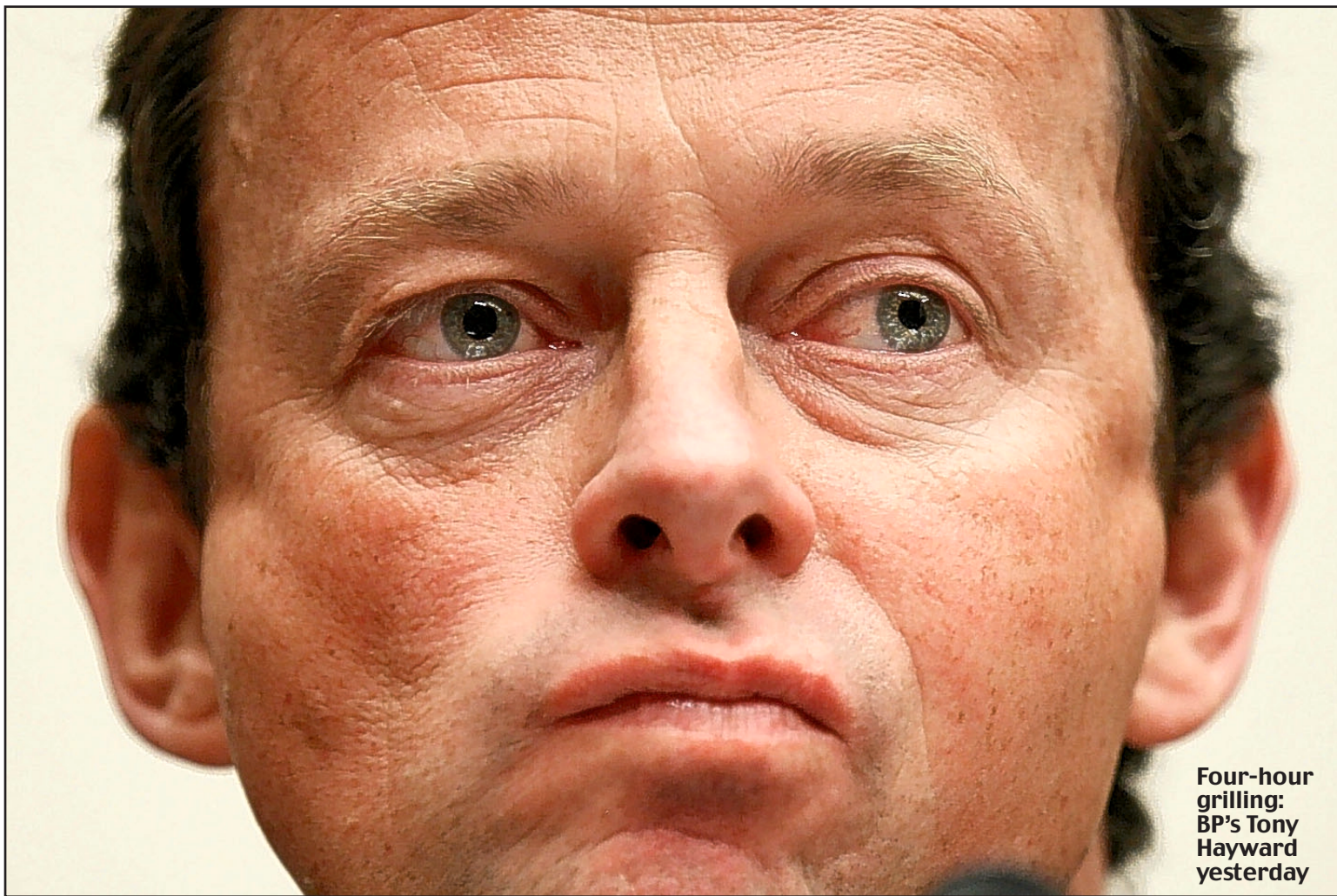
'costs ahead of safety' in the construction of Deepwater Horizon.

'If there is any evidence that people have put costs ahead of safety I will take action,' he vowed.

He said that BP had promised to pay for any compensation and that the company was good for its word.

'Our actions will mean more than words, and we know that, in the end, we will be judged by the quality of our response,' he said.

The only slither of support came from Republican Joe Barton from Texas who apologised for the Obama administration imposing the compensation fund on BP.



Four-hour grilling: BP's Tony Hayward yesterday

# Sliced and diced on Capitol Hill

## Hapless BP boss torn apart by political enemies

### 'Little people' remark riles slick victims

VICTIMS of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill have reacted angrily to being called 'small people' by the chairman of BP.

Even an apology from Swedish-born Carl-Henric Svanberg has failed to dampen the PR disaster.

Protestors now wear T-shirts with the words 'small people' and residents of the worst affected areas have refused to give him leeway over the slip.

Following a meeting with Barack Obama on Wednesday, Mr Svanberg had said: 'And we care about the small people. I hear comments sometimes that large oil companies are greedy companies or don't care. But that is not the case in BP.' A



spokesman for BP said it was a slip in translation.

The oil firm faced further anger yesterday when its boss Tony Hayward gave evidence to Congress.

A heckler, pictured above with her hands smothered in oil, interrupted proceedings to tell him he should go to jail.

### U.S. was right, says Huhne

ENERGY Secretary Chris Huhne said yesterday he was 'entirely sympathetic' to the American government's fury over the BP oil spill.

Britain would have acted exactly the same way had a U.S. firm got things so wrong here, said the Liberal Democrat Cabinet minister.

His remarks will fuel concern that the Government is failing to stand up against anti-BP rhetoric from the White House.

Mr Huhne told a Press Gallery lunch at Westminster: 'I am entirely sympathetic to the U.S. administration in wanting to deal with this urgently and as quickly and as thoroughly as it can be dealt with.'

He also insisted he was confident in BP's future as an independent and profitable company.

SMALL shareholders in BP stand to lose an average of £410 each as a result of the company's decision to suspend its dividend payout, experts warned yesterday.

The move by the oil giant was described as a 'crippling' blow for investors.

Around £525million was due to be handed out to private investors who directly own the shares in the three dividend payments which have been ditched, according to shareholder experts Capita Registrars.

BP has around 300,000 shareholders in the UK – but the damage from its decision spreads far wider.

One senior investment manager said yesterday: 'BP's decision hits pretty much every person in Britain who invests in shares.'

This is because the company is held by the vast majority of investment funds. In total, BP

### 'Crippling' blow for investors

hands out about £1.8 billion in dividends every three months, and is responsible for about £1 in every £7 of dividends paid by FTSE 100 companies.

For someone with £5,000 worth of BP shares, the dividend would have been around £410 over the three quarters which have been ditched.

But many cash-strapped charities are also among the victims. For example, one of the country's leading fund managers M&G has £954million of charities' money invested in its 'Charifund'.

Last night, M&G said 4.4 per cent of the fund, equal to about £42million, is invested in BP.