Churchill Observes 82nd Birthday; Strangely Silent in Hectic Days

London — (U.P.) — Winston Churchill is 82 today.

It seems strange that his eloquent voice is silent in these days of Britain's travail and the rift in the Atlantic Alliance he was so instrumental in shaping.

But the fact is that Churchill has not made a speech in the House of Commons in months. He sent a letter to his constituents Nov. 5 backing Sir Anthony Eden's intervention in Egypt, but he has not defended it against attacks from the Socialists.

Works Constantly

It is not that Sir Winston is not keeping busy. He works constantly and in great rush to complete the massive "History Of The English Speaking Peoples." Today he took a rare day off from those labors to observe the birthday with his buoyant wife and his children and grandchildren.

Two explanations are advanced why Churchill has so kept aloof from the Egyptian controversy. One is the familiar theme that he does not wish to overshadow Eden with his great prestige and record. He has taken care not to do so in the 20 months since he stepped down as prime minister.

As second is that he is now a "backbencher" and does not like to speak standing in the rear rows. When he was prime minister, he always leaned heavily in his later years on the old dispatch box which forms the government rostrum there.

No Support

But only ministers have the privilege of using it. "Backbench" members must rise in their seats, and in the back benches there is no support for an elderly man.

But as Rep. James Roosevelt — son of FDR — said after visiting him last week: "Sir Winston is very chirpy, very alert. He is in excellent spirits."

But he has been plagued with colds. He has been to the Riviera five times since his last birthday to escape the unpleasant English winter fogs and the wet summer. There were rumors that he had suffered a minor stroke in recent weeks but his associates maintain that the only illness was a persistent cold.

Churchill celebrated his birthday at Chartwell, his picturesque country estate 40 miles south of London. There were hundreds of greetings to read, a birthday dinner and the evening around the fire on Chartwell manor's great hall.

Many wonder whether Churchill will retire from his seat in Parliament on or before the next general election, scheduled for 1959, but possibly to come much sooner. Most doubt it, for Sir Winston has said he wants to remain "in harness" for the rest of his days.

Just a Commoner

He could have a dukedom for the asking. But there, too, Churchill has always said his great love is the House of Commons and he would have to leave it should he become a peer.

Churchill works much as he always did. He begins with breakfast in bed and stays there to read the papers and his mail, then dictate letters. Then he goes downstairs for lunch and work in his study. He naps in the afternoon and then resumes work, often staying up quite late.

On Monday the second volume of his history appeared. Reviewers were enthusiastic but were surprised that he was less scathing than expected in his treatment of the villains in the period from Henry VII to James II. Even Cromwell got off fairly easily.

Said the London Daily Telegraph—

"It must be that half a century in the House of Commons has exhausted Sir Winston's appetite for invective. He has hurled so many blasting and blistering insults against his opponents . . . where they were in a position to answer back that he is disinclined to shoot at the corpses of the defenseless dead."

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
Two Explanations Advanced

MAZUR SUSPENDED

Montreal — (U.P.) —Eddie Mazur, former Montreal Canadiens left wing, has been suspended indefinitely for failing to report to Rochester of the American Hockey League. Mazur wanted to be shipped to the Winnipeg farm and when asked to go to Rochester instead, he balked.

Medical Patients May Need Assistance After Illness

The question of how to help patients after medical problems are cured was suggested for consideration recently by a physician working with the Mental Health committee's subcommittee studying family problems.

The doctor cited as an example a 50-year-old man who injured his back in a fall. When attending physicians felt he was ready to return to work, the man kept complaining of back pains, yet spent weekends hunting without back strain.

He did not find work that winter, and his wife complained of his constant presence especially because he did not help around the home and was critical and suspicious of her coffee breaks with a neighbor.

In the spring, when he took a job, he chose a heavy-lifting job rather than one suitable to his physical abilities. He was again soon off work because of back pains, which doctors believed he was using for a way out of working.

Ambitious Man

Those who knew the man were puzzled because he had been an ambitious hard-working man.

Behind the problem was an open conflict with his wife over control of the home. Since the two children were grown and away from home, he did not feel he had to support his wife. His wife wanted help in working out a solution, and he appeared to be unhappy in his new behavior.

Since a crowded doctor's office does not provide the relaxed situation for discussing family problems, a trained counselor to understand the undercurrent feelings in the couples' personalities was needed. The particular problem did not fall within any of the existing agencies' services.

A community family service agency could have been a resource to which the family could have looked for relief of the problem.

Progress Reported In Telephone Talks

New York—(U.P.)—Negotiators reported "some progress" today in bargaining talks between telephone workers and the American Telephone and Telegraph.

Contract talks were to resume at 1 p.m. EST. The negotiators were "optimistic" that they could reach an agreement without a strike by 25,000 members of the Communications Workers of America AFL-CIO in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

The second marathon bargaining session since the contract expired at midnight Tuesday broke up at 11 o'clock Thursday night.

A company spokesman said there has been "no threat at any time" by the union to call a strike despite authorization by its members for a walkout if progress in the contract talks was not satisfactory.

Musicians Complain Of Cabaret Taxes

Washington—(U.P.)—The American Federation of Musicians complained to Congress today that "the average wage-earner no longer can afford" to go nightclubbing because of the 20 per cent cabaret tax added to his bill.

It denounced the tax as a "Frankenstein monster" and and blamed it for shutting down hundreds of nightclubs and restaurants and forcing tens of thousands of persons out of work.

The union's plea for repeal of the tax was voiced by bandleader Meyer Davis in testimony prepared for a House Ways and Means Subcommittee considering changes in excise taxes.

The subcommittee earlier this year tentatively agreed behind closed doors to recommend that the tax be scaled down to 10 per cent. But it later backtracked and decided to recommend further study of the issue.

Patterson Guest of Traffic Association

R. A. Patterson, Portland, manager of the Oregon-Washington-California Pear bureau, was guest of the Rogue River Valley Traffic association this week.

Patterson discussed the industry sponsored market promotion done on behalf of the three-state pear producing area. He said the overall promotion is sparked by a three point program of pear ripening education among handlers, developing of trade enthusiasm and stimulating consumer information.

He noted the pear bureau is unique in the fruit and produce trade in that the program is supported entirely by the industry and directed by volunteer industry committees which work in conjunction with trained marketing and merchandising personnel.

Caldwell, Ida.—(U.P.)—An Ontario, Ore., woman, Mrs. George Foster, was killed here Wednesday when the car she was driving collided with a gravel truck.

McKay, Idle for First Time in 50 Years, Eyes Leisurely Trip

Salem — (U.P.) — Douglas McKay, defeated this month in his bid for the United States senate, returns in December to Washington. But he will be there only long enough to close up his Washington apartment, after which he will return to Oregon.

McKay has set up a temporary office on the fourth floor of the Oregon building here where he and his secretary, Peg Phillips, are cleaning up post-election details.

No Business, No Job

"I have no business and no job," McKay said. "It's the first time in 50 years I haven't been working."

However, the man who only lost one election said he wasn't too worried about the future. Although he turned over his Salem auto business to his sons-in-law several years ago, he still owns the building.

McKay said his future plans include a leisurely two-month trip through the South and he might even get down to Pasadena to watch his alma mater, Oregon State, play in the Rose Bowl.

Recalling the hot rivalry of his campaign with Sen. Wayne Morse, McKay said he had the best Republican organization he'd ever seen in the state of Oregon. "But it wasn't good enough," he added.

Labor Beat Him

McKay figured that the powerful political organization of state labor was what finally defeated him.

The job of governor, which McKay held twice, is still his favorite and he expects the Democrats will have some problems with it.

"In that job, you're the boss," he recalled.

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