

Gerontocracy Rules Europe, Despite Youthful Ideas, Outlook

By TOM A. CULLEN
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
LONDON (NEA)—While never before younger in its outlook and ideas, Europe today is ruled by men who have one foot in the grave.

This is the great paradox of politics on this side of the Atlantic and it is a major factor in the mounting troubles over membership of the Common Market and the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Gerontocracy, it is called in some circles, the "rule of ancient men." In order of their seniority they are:

Germany's Chancellor Konrad

Adenauer, 87; Portugal's Premier Antonio Salazar, 73; France's President Charles de Gaulle, 72; Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco, 71, and Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, 69.

All are past the age when they might be expected to lay down the burdens of office. Their durability is perhaps explained when one considers their possible successors. The gerontocrats appear like giants alongside the pygmies who may replace them.

"Nothing grows in the shade of a tall tree," is a French proverb whose validity is proven by a comparison between De Gaulle and the two premiers who have served him. Michel Debre and George Pompidou.

In 1963, De Gaulle casts a longer shadow over Europe than ever before. Domestically, he has dealt his enemies, the old-line politicians, a mortal blow by securing the first absolute parliamentary majority in the history of the French Republic.

Internationally, he is successfully blocking Britain from becoming a member of the European Economic Community, which younger Europeans regard as the forerunner of a European political community. De Gaulle has turned France away from her ally in two world wars, Britain, to close ties with her enemy in those conflicts, Germany.

Ironically, the seed for trouble in this Franco-German rapprochement is the German feeling that Britain must be permitted to join EEC. That feeling is strong among the Bonn politicians who are likely to succeed Adenauer.

Economics minister Ludwig Erhard is the front runner. Der Alte, "the old one," has announced he will retire in 1963, but he is the wildest politician of them all, capable of many last minute surprises. Europe will believe that he has really gone when his successor is sworn into office.

In Britain, Macmillan is fighting for his political life. His fate and that of the Conservative Party which he has led for six years hang upon the successful outcome of the Common Market negotiations.

All public opinion polls show that if a general election were held tomorrow the British Labor Party would romp home and Macmillan would be replaced by Hugh Gaitskell, although the latter's illness may harm his party's chances.

As for the Iberian dictators, Salazar and Franco, neither has designated his successor. Franco has flirted furiously with the monarchists, leading many to believe that he favors Prince Carlos, the grandson of Spain's last Bourbon king. But when Franco goes the political chaos may be so great as to sweep all—Falangists, monarchists, Catholic traditionalists—with it.

In 1962 representative democracy took a bad beating in Europe, in the eyes of many observers. It remains to be seen whether this trend continues.

Can France, for example, evolve a two-party system similar to the ones which work successfully in the United States and Britain? A return to the multi-party system is out of the question, but by wiping out the old parties of

the extreme right and many of those near the center, De Gaulle also created the classic conditions for the formation of a "popular front" between Socialists and Communists to oppose the Gaulists.

In Germany the arrest of the publisher and four top executives of the news magazine "Der Spiegel" was widely regarded as a black eye for democracy. It caused some observers to draw comparisons with Hitler's regime. In Italy, Amintore Fanfani's Christian Democrats have been

living cheek by jowl in uneasy coalition with the left-wing Socialists. This strange deal has now come apart at the seams. Forthcoming elections may clarify the political situation. Meanwhile, the Italian Communist Party is the largest this side of the Iron Curtain.

Only in Britain does representative democracy appear firmly in command. But here, the democratic process may well lead to a victory in the next election for the Labor Party. And the Laborites have taken a party stand

against entry into EEC. This may give the electorate a clear party division on the question, but most realistic observers feel Britain really has no choice as to entry.

Either this nation of 53 million people is allowed to play a new power role inside a united Europe, or she will stagnate in economic backwaters outside Europe. In the latter case, her voice in international affairs might carry no more weight than that of Switzerland or Sweden.

For the rest of Europe the de-

cision is just as important. Rejection of Britain would mark the emergence of a closed, restrictive Europe with an anti-British, protectionist outlook.

What of Western Europe's ability to defend herself? Here again the 1963 picture is one of disarray.

Neither France nor Britain has fulfilled its NATO commitments. The British Army of the Rhine is under-strength. De Gaulle has refused to return to NATO the two divisions that he withdrew for use in the Algerian war. He will not allow the U.S. to store nuclear weapons on French soil.

More ominous still, there is no agreement between the United States and its European allies as to relevant political policies and military strategy for the defense of Europe.

European leaders appear to have drawn the wrong lessons from the Cuban crisis. Above all, they have failed to realize that weapons cannot be shared. A British defense expert explained it thus to me:

"There are now only two nuclear heavyweights in the ring, the United States and Soviet Russia. But the politicians act as though it were one of those phony three-a-side fights that you see on television."

here in Britain. America was immediately accused of selling her Atlantic partner down the river.

De Gaulle is going ahead with his plans to give France an independent nuclear deterrent, although the cost will be astronomical.

This year marks the decisive stage in De Gaulle's program to revolutionize France's defenses. At some time during the next 12 months, the French Air Force will begin to take delivery of the 50 Mirage IV supersonic bombers, each equipped with two to four bombs. The bombs may be of relatively low yield, but the yield is sufficient to boost French egos.

With America's European allies pulling each in a different direction, President Kennedy's decision to exert strong leadership even at the cost of America being less well loved is welcomed in responsible quarters here.

Answering charges of "arrogance" that have been leveled against President Kennedy, The Times of London pictures him as a leader who is "looking ahead to a genuine partnership with a unified Europe sharing burdens and responsibilities."

"It looks, and is, an unequal partnership at present because the distribution of power is unequal," the Times editorial continues. "The United States is only just beginning to shed its role as sole banker and defender of the western world."



BRITAIN'S MACMILLAN



SPAIN'S FRANCO



PORTUGAL'S SALAZAR



OLD HEADS — Two of the European oldsters that lead their nations through the maze of modern politics and intrigue are Konrad Adenauer, right, of Germany and Charles de Gaulle of France.

Vote Change

SALEM (UPI)—A hearing on a bill to change Oregon's primary election date from May to September has been set for next Monday by the House Elections Committee.

I DREAMT I WAS SELECTED FOR SNOW'S

SNOW'S MINCED CLAMS

(Only the best make it!)

Now In Progress! Store-Wide

CLEARANCE SALE

★ Dresses ★ Sweaters
★ Skirts ★ Lingerie

1/3 to 1/2 OFF

The Town Shop

5th and Main

STOCK UP ON THESE THRIFTY Specials

SAVE AT EASTSIDE PHARMACY

Revlon Aquamarine MOISTURE LOTION

For Hand and Body, Reg. 2.50 Size \$1.60

BROXODENT

AUTOMATIC-ACTION TOOTHBRUSH BY SQUIBB

helps save your teeth and your children's teeth with up-and-down action that many dentists suggest

\$19.75 FTM

DESERT FLOWER

HAND AND BODY LOTION

With Desert Dri Cream Deodorant

Reg. 2.00 Value \$1.00

HAND CREAM

Ayer

Reg. 2.50 Size NOW ONLY \$1.00

Deodorant in a Compact

NEW DRI DAY \$1.10

Apply Dry and Stay Dry

TIMEX WATCHES

Ladies Styles 6.95 - 9.95 10.95 - 15.95

Men's Styles 6.95-8.95 9.95 11.95

Revlon MOISTURIZING CLEANSER

With Moisture Balm

Reg. 4.50 Value Now Only \$3.00

TUSSY CLEANSING CREAM

With Stimulating Lotion

Reg. 3.00 Value Now Only \$2.00

ISODERM Medicated Astringent

Reg. 1.50 Size with Reg. 1.50 Eyeliner Pencil - Both for \$1.89

Many Other Winter Specials Throughout The Store!

TRAINED TO FOLLOW DOCTOR'S ORDERS...

You put your health in good hands when our registered pharmacist fills your prescription.

We carry a complete stock of fresh, pure drugs.

"YOUR PRESCRIPTION HEADQUARTERS"

East Side PHARMACY

808 East Main Always Plenty of Free Parking Ph. TU 4-6776

Wonderful... LIVING ON THE Riviera

CONVERTIBLE SOFA. THAT IS!

Reg. List Price \$199.50 LESS \$50.00 \$149.50

Nylon Fabric

BEDLINE

Reg. 1.50 Size with Reg. 1.50 Eyeliner Pencil - Both for \$1.89

Many Other Styles To Choose From... Early American, Modern, Traditional and Contemporary.

All Styles Reduced \$50.00 EASY TERMS ●●● FREE DELIVERY

CARLSON'S FINE FURNITURE

2405 South 6th ● Mattresses ● Draperies ● Upholstery Ph. TU 4-4510