

Disagreement in Party Keeps Harold Macmillan Prime Minister

By PETER KNOX
United Press International
London - (UPI) - One big reason why Harold Macmillan remains Prime Minister is that his Conservative party followers can agree in no one to replace him in what may be an election year.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard A. Butler has been a candidate for the top job since before Macmillan moved into 10 Downing street seven years ago. Science Minister Lord Hailsham is a popular favorite. Chancellor of the Exchequer Reginald Maudling is waiting in the wings.

But none has the grip over Tory rank and file or the okay of the party's elder statesman to bounce 69-year-old Macmillan. However, virtually all British politicians believe one of them sooner or later will make it—despite Macmillan's recently stated hope of leading the party into the general election he must call before October, 1964.

The recent Profumo scandal did more than reveal some moral untidiness in high places.

It showed the lack of a logical successor to Macmillan. When some backbench conservative members of parliament demanded Macmillan quit in favor of a younger man, they won much attention until they found their colleagues could agree on no replacement. But the candidates or their backers are busy in the backrooms now.

Maudling, at 46 the youngest of the major contenders, is currently a betting favorite. A tall easy-going father of four, he has made few enemies in the party—as has Butler whose postwar drive to liberalize party policies succeeded at the cost of earning him some powerful foes.

Maudling proved himself an able administrator as President of the Board of Trade (akin to the U. S.



POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS — Possible successors to British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan are shown here. They are, left to right, Deputy Premier R. A. Butler, 60; Chancellor of the Exchequer Reginald Maudling, 46; and Viscount Hailsham, 55. (UPI)

Commerce department), Minister of Colonies and Supply Minister. As Chancellor of the Exchequer, guardian of the nation's economy, he hopes to capitalize on an expected summer spurt of prosperity. There are some buts, however.

Some MP's say Maudling is too easy going. "Dawdling Maudling" is their byword. Others say he lacks the oratorical punch that means so much in parliament.

His comparative youth is a help and a hindrance. Some say he fits neatly into the younger "Kennedy era." But others say his getting the leadership now would be a shot at the top for two decades or more. This of course helps Butler, who is 60.

Butler has been in the core of party leadership since the late 1930's. A quiet man in public, he nevertheless has the reputation of a crack-jack administrator. And, although his oratory rarely raises an emotional response in his audience, his church dean and old uncle manner find a ready response in

the conservative party. His progressive policies find youthful backing. But possibly, they already have cost him the Downing street address.

When then Sir Anthony Eden quit as Prime Minister in December, 1956, the nation went to bed thinking Butler would be his successor.

But Queen Elizabeth, whose choice is virtually dictated by the will of conservative party elders in such matters, called on Macmillan. Few doubted Butler's liberalism—which Macmillan embraced to the horror of some elders—cost him the job. It may do so again.

The third man in the major running is Lord Hailsham. His often angry oratory, his bluntness and his successful trouble-shooting have won him widespread support at grass roots level. But he counts for less where it really counts—among the party's M. P.'s, some of them regard him as too fiery. There is also the matter of 55-year-old Hailsham being a Lord.

There has not been a noble Prime Minister since before

the first World War. However, a new law—allowing Lords to renounce their titles and run for seats in the House of Commons—is expected to be written into law soon, and Hailsham is waiting.

The dark horses include: —Ian MacLeod, 49, leader of the House of Commons and party chairman. Tipped as the next Prime Minister only two years ago, his chances have slumped in line with the party's standing in public opinion polls and parliamentary by-elections. A master bridge player, the little Scotsman is still regarded as a man with a future.

—Lord Privy Seal Edward Heath, the same age as Maudling but often regarded as a fallen star. He held the spotlight while leading Britain's bid for Common Market membership. The failure of that bid became his failure too. Also Heath is a bachelor—and this is considered a handicap in the time of the Profumo scandal.

—Health Minister Enoch Powell, a 50-year-old intellectual and man of troublesome principle. Although ad-

Nixon in Hungary; Visits U. S. Legation

Budapest, Hungary - (UPI) - Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon visited the American legation and toured Budapest's open air markets Wednesday.

U. S. officials at the legation said Nixon did not visit Cardinal Mindszenty, who lives in political asylum in the embassy. The United States has tried to avoid aggravating relations with Hungary over the Cardinal's presence.

"A meeting between Cardinal Mindszenty and Nixon is out of the question," Charge d'Affaires Turner Shelton said.

Hundreds of Hungarians followed the former vice president on a walk through city streets, many of them stepping in to shake his hand.

mired for such bursts of honesty as quitting Macmillan's cabinet for a time to protest spending policies, he, like other intellectuals, finds little strong support in the conservative party.

Although Maudling and Butler appeared to be leading Hailsham by some and the dark horses by far, betting has not been heavy. For the conservatives have their own way of picking a leader and it is not done by counting heads.

The age-old system of the elders being the kings-makers still goes. The backbench M. P. is sounded out, but only for the benefit of the Old Boys in the backroom. The backroom usually is the lounge of one of London's more exclusive private men's clubs. The outgoing leader's cabinet is polled.

No one but himself seems to know who Macmillan favors, if he even considers the matter. The only certainty seems to be there is no certain successor.



ASTRONAUTS BRIEFED—Three possible Gemini astronauts arrived in Sacramento, Calif., to receive a briefing on the rocket boosters from Aerojet General officials. Alvin L. Feldman, left, manager of Titan and Gemini programs for Aerojet, is shown hosting the astronauts with coffee. They are, from left, Maj. Frank Borman, Maj. Virgil (Gus) Grissom, and Maj. Gordon Cooper. (UPI)

Accreditation Is Sought for Homes

Chicago - The American Medical association and the American Nursing Home association have announced a jointly-sponsored national accreditation program for nursing homes.

The announcement was made in a joint statement by Dr. George M. Fister, president of AMA, and William Beaumont, president of ANHA.

The statement said that both associations recognize that standards of care in many nursing homes can be improved. It also stated that nursing homes as medical care facilities are becoming more important with the rapid increase in the number of older people and the wider use of these homes for post-hospital convalescent care and for the care of the long-term chronically ill.

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