

Nehru Nearing Time When He Must Answer Question of Successor

By S. G. ROY
United Press International
NEW DELHI (UPI) — India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is at last facing up to the crucial question: after him who?

The question has been raised many times before — by newsmen, by opposition political leaders, even by members of his own Congress party and Nehru has always avoided a direct answer. In a democracy a man does not nominate his own successor, he says.

Yet as he approaches his 74th birthday, Nehru knows that he now must answer the question in some form so if he should suddenly be disabled, India would not be thrown into panic because of a political vacuum.

Nehru is the unquestioned leader of India today, just as he has been ever since this nation achieved independence from the British in 1947 after years of struggle and turmoil. He has such popularity that even after the Communist Chinese invaded Indian territory last year and



POLITICAL LEADERS—Shown above are four Indian political leaders, anyone of whom could be a successor to Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. They are (left to right): Agriculture Minister Sadashir Kamoj Patil, Finance Minister Morarji Desai, Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Communications Minister Jagjivan Ram. (UPI)

made a shambles of Nehru's neutralist policy, there was no public outcry for his resignation. Right or wrong, there was no political successor ready to step in.

Nehru has now given an inkling of his thinking on this very

important matter. To be found in his "quiet order" served Aug. 24. On that date, he ordered six of his cabinet ministers to resign in order to take on political assignments for the ruling Congress party in their home districts.

Of the six to go, two are juniors and have little standing in the party. But the four others are tried, able and efficient administrators, and each one has a substantial band of followers. Had they remained in the cabinet, in an emergency each one would have been a contestant for the leadership of the party—and of India itself.

These four "possibles" reckoned to succeed Nehru are: Finance Minister Morarji Desai, Communications Minister Jagjivan Ram, Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Food and Agriculture Minister Sadasiv K. Patil. Their ranking in the cabinet followed this order.

Ordered to Siderness
Of the four ordered to the "siders," only two have fair prospects of staging a comeback to the cabinet—Lal Bahadur Shastri and Sadasiv Patil.

A year ago, Morarji Desai was considered the most probable successor to Nehru. A stern man in many ways, he has lately angered many of his Congress party colleagues because he has been found to be completely blind to public opinion.

He is branded as a "right reactionary" by the so-called Nehruites of the Congress party. The conservatives, once his supporters, are having second thoughts over his administrative ability. The moderates would not support him because he is too unaccommodating. There is doubt, too, if Nehru likes him at all.

Third Man Considered
The third man in the present hierarchy, Jagjivan Ram, belongs to the scheduled castes. This, of course, is no bar to his becoming the prime minister. Of all the ministers, he has been the single constant factor in the Nehru cabinet which has seen quite a few changes during the 16 years it has been in power.

But because of certain administrative lapses, which are talked about but not written in

course between the rightists and the leftists in the Congress party—and ultimately it is they who will matter in the choice of Nehru's successor — will not come out for Patil because he is not acceptable to all the party factions.

Compromise Personality
It is here on the question of who will be the compromise personality that Lal Bahadur is likely to outstrip others who may be in the running for the country's leadership after Nehru is gone.

The 59-year-old, short statured, unassuming Lal Bahadur has a knack of pleasing almost everyone.

From Allahabad, Nehru's home town, he has steadily built up a position for himself in the party. For all practical purposes he is next to Nehru now, even though he may rank fourth in the cabinet in the order of seniority. Today, he is Nehru's first adviser.

Not only is he liked by all the factions of the ruling party, he also is respected by all sections of the opposition including the communists. He is considered neither too much of a socialist, nor too much of an advocate of free enterprise. He is the man who admirably fits in with the mixed economy pattern of India, and also with this country's policy on alignment in the east-west political struggle.

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In Moribund Condition
According to present plans, Nehru will ask Lal Bahadur to head the organizational wing of the ruling party after he is relieved of his ministerial responsibility. As the president of the Congress it will be his job to revitalize the national organization which at the moment is in a moribund condition.

Lal Bahadur looks like a man with a soft heart. But he can be strong, even stern, when the occasion demands it. Although he

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Mental Retardation To Be Spotlights At National Event

By NEIL A. MARTIN
United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Mental retardation, a condition that affects more than 5 million Americans, will be spotlighted nationally Sept. 19 when more than 200 state and federal officials gather at Warrenton, Va., 40 miles west of here.

Representatives from each state will meet with key government officials to discuss plans and programs to alleviate and prevent the problem.

The two-day conference has the strong endorsement of President Kennedy. The President and his family have been active in focusing public attention on retardation. Their interest also is personal. One of Kennedy's sisters, Rosemary, is retarded and is being cared for at a private school in Wisconsin.

Donated About \$1 Million
Since establishment of the Kennedy Foundation in 1946, the family has donated an estimated \$1 million annually to foster research in retardation, which the chief executive has called a major national health, social and economic issue. Members of Congress also have taken a deep interest in it and three bills are currently awaiting action.

The retarded include both adults and children who are abnormally slow in thought and action. Officials say the problem is vitally significant because it strikes twice as many individuals as blindness, polio, cerebral palsy and rheumatic heart disease combined.

In a message to Congress last February, Kennedy called for "a bold new approach."
"The American people," he said, "have an obligation to prevent mental retardation whenever possible and to ameliorate it when present."

A Personal Victory
The Warrenton conference represents a personal victory for the administration, which has encouraged more comprehensive state planning and closer coordination with federal agencies.

Kennedy sent personal telegrams to all governors asking them to send delegates. Dr. Stafford L. Warren, special presidential assistant, said the response was "extremely enthusiastic."

"Never before in my experience with national conferences has such a unanimous national reaction taken place," he told UPI. "The meeting will produce fruitful results for five and one-half million people."

The two days of the meeting will be broken up into morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

with speeches and reports by medical and governmental officials. These will include Warren, Anthony J. Celebrezze, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps and president of the Kennedy Foundation.

The delegates will learn what grants are available to the states under existing federal research programs. Pending legislation also will be explained.

On Aug. 27, the House passed a bill which would set up \$30 million in grants annually to combat retardation through prenatal and infant care. It also would earmark \$2.2 million to help the states plan action. Another bill to provide research and care facilities is awaiting House rules committee action.

Only Few Programs
Prior to this year, officials said the states had only a few programs that provided funds for research and care facilities. Warren said the bills point up an "awareness that meeting the medical, social, educational and vocational needs of the mentally retarded calls for a continuous, unremitting and long-term effort."

The measures are based largely on recommendations by the President's panel on retardation which last year appraised existing state, federal and private programs.

The panel estimated the cost of caring for those afflicted at about \$550 million a year, plus loss to the nation of several billion dollars in economic output.

Medford Man Held As Burglary Suspect

An 18-year-old Medford man, being held in Jackson county jail in connection with the burglary of the Brave Bull restaurant, 1206 North Riverside ave., on June 10, has admitted to two other burglaries during June, according to Medford city police.

Officers said Aaron Cornelius Huisman has admitted he broke into a doctor's office at 20 South Central ave., and the Central Rexall Drugstore, 134 East Main st., June 7.

About \$265 was reported missing from the drugstore and some \$57 was missing from the doctor's office after the burglaries, officers said.

Huisman has reportedly confessed to two burglaries in Ashland and one in Grants Pass also during June. He is being held here on a charge of burglary not in a dwelling.

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