

**Papers of Hugh Dalton:**  
**Original Manuscript Diary**

**Volume 39:**  
**January - April 1951**  
**(Folder of Loose Manuscripts)**

**Reduction Ratio:**

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DIARY.

4/1/51.

my secretary & hire motor car on Sunday. <sup>①</sup> Called him & got letter.

H.G. came to my flat for a drink before dinner. He said he wasn't feeling too overworked; he was waiting for the "acceleration programme" (arms) and couldn't decide what to do. He had got D.J. & J.E. to take over a lot of work and relieve him of many minor decisions. D.J. had been unhappy with staff, now had never let him decide anything. J.E. was already complaining of overwork - like him & had sign.

I had written to him from W.L. on a number of points, - family allowance for first child, but in all cases, but only when there's more than one. This would help large families, you need it most. Don't give all to the old. He didn't think it looked right for anything of it.

Bank of England. I had suggested to the bank John Britton, Tom Williams & Norman Williams. But as I had found, this was too late. He had fixed it already. He said he despised the Bank & thought the Treasury did too. Collier was playing ball, but wasn't clever & often gave wrong advice. Keynes was clever, but still D.3. offhand. I said Collier had often from me had advice. H.G., with a smile, said he knew that.

DIARY.

(2)

4/1/51 (2)

R.P.M. I said H.W. was very weak & disappointing  
on all this. I hoped H.G. would back up a bold line  
in Cab. He promised. He said H.W. was weak,  
ambitious & overworked. But T was an even  
heavier Dept than when he & I were there in  
the War. I said "if he's ambitious, why doesn't  
he try to hit a headline against Communism?" I said  
I was encouraging J.E. to be obstinate on Retail  
Rings.

Redistribution of functions. I read H.G.'s exchange  
of letters & talk with C.K.T. He said he was glad I had  
said I would take Housing. He was sure this was his  
right division. He supposed I would press him for  
more houses. I said no, I'd be content with  
200,000 plus any more he can build for the same  
money - if he <sup>can</sup> speed up & cut cost. I spoke of  
redistribution of house room & mentioned Pajet's  
proposal. He was interested, but of course, saw  
difficulties - as I do, but I still think it very important.  
He said he had suggested to C.K.T. that Stokes  
should take Supply. Stokes wasn't up to it in this

DIARY.

4/1/51 (31)

(3)

phase. CRA had seemed to like the idea. I said I liked the idea. He said officials were very weak & sufficient. Newlands was very good. Beazer & Hutchinson were both hopeless.

H.G. then asked whether I could tolerate having Strauss at work. He knew I didn't much like him. I said "I hate the fellow", & then I would say of very few. A bit surprised at my vehemence, he asked why. I said he was a complete political fraud, a rich Tory pretending to be a left wing socialist. He'd never wanted to nationalise iron & steel, & kept on trying to run away. He had had more than once to haul him back by the scruff of the neck, e.g. when he wanted to postpone voting date by six months, he came he had to introduce legislation under the Schuman Plan. No one in Cab had backed him on that, not even H.M. or Addison & Peritt. He had been a most reactionary Committee Chairman on the C.C.C. And in the room, when H.G. & I were waiting for hands at M.E.A.

DIARY

(4)

4/1/51 (4)

Stearns & his wife were dodging him in the U.S. and at this time she wrote a book about British labor practices in which she spoke of the "deplorable & mean insincerity" in my eyes. H.G. agreed that this last was pretty bad!

I said I was not present because of the matter of Saffley, & when Stearns something in the order was - Payment made for costume. He said he didn't think J.F. had quite enough drive

I had been pressing J.F. on C.A.T., H.G. & H.G. for the Health Ministry.

on the best of our present position, now deserving promotion.

But, I said, on a combination of ability & personality,

& I cited his admirable Parliamentary performance on Jet Fighter & new Tanks to Egypt. H.G.

before had said that he would write like ~~him~~ to see J.F. at Saffley. Then the argument was that,

with Isaac going out, it showed the Trade Ministry

Junior Minister to be promoted, to keep the balance.

As this led to Rubens, was C.A.T. had highly praised to me, - at respective point in J.F. - now I had



4/11/51 (5)

Missing.

DIARY

(6)

4/11/51 61

So J.F. & I can see how he has a ~~great~~ great past since his first wonderful summer day is the 1945-1946! I am very pleased about this. But his a bloody past is his own interest. I want can be see in T.D. to justify to make public change?

H.F. & I agreed that Peart was one of the best of his time - Minister and should be considered for promotion. But C.H. had rather laughed at this & I spoke of his failure - Poor Fred! But it's very natural.

But the first step is to make Mye & Laban. H.F. has been messing C.H. to do this in the recess. Otherwise it will be too late, with the Board's attack. Min. of Health. But C.H., Symp., can I

have, says H.F., a very nice or such occasions

He'd tell Me a great story about the possibility of Laban now, & about coming right inside. I said I wasn't passionately interested in my own affairs. I would take it - if it came, but I wasn't going to pass round. He said "I want you to come out of your corner."

DIARY.

18/1/51.

It is officially announced this morning that I am to be Minister of Local Govt & Planning, taking over from Mr Health excepting except the Health Service. This brings me Housing, Water, Sewerage, Local Authorities Finance & General Draught, Rent Control, & Local Govt Reform.

The Press on this & the following days is moderately friendly. (Mr Catterall, says E-Jay is D.H. says I am still in the Cabinet! Very acceptable & pleased letter of congratulations from a lot of my Young Turks, including Tony, Mike & Desmond. There will be a lot of sorting out of officials, etc. to be done between the Dept's concerned.

Thus begins a new chapter, after long delays & slow negotiations. I fixed it finally with C.A.T. on the evening of the 16th (Thurs), having got back to London after a 10 day visit to my constituency, on the Sunday night. (This visit, though the weather was very cold, was most successful.)

Captain & Clark have been some time in the meeting. After this has done with Clark again on the same account. He said he was to be on the Wednesday afternoon, when Mr G. I. Jones, with Ruler, he had a short talk. He said he had had a "preliminary" now with "them" on Mr H.G.'s appointment as Chancellor. These negotiations showed to be people who had some standing in the movement. I said I knew Mr G. very well & thought very highly of him, & we went on to other things. Mr G. said C.A.T. should



DIARY.

15/1/51 (2)

have made a lot of other changes, including Health with  
Political Bureau, Transport with Civil Aviation, etc.  
This would have made it all look more impressive.  
He least has had no sense of humor; this would make  
it very difficult for them to get on.

The other changes are dreary. S. Isaacs, instead of  
cleaning out & going to the Lords, as first intended, takes  
over Pensions! The Mansfield, dulled by other  
all, takes Health Service. So no new Head

comes in at all, - not even Roper, because it's  
felt that he should stay at Fuel & Power. And  
I fear John Freeman's stock is badly done, because  
of history. But we've reduced the Cabinet

by one, from 18 to 17!

Some is being given good & cautious over China  
& U.S. The Chiefs of staff have advised most strongly  
& clearly against getting into a war with China. That  
the Americans are naturally upset by their reverses &  
casualties. One Communist P.M.'s Declaration,  
& proposal for talks with the Chinese, was first done.  
Their. C.M. Sp. was very helpful.

DIARY

(2)

23/1/51

I said in Cat that Gladys should  
at least abstain on the U.S. Road.

Once more I warned my colleagues  
that he and our principal advisers  
lived in an Ivory Tower.

On War with China we got badly  
the country, & this one will split  
in pieces. It would play

right into Russian hands. It might be  
an immensely disastrous & the worst,  
& for the commonwealth.

DIARY,

(10)

25/1/51

Again repeating myself in Lab.

Not the best note - even with the  
wonderful opening and strong & clear  
views of kind of staff.

(2) against P.M.'s recent statement in  
House - "we have not given up hope."

(3) against very strong opinion in the  
country, but in our Party & outside it.

(4) playing into the hands of the Russians.

Franklin had sent a very good  
telegram for written on the  
day.

10, Downing Street,  
London, W.C.2.



Cal  
Stalyn's ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~leaf~~ 23/1/76

~~Abstrait in~~  
~~veget~~

~~Class for wood with the~~

~~Novy Tower~~

~~Low~~ ~~Asst Chair~~ ~~Park~~

~~with valley country~~

~~maepuk~~ ~~Great~~  
~~12 P Harbor~~

~~and fly out~~

~~Romin Low~~

~~Not signed~~

DIARY.

(1)

28/1/57

John Freeman comes for a walk with me from 184th  
Sunder to Baltham Park. I back L-Yea with Kult.  
He had been troubled by water, I had told him of his  
tackling in high pressure because of his always being  
about with T. Drivers. He had been wondering whether  
their simplified any doubts, at supply of all instructions, about  
his security. I said I was pretty sure it didn't. He said  
he would be quite willing - and from his constitutional point  
of view would prefer - to go back to the back benches.  
Strauss, he admitted, had given him no show at all, - not  
even one P.Q. to answer on a Monday during 3 years.  
But, very generously, he didn't speak ill of Strauss. I  
hope I've fixed J.F. with Sidney Banton if he loses his  
seat. (We got him a show in the House 10 days  
later, binding up for us on the Hon L Street Clause  
motion. And he did it, by common agreement, wonderfully  
well.)

He said he never saw T.D. till after 9 pm, apart  
from sometimes knocking at the House on a Friday, and  
he was the only person with whom he never talked  
politically. T.D. - very secret - never saw Mary (his  
own name on 15/1/57) Harold Jenkins - now is married  
to an odd chap - said that J.F. at Oxford read a lot & was  
interested in people, but wasn't very prominent. He said she



DIARY.

28/1/51 (2)

(12)

Should have gone on his staff, as she had wanted to. She has been a very efficient Establishment Officer & has now gone to the Treasury. She will be <sup>(at the CP)</sup> one of the outstanding women civil servants.

J.F. ~~thought~~ thought Ernie couldn't really go on as Foreign Secretary. Would I like the job. I said, quite frankly, No - at this stage. I didn't want soiled bedclothes, & ~~not~~ only for my home. There must seem to be like an election - which I was afraid we should lose - on a war. If I had had the job since 1945, & had been able to handle ~~the~~ lot of things differently, things might not have been so successful, it would be, I think, another story. But, at this stage, I preferred the Home Front.

I told J.F. ~~now what was in my mind~~ ~~that I was~~ ~~on the point of proposing to Clark that, if Ernie (couldn't go, he should have it, with the Premier's help. Will his election~~

J.F. thought this was probably right. We both agreed that Shawcross would not do or hinder the movement, at all. I said I would put this to Clark quite strongly.

I like J.F. a lot, & would like to see him climbing. I'll try again at a good moment.

DIARY.

4/2/51.

Dine with 1950 Unit - a good bunch, & talk on Foreign Affairs, very informally, but against General Ream's & Pro-Madaya & Mike Pearson at Lake Success.

Present Diakonou, Anthony (Greenwood), Haire, Rogers, Crossland, Ian Wintinkultra, Wilcox, Unfold Thomas, Edelman.

I urged them not to put motions on the table paper, but to sign a statement of their views & put it to the Unit itself, leading to House & P.M.

Gladyce has done magnificently at Lake Success. It is even suggested in Cab that he should publish a book committing solely & extracts from his speeches in Korea. We must urge him to vote against any resolution containing any reference to <sup>American</sup> Sanctions. Nye, Jim Griffiths, Clifton etc LI took his lead in this. (H.G. Did not like it; see separate diary note)

When he swings round, & agreed to vote in favour of American resolution not much needed. I was still against it.

From Nova Talks. Foreign officials just round an egregious paper, obviously not wanting to meet at all. But this has been rejected. Strachey just cab many source papers of leading W.O. Director of Study. War possible c. 1951, probably c. 1952. (see also diary note)

DIARY.

(14)

7/4/51.

We win by 10 votes on the 1st steel, with Libs  
against us! A glorious victory.

I thought we might easily lose, & had been  
holding everything in suspense, pending tonight.

John Freeman wound up very well, & I hope  
has renewed a little his personal reputation -

at least see earlier Diary notes. He spoke  
with composure, skill & realness of repentance.

One Tory <sup>at least</sup> shouted him down - as usual with  
wind ups - but several times he made a point,  
effective & dignified come back.

And next day  
had a good picture in the Mirror and a good  
story in the Express.

The Mr. Division Winstan was heard saying  
to Lyttelton "It looks as though those  
bastards can stay in as long as they  
like."

Tommy W. seems make a very good maiden speech  
by way of congratulating the Libs.

DIARY.

(15)

8/15/51

We win again on Meat, by 8 votes, with the liberals  
against us. I only hear the last half of

H.G.'s winding up, - I must not have  
that - Tories yelling all the time. This  
is now normal in every foot last speech.

But the Speaker makes no effort to check  
it.

After the vote Nye told off Dick Gessman  
in the Smoke room. on Women Re-Entrant

"You never know when you've won" -  
"Historian on the paper." "You're just an  
schibolisticist!" - that Dick went.

Late Tony came in, bringing Tony Bean  
with him. There had a very lively  
con~~versation~~ conversation, with Nye doing most of the  
talking. Tony left his end up very well,  
I got Nye on location of steel plants, (6) after me on

DIARY.

16

8/15/12

Cambridge. My trouble, he said, was that all the people I admired, & who influenced me, at Cambridge were second rate - Rupert, Belloc, Pifer, Goldie, Moore - L. Cannon aft. I liked his frankness in saying this - he had had a few drinks - he had, I hope, shown the superiority of Total Frankness, even when etc. I said I would write on his <sup>second half of</sup> influence, trying to write to Cole. He said Rupert came very badly out of it - Keynes was. I said E. M. had wanted to marry him to an Agnita. He said easily "were Agnita?" I'm very interested in them. I said "Some old women of 60 by now." (Laughter). He said he was the only person there who'd read my book "into B.S. & I." He said he'd read it at Lords, during a dull spell of some match. His next door neighbor asked him what he was reading. "A book by Dalton." "What Dalton?" "Not Devil Dalton?" I said the account of the Retreat was good. He said "No. only Fifth Form stuff." I said T.S. (containing climbing Monte Sank - was even better - He did not remember that. He made me



DIARY,

(17)

8/2/57 (3)

retell the story of my suspension, & his 'General Strike'. I may refer to the Communist in the Daily Ring. "The mention has surprised, & his agent's been arrested. What more do you want? Leave the Hall." He thought this was Premier's pun. He asked me if it wasn't too personal, why at King's I was called "Daddy Dalton". I said this name was never used in the vocative; Ralph & I, e.g., were always stamped with the name. It was a name used in a small circle, including Kayne & Sheppard, because I was very clean & earnest at that time (see Marsh's note in the Memoir) about States of mind & Socialism. Tony said "I'm glad you were earnest some time in your life." I was after the fact broke up.

DIARY.

18

9/2/51

I lunched with H.G. at the Stafford Hotel. (Swanson seemed to know me; they had all tea in S.O.E. etc.) He wanted to talk about Foreign Affairs. He felt we had been drifting apart on this in recent Cabs. He was very much troubled by ~~the~~ anti-Americanism of many. With Strachey it was pathological. After all the Americans were, in the last resort, our friends and the Russians recent. He had been so much upset by the Cab decision on Thursday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, to tell Gladys to vote against the American Resolution at U.N. that he ~~had~~ had been to Cleo and said he would have to reconsider his position if this was adhered to. He thought that his stand on this had had some effect on Cleo, & on the Cab revised decision next day. I said I thought that our decision of Thursday had also put Mike Pearson, through Gladys, into action. I said I thought Franks put it right in one of his telegrams when he said that "so long as U.K. & Canada are together against U.S. the situation is under control. If we lose Canada, it may begin to be dangerous. I thought he must, short of a serious break with U.S., do all he could to put a brake on them, but as

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(19)

9/2/51 (2)

regards China and German Rearmament. He said  
how miserable the Indians were & how they neither  
would nor could fight. I didn't think, I said, that we  
were really far apart on all this now.

As to Russia & Germany, he was very anxious that  
we shouldn't make a false deal. He didn't  
think German Unity would be an advantage to us. The  
Russians would certainly buy their land to  
get control of a United Germany, and, if unmarried, they  
could just march into it. We agreed that it was better  
it should stay divided. \* I said this was H. P. Taylor's  
view, the best written on Germany, & the best contribution  
to the New Statesman.

He then asked whether I had said anything to Ulan  
about the possible succession to Eric. I told him  
what I had recommended & why. He said he had  
had with Ulan about this. There was no danger of  
Shawcross. He took a better view of McNeil than I, and  
a poorer view of Younger. I said Herbert couldn't  
do it. He wasn't so sure, in spite of my Skushany  
story of war between Britain & France being impossible.  
But he thought Herbert wouldn't want to be  
control of the Party. Through other names, he said, would

DIARY

9/2/51 (31)

were being mentioned were <sup>Chambers</sup> side & Jim Griffiths. He had weighed in strongly against Holt.

C.E. was a most over-rated man & a shocking Chairman. J.G. was a timid man. Yes, I said, "Please for the people. I am the leader. I must follow them." I strongly agreed that neither would do.

H.M.N. I said, was a Scots Gawk, who <sup>talked for months</sup> <sup>the longer, under</sup> <sup>indefinite</sup> <sup>effect</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>fact</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>used</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>early</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>seems</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>do</sup> <sup>that</sup>. He said all S.S. Scotland

more I'd want to <sup>do</sup> <sup>it</sup>. I didn't want social bedsteads. If I'd had it in 1945, I might have made something of it. But now? Well only a few months

to go before an Electoral Defeat or a War? 0 20. I also cleared with him a Housing formula. No new target, but we'll do our utmost, recognising difficulties.

In the meat, he said that M. Webb's advisers had been standing pat, while he, H.G., had been passing <sup>paying</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>re</sup>. ~~to~~ <sup>paying</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>re</sup>. Rather a reversal of the normal roles!

DIARY.

(21)

Mid Feb. 1951.

China, German Renewal, Russia.

Over the past few weeks there has been great concern in the Cabinet, the Parliamentary Labour Party, the Labour Party in the country and in the nation at large over these international issues. And Eric has been ill, and the question of a successor very difficult & debatable (I have advised Mr. to take it himself) and the Govt. has been in constant danger of defeat in the House, with an electoral defeat to follow.

I have been pretty active in discussion in Cab. I have tried to help to put a strong brake on American recklessness & for East, which might lead us in a major war with China; I have argued against German Renewal; and also against evading a Four Power Talk with Russia - to America & France - even though we must take no illusions about its outcome, or fall into any traps.

It has been <sup>a source of</sup> immense confidence to have Gladwyn at Lake Success. His telegrams have been first class, and his handling of colleagues most skillful, and his speeches much better than those of most politicians. He is, since some time back a Television Hero, with a million fans in the U.S.





DIARY.

Mid-Feb 1951 (3)

German Recruit

Against this there is increasing feeling in the Cab. Many  
all think that, though "principle" can't at present  
be repudiated, application should be delayed,  
at least until after Russian talks, - when this  
could, as E.B. always intended, be used as a  
bargaining counter. We are encouraged by Eisenhower's  
altitude - he seems to accept delay as inevitable  
and wants no "unwilling recruits" from Germany.

Feeling in the Party is very strong on this, - stronger  
than on China. Nye & I both encourage this.

H.M. complains to me that "it has become Russian"  
that I am against German Recruit. I talk frankly  
to a group of Labor M.P.'s now dine together, the  
1950 Club, on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

It looks as though the Germans will make  
difficulties enough on their side, with impossible claims  
for "equality", etc. to put it all off for some time.

Stalin is very active on our side, though not always

DIARY.

Nov-Feb 1951. (41)

helpfully, behind the scenes.

Talks with Russia.

Exchange of notes about preparation of an Agenda goes on very slowly. Gov. officials, Ernie being among them, try to persuade us to play for a breakdown of the official talks about what is to be on the Agenda. Papers prepared in the Gov. by officials, in 1953 sense, are even sent to Winton. But the Cab won't swallow this & decides that we must honestly try to get the Conference to meet.

our own Atomic Programme

This is being accepted in its modified but still very ~~forwardable~~ ~~stuff~~ impressive form, without much opposition either in Cab or Parl's Party. Russia take precedence.

Strachey created some sensation by quoting in Cab with Winton of stuff present in Strachey "War Possible in 1951, probable in 1952." This was half-denied by G. L. P., but Strachey handed the paper to the PM who seemed disconcerted!

<sup>DAILY</sup>  
Wed. Feb 1951 (5)

25

At Cab on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> I spoke strongly against German  
Reservist - it was decided to tell our people  
in Washington that Kirkpatrick to go along with  
negotiations, having considered in part on Eisenhower.

I reminded Cab that Ennis had gone out in  
Sept approx to German Reservist - with full support of Cab,  
I had told reporters ~~on arrival~~ on arrival that  
it was "unthinkable". Americans had the bulldozers  
in with acceptance of "principle". But when we saw  
principles that were accepted but never applied. I saw  
some of my colleagues shuddering at this, but it was  
almost like that. Any price raised in W. Germany  
would count as violation for Paris, S.S. 2 Refugees,  
the ~~best~~ most uncontrolled businessmen in Europe,  
may <sup>know</sup> know think of nothing but re-occupying  
behind the O-N line. <sup>once there were any</sup>  
German armed forces, it would be impossible to  
prevent the re-creation of a German General Staff  
It would be undajournal, if not above ground.  
Nor could we spare any arms to Germany.  
We needed them all for M.A.T.C. countries, & especially  
for ourselves & the French. There was a grim

DIARY.

Wed - Feb 14 1951 (6)

risky precipitancy was with Russia, while we were still weak. The Soviet Govt's declarations had been very clear. It was illogical to say that a German contribution was essential to the defence of Western Europe, and at the same time to promise a policy which might provoke an attack on W. Europe long before any foreign military units could be raised. <sup>as in the newspaper</sup> I spoke on this in well of <sup>an inaction was to be</sup> <sup>likely</sup>. I think, in fact, in Feb before, apart from expounding my own departmental affairs there was general agreement on the conclusions.



DIARY

27

19/2/51

Whisked my Little Town & County Planning B.M. through Committee, Report & Third Reading in just one half an hour!

Met C.A.T. in passage outside his room. I asked after Genevieve. He said he was getting on very well, & would be able to carry on for a time at least in Maurice's without Portfolio. This was first hint I had had that his retirement from F.S. was imminent, though I had, of course, written to C.A.T. on this hypothesis. I said I still thought C.A.T. should carry on. He said he really couldn't. It was too much, & it would look as though he had let the men down. I said it was necessary to

let someone else fill the bill. It wasn't anybody's job, as he knew. I said I had heard Walter Ede's name mentioned, but he would be quite out of his depth. C.A.T. said he agreed. G.C.E. would be the running. I said I would talk to Jim Phillips & would be staying. He was too kind. (I never knew

2 names following my lunch with H.G.) C.A.T. said J.G. had the first class administrative record at his own Dept. He listened to advice, but he took his own decisions. It was clear that he was C.A.T.'s favorite. ~~He said that~~ I said I didn't think it suggested I should elaborate. ~~but I had no mind~~



DIARY.

20/2/51.

Saw C.K.A. at 9 pm. I said I'd attempt it over and  
 agreed with him that J.G. was more to be preferred  
 to other candidates of F.O., if he himself couldn't  
 do it as well. He said he was sure he couldn't.  
 Several others had suggested it. I repeated that I didn't  
 want it, but said that since I have a good deal about it,  
 from Chairman & with help of N.E.C., I could do it well  
 J.G. all I could. I said his membership of N.E.C. was  
 important. The three would take things from him they  
 couldn't take from an outsider like Slavson -  
 & his things had taken for E.B., known they are regarded  
 as very much one of us. My only fear about  
 J.G. still was "could he cope about his officials".  
 as A.H. once asked me of Billy Nathan. F.O.  
 officials, Anants were, some of them, very important  
 people. I said C.K.A. must learn him to be himself,  
 & not learn from. He said he would.  
 I said it would mean our movement & take  
 make TV. F. Sect & take, for the first time, a  
 which would satisfy many.  
 I then spoke of the succession at the C.O. This gave a  
 chance, I said, to bring on one of

DIARY

20/4/51

own young men. Did he like the talking of Daydale? He said  
Mr. he liked him very much. <sup>but he didn't let you hit</sup>  
people. I said I had heard this. <sup>Robert & Brian & I stay in the house & out</sup>  
G.S. Admiralty

Callaghan?

He said he kept a worried balance  
enough yet. He said about bringing in Strachan,  
2 having him to the cat. I argued strongly against  
this. I said he was vain & difficult & pretentious  
to personal relations. I said he ought to go  
to the wall.

He had responsibility L.C.J. & made  
of Ruffs. The Mock in mention of over to year.

I said I didn't think anything about the whole <sup>was unprecedented & deplorable.</sup>  
C.N.A. said he had been a good <sup>had a good administration.</sup> <sup>Refused</sup> <sup>Case</sup>  
to war. I said he had made an awful mess of  
Catering Wages Board.

I then returned to Peter Freeman, recalling  
his very remarkable speech last week; how he  
Strachan had been completely out of touch; how Strachan  
- though I liked that Freeman had always, in contrast  
with me, been extremely loyal to Strachan - had  
given him no show at all, not one single  
D.Q. & 3/4 year!





Dicky

20/2/51(4)

Said his ~~best~~ <sup>best</sup> friend Willy was much better. (agreed)  
He said Mackey was a free chap. I said he  
was always intriguing over a vast front. I sensed  
that C.A.T. might move him, but not drop  
him. But I didn't mention that

Then he said "what about Bu Haulby Co?"  
I said that would be fine. He got on well  
with people, including Colonus people, I wasn't very  
well placed at D.O.T. And it would be  
a good move for TV balance. I liked to do it.

I said I doubted if Strauss was good enough  
to handle those times. I said he'd ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> seen down  
any <sup>real</sup> work in his life; only a sleeping partner in  
metals. C.A.T. said "sleeping partner! Not at  
all - Dave Lytton told me he had wonderful  
judgment. I had to know just when to phony it,  
& make ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~work~~ <sup>work</sup> on one deal."

I then showed Fred Peart of an V/sect Prof, &  
reminded C.A.T. of his past speech at Mangate  
- & after a very brief inter. by Long & Billie  
C.A.T. So - he mustn't be peacocks in his jacket.  
C.A.T. half took this. Then said



DIARY.

2/1/57 (5)

There were 2 who were always being recommended  
as having great industry - Miranda & Alba -  
but they were believed to be Chona people. I  
didn't think he wanted ~~either~~ <sup>any more</sup> of them.

I said "Don't touch either of them. Miranda  
was conceited, disliked by over-riding, & I didn't  
forgive Alba for having lost so much of Evan  
Dunbar's majority. He'd been a steady but  
candidate, & I didn't think much of him anyway,  
except he was better than Miranda.

Ch. H. then turned over the pages of Valda, &  
said to find very little. Then he said "Goodland.  
That's an old Chap." I said "But Tom, very."

I referred briefly recalled Spangenberg & my  
referral to him. - but I think he'd better handle  
bit." said Ch. H. "Yes, I think so too," said I

---

I said to J.F. "If you are offered any more,  
accept it - I don't be the way." He said "Will."

I said "Discussion on going on."  
As I told Tom what more, - but not when  
the P.S. was the, 2 or 3 when J.F. might more.

DIARY.

31

2-4/3/51.

At Cambridge. Spoke at Union of Democratic-Socialists  
against W. F. Fletcher. Only talk, in small hall, by  
140 to 112. Found one very promising young man  
- Brian Abel Smith of Uxbridge, - Haringbury, A.D.C.  
to General Winterton in Vienna, military - com - City  
background, but good socialist, intelligent, good  
presence & personality, <sup>doing economic</sup> I saw a good deal of him &  
think him outstanding young man.

Dined in Hall in Kings with Kaldor. O. but  
against that tremendous background of my old college,  
physical, spiritual and memorial, he seems  
an in-comer, - a small, slightly - displaced  
person. He had first visited W. F. Fletcher,  
this Saturday evening, I went to his house, kept in  
St. John's building, full of memorabilia. & he arrived  
late, sweating, breathless, untidy, only just in  
time to Hall. I knew more of his story, except  
about the paper in the distance. That they had a pretty  
good lot. From Hall he went to a party

DIARY.

(35)

2-4/3/51 (L)

at Kalden's house. I have described this in a letter to Tony. Balogh was there. There had been a great fuss & correspondence about this. Would I mind? Tony had begged me to write to all Hungarians. He had told Nicky that Etienne always had good manners in a crisis, but was keeping his own thumbs crossed.

I don't often want to go to Cambridge. All the more I know & loved myself. And one can't be sure of meeting anybody who will even one will click at first sight!

A TALK AT CAMBRIDGE ON 4TH MARCH, 1951.

I lunched with Kaldor, his wife and his two brightest pupils at King's, Dawson and Marris, both doing economics.

Dawson talked little, Marris - and of course Kaldor - a lot. I mainly listened, saying that, as a Cabinet Minister, I wanted some clear-cut advice, though I didn't promise to act on it.

Marris, supported by Kaldor, said that -

- (i) neither America nor Russia could defeat the other. But we - and West Europe - could be destroyed in the course of the fighting between the two giants. Therefore, our supreme aim should be to avoid war;
- (ii) with a view to this -
  - (a) we should not act as though, if we differed openly and on important questions from the Americans, they would desert us; in fact they would not,
  - (b) we should seek agreement with the Russians at the four-power talks, even against the Americans, and even if the agreement was limited to Germany, on the basis that Germany should be unified, disoccupied (over a period of years), and remain unarmed in the West and be disarmed in the East. A German buffer state in central Europe would ease the tension greatly;
- (iii) the Russians are seriously alarmed, but if we increase our armed forces, so will they theirs. It will be an arms race from which neither side will gain security and both will lose prosperity;
- (iv) the Russians would be very unlikely to start a preventive war, even if we re-armed the West Germans;
- (v) many influential Americans are bent on war and think they can win with the atom bomb;
- (vi) Yugoslavia, if attacked, should be helped by us with food and arms, but not with British or other allied personnel.
- (vii) Marris said that those in their 20s feel quite differently from those in their 30s. Many in their 20s would say that war should be avoided, almost at any cost, and that if war came they would take no part in it.
- (viii) Marris also said he hoped that our inner counsels were sometimes wiser than our outer talk. I told him, on this, to read Keynes' Revision of the Treaty. He said that this was out of print.

This talk followed the assault on me, the night before, at Nicky's party by the female furies, who charged me with being a warmonger and an American cat's-paw. Clearly this line is running rather strongly in certain circles at Cambridge and Nicky himself is a good deal infected by it.

We should show as much understanding and tolerance of this line as we can and should certainly stretch a good deal to try to reach an agreement with the Russians. But the summary of the talks, set out above, contains some very wishful thinking, particularly as regards the desirability of an unarmed, unified and unoccupied Germany. This would just be cold meat for the Russians.

DIARY.

10/3/51.

It is officially announced, at last, that Ed. Lewis has lost H.M. succeeds him. This has been pretty common knowledge for several days & H.M. has been walking about with a broad grin on his face.

So, since <sup>nearly</sup> 3 weeks ago, when Ch. L. talks, he has gone over from J.G. to H.M.

How will H.M. do? I am not at all confident. He did badly at Strasbourg, & as Maurice Edelman said to me on Thursday night in the course of a long talk, he doesn't seem to be interested, as I sometimes am, in individual freemen, or to be able to remember their names. And his manner are terrible. I still

remember his stalling round at Strasbourg paying official calls, & even being saluted by a group of women, with a pipe in his mouth - stuck in for his purpose.

Dr. M. E. S. says he is not University educated, or Trade Union educated, but night school educated. His sense of relative values is very weak; He is obstinate & ignorant. He may make an awful mess of it, & of his own ~~former~~ reputation, & of International Peace. This is the black side. On the other he is clever in a locking fashion, & very un-bitter.



DIARY.

10/3/51 (2)

John Freeman, with whom also I had a long talk after  
visits upon Lake Siltings had long talks on said  
he had been spoken to by Shawell, with a hint that  
he might be wanted as a Service Minister. He would  
like the W.O., but is a friend of Strachey & would be  
a little uncomfortable in replacing him. I said there was  
one after inevitable <sup>occasions</sup> jumps in position.

He <sup>also</sup> told me - Mike W.T. had put me on the  
track of this - that he had a definite offer for  
Kimbley Martin to take over the Editorship of the  
New Statesman after a period of an Assistant Editor.  
This offer would remain open ~~for~~ for a reasonable  
time, allowing for his loss of his seat at the next  
election. Kim wants to retire soon. The paper  
is very important & the Directors would treat him  
generously.

I think John would do this very well.

Tommy did an awfully good week-at-work minute  
broadcast. He is a first class broadcaster, - voice &  
presence - (has Tommy's [?] and [?] as well as [?]) very good  
in [?]. His very good & varied material. [?]



DIARY.

10/3/51 (2)

John Freeman, with whom I had a long talk a few nights ago - took sitting half long talk - said he had been spoken to by Shawell, with a hint that he might be wanted as a Service Minister. He would like the W.O., but is a friend of Strachey & would be a little uncomfortable in replacing him. I said this was one of the inevitable <sup>occasional</sup> jobs in politics.

He <sup>also</sup> told me - Mike W.T. had put me on the track of this - that he had a definite offer for Kingsley Martin to take over the Editorship of the New Statesman after a period of an Assistant Editor. This offer would remain open till for a reasonable time, allowing for his loss of his seat at the next election. Ken wants to retire soon. The paper is very important & the Directors would want this maintained.

I think John would do this very well.

Tommy is an awfully good week-at-work minded broadcaster. He is a first class broadcaster, - voice & manner - (has Trinity offered him an interim talk) very sane in Labour Party. And very fond & varied material. - was put down R. Thompson

DIARY

12/3/51

E.B. & Cat today seemed quite  
finished out of humor he'll soon  
drop. <sup>like to say a thing &</sup>  
<sup>work in past days.</sup> Mrs me by John Freeman,

Did I discuss USIS story,  
CLEM, having asked NYE to come later here,  
"You're the only member of the post who I could  
advise me yet who should be the next  
Foreign Secretary."

NYE: "O, I'd like it myself."

CLEM: "I've been looking up the records, and  
find that the Foreign Office has never led out  
the Premiership."

NYE: "O, then give it to Herbert."

George Brown <sup>Empire</sup> said that he'd advise HM  
last week not to take it, but he had replied  
"That John Chapin is getting all the publicity  
now. It's time I had a break."

E.B. thinks HM's health & reputation will  
be for on the job. (Keep with <sup>an impression</sup>   
reputation ambitious.)

Jim Callaghan gave a very clear & confident  
& attractive <sup>very</sup> <sup>3/4</sup> <sup>2000-</sup> <sup>it is first class.</sup> <sup>speed.</sup> I had to leave after

DIARY.

14/3/51

Talk with H.G. I say I would have preferred Jim Griffiths  
- to go. I understand Ernie wanted him. H.G.

Definitely of the other opinion. He says Jim is a Pacifist  
and couldn't keep his end up with leading foreigners.  
He says that  
with Whitely & Addison both wanted Shawcross. So, I

think I did H.M. at one time. I say I was most strongly  
against. H.G. thinks H.M. is pretty cute. I said that

Sforza said to me last night at speaker's reception,  
"Morrison is different."

I made a joke in <sup>the kitchen in the</sup> small hours, when Housbrey -  
died of old Sforza - was making a speech on  
Samsays. "Want to we do with a Samsay?" I said  
"The same as they do with bananas at Sinton." She  
only caught "bananas" & said that unfortunately  
he had not got any now. J.F. heard this - there is

a <sup>Communist</sup> <sup>in part</sup> <sup>quite</sup> <sup>by</sup>  
Singing tonight in Year room. Moral <sup>quite</sup> <sup>by</sup>  
Peptalk by Edie at Special Party Meeting this evening.  
I couldn't get there, as I had to be on the black  
in Sheffield Extension Bill. But I found

[MISS HORSBRUGH.] names, because from the trade point of view it is better that I should keep those things out; but there were certain types of sausages which were known to be particularly good. They had a name and a reputation here, and might even have been exported. As far as I know, those sausages did not have the addition of the milk powder or anything of that sort. We also know that in those days a certain proportion of the sausages did have this addition.

The Order has nothing to do with price, and I should be completely out of order if I were to mention that aspect, but I think I can say this and yet keep within order. In the days of pre-war sausages, there was a difference of price. Not only could the housewife, or whoever did the shopping, ask for a particular make of sausage, knowing that it did not contain milk powder and the like, but there was a differentiation in the price, so that the housewife also knew what she was buying. If she bought a sausage with these additions, she knew it and she paid less. Now, under the present scheme, I do not think she will get those advantages.

I dislike the words "consumer" and "foodstuffs" and some of the extraordinary language which is nowadays used—although some of the food does look rather like "stuff"; but it is a serious point that the housewife, when buying her sausages today, will not know whether they contain this milk powder or whether, like those we have had in other times, they are without the milk powder.

**Mr. Willey:** I can assure the right hon. Lady that one of the best-known sausage manufacturers did, in fact, use milk powder in pre-war days, and that they have been kind enough to give advice to other manufacturers about the use of milk powder.

**Miss Horsbrugh:** I am very glad we have had that information and that one of the pre-war makers has volunteered to advise others how milk powder can be used and can make the sausage equally palatable. But my point still remains. It is important that people should know that some sausages are to have milk powder in them, and some are not. What I do feel strongly about is that the housewife should be able to know if the sausages she buys are of the one sort or the other.

That point ought to be considered. I know that the Parliamentary Secretary has said that the nutritional value is the same. [Interruption.] I hear someone saying "bananas," and I should like to talk about the nutritional value of bananas, but that would be out of order.

However, we are told that the nutritional value of the sausages is the same, and that the palatability is the same. I should like to say one last thing about that because we have had it mentioned before. We have often been told that certain products are very good for us, with certain nutritional value, and that they are very palatable. Who tests the palatability? Somebody might test the palatability of these sausages and say he liked them, but here we have a guarantee of nutritional value and palatability; what is the means of testing the palatability?

We have gone on with this discussion, which I think has been useful; I never thought that I should have been called upon to talk of sausages and milk. We have often wanted strawberries and cream, and we are promised that we shall get the cream; but here we have sausages and milk—or sausages and no milk. I think it was a good thing that we should have made the effort to deal with this matter, for we have learned a good deal. I hope that the nutritional value will be there, and that there will be agreement about the palatability, although I doubt it.

**Mr. R. J. Taylor** rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying that the Order, dated 26th February 1951, entitled the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Amendment) Order, 1951 (S.I. 1951, No. 314), a copy of which was laid before this House on 27th February, be annulled," put accordingly, and negatived.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—  
[Mr. Sparks.]

1.3 a.m.

**Mr. David Renton** (Huntingdon): On a point of order. I should like, if I may, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to point out that I have down as the last Order on the

Bananas at Sirton. 47

gaze. No wonder the Parliamentary Secretary does not like our moving this Prayer, and loses his temper and calls us foolish.

**Mr. Willey:** The hon. Gentleman talks a good deal about publicity. As a matter of fact, a reference appeared in the "Sunday Express" before the Order appeared.

**Mr. Carr:** As one of my hon. Friends has suggested, I shall have to look for another breach of privilege. Whatever may be said about publicity, the publicity which this has received compared with that which the supposed improvement in the "Webb Sausage" got was small, and I am prepared to let the public judge whether they would have the Opposition raise this or let it go through as the Parliamentary Secretary would have liked. I think perhaps that the housewives and the men who eat these articles will not think it was foolish and stupid of the Opposition to raise it, and I am prepared to let them judge on it. I submit that the public should know what we are doing in bringing this order before the House and giving it this publicity. I think this Order should be protested against because of the misleading impression that it gives.

12.52 a.m.

**Miss Horsbrugh** (Manchester, Moss Side): I am glad to have an opportunity of joining in this debate because the last Government post I occupied was that now occupied by the hon. Gentleman who has been replying to the debate tonight—Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food. As I have sat here and listened to the debate, and to his explanation on certain Orders, I should like to take the opportunity of congratulating him, because there have been difficult points. He has been asked for replies to points in great detail, and he has been extremely courteous and polite, and at no time has appeared to think in any way that the questions were in too much detail. I quite understood that he wanted carefully to point out that the article he read out was an article referring to what the trade wanted to do and was doing. I agree that he thinks and feels that some of my hon. Friends believe that the remarks he was reading were from the Ministry of Food and not from the trade. I realised his difficulty.

37 P. 23

I know how anxious he was to make it clear that the facts about the particular sausage in the Order had been arranged with the trade, that the trade had already expressed its opinion, and that what he read out was the trade's opinion both in this country and America. That being so I thoroughly agree with him, because in the days I was in the Ministry of Food I knew of the difficulty of dealing with the various trades. There is difficulty about coming to a decision as to what one thinks ought to be done, if the particular trade with which one is dealing had another suggestion and their way of doing it was slightly different.

I know from my own experience of the difficulty of getting work done in co-operation with the trade. I understand that on this occasion there has been co-operation from the trade. On this occasion, as I gather—and the hon. Gentleman will interrupt me if I am wrong—the suggestion came from the trade and so far as I can make out it was like this. The trade communicated with the Ministry of Food, and suggested that sausages of this sort ought to be permitted. I think I am right in saying that, and that the suggestion first came from the trade and not from the Ministry of Food.

**Mr. Willey indicated assent.**

**Miss Horsbrugh:** Having got that perfectly clear, and in view of the assurance we have had from the Parliamentary Secretary that milk or milk powder was added to the pre-war sausage, therefore the trade could say to the Ministry of Food, as the Parliamentary Secretary has repeated here tonight, that the scheme was no real novelty. We had had that type of sausage to a certain extent in pre-war days, and there had been that type of sausage in other countries, including America.

One of our reasons for thinking that the Order ought to be discussed is that we have had no information as yet as to the quantity of these and of other sausages that are to be on sale. The Parliamentary Secretary will agree that in pre-war days the majority of the best sausages were without the addition of such things as dried milk. As we have heard from one of my hon. Friends, there were certain makers of sausages who had a name and a reputation for particularly good sausages. I am not mentioning



DIARY

(43)

14/3/51. (21)

Went for news Tony Charles Taylor, in evening dress, hesitating to go in. So I took him round the corner from behind, & just saw him in.

15/ - 16/3/51

At about 11 pm. Latham mentions inside the members' Smoke Room is overhauling members, & sit and sing. Each new arrival loudly cheered, & each Tony departure <sup>to sing out</sup> to tone of "Good night, Tories!" Service of drinks stopped, because waiters can't circulate; crowd too thick.

Small group of Tories enclosed at far end of room - H. Macmillan, <sup>Selwyn Lloyd</sup> Boris Mackeson, Lookwate Eye, Jim Thomas, & <sup>John Strain</sup> I saw several men look so angry. "We'll reduce all the

Tony Brigadiers to the ranks, when the Red Reduction comes." "We'll make Jimmy Hudson the Reefer of the Bar, when the R.R. comes." "We'll make it a Lookwate - Eye do his little show, when the R.R. comes."



DIARY

(44)

15/ - 16/3/51

"Well make Florence Horsbrugh for a-hiking with Dalton, when the K.K. comes."

Macmillan, not having been saved with about by the water, got up to get one himself. A Liban M.P. at once sat down in his seat. He left amid vicarious cheers, although he then never did. Only Tories now responded with any sense of humor were W. Fletcher (Nigel Davis).

This calculated affront to Tony's amenities shows how high passions rise.

The speaker has been his first casualty in this. He is nervous & exhausted. He has clearly been ill & out of control of himself & the situation for several days.

DIARY

15/3/51

Sit at table in dining room with Tom Reid & Ronny  
 Williams. T.R. wants a Lab-Lib Alliance. He  
 says H. Morrison has encouraged him to make enquiries  
 about this; that Shawcross is in favour. But all  
 leading Liberals are in favour, <sup>with the exception of Morrison,</sup> <sup>and D. Frost.</sup> They would  
 agree on a programme & arrange to interview candidates;  
 we would let them have a run in 50 seats.  
 I say that merits speak for this is quite impossible, - and  
 the merits are heavily against too. Our Party would

stand it -

But I note that ~~Four~~ Liberals are declaring  
 against Tony Watkins in the House.

Ronny Williams agreed with me that the whole  
 idea is a very long way off the mark.

DAILY.

(46)

20/3/57

H.G. & I talked. Following last meeting of  
Ministry on Social Services, he has been fixing  
hard off-staff for improved pensions from  
ceiling to Health Services with some changes to  
Tech & Pension. Our dropping inscription

He has got Emili's support. 2 H.G.'s, I do  
think C.H.A.'s, but latter's occasional one  
always so practically better, he is not sure.

H.G. had a very sticky time on his Egyptian  
Agreement, - attacks by Gorman & Paret from one  
side as well as by Tonia - but put up as good a  
case as he could. We were by 294 to 291.

Football match Urmshirk (Tony beat) is still vacant. I  
must say he is better, a simple anti-Tony is best,  
brought by King.

I also saw C.H.A. today, just going into  
hospital. It is duodenal again, with a not very  
diet & he has already given up smoking, which he dislikes  
even more. He hopes to be back in a

DIARY

(47)

20/3/51 (L)

Week on two.

still a bit

I say that I am <sup>sure</sup> he didn't make J.G. Freese Secretary. He says there wasn't enough support for this. & J.G. himself wasn't very keen. I said they must fire up all the work that had been thought of in mind. <sup>cut</sup> - year.

I said I hoped he'd bring some young people into the jobs soon. I repeated that we were getting to look like a Govt of Pensioners. I said Callaghan had done very well on several occasions. He said yes, & Michael Stewart had been doing well too. This rather put me out.

I said "yes, he's pretty good, but he hasn't got the fifth of Callaghan, Freeman or de Freitas".

That I didn't value it - much. I hope they don't mean that Mr Stewart is now being favoured.

I hope rather than J.F. well, he'll have time to think about putting just things in the list.

DIARY.

(45)

20/3/51 (3)

I said I was sure we must go to the County this  
day. Yes. To say we will 1952 would be a  
great mistake, & long by-election might force  
our hand at any time. He said he agreed it must  
be in 1951. I said he wanted meat, Sunshine,  
& if he could, a better international scene. (That is  
my mind's point to Sept or Oct.)

I asked whether he wanted any more publicity in  
Civil Defence. He said no, if it can possibly  
be avoided, better just quiet planning. I said I  
didn't want to publish details, as recommended by C.C.,  
of how many & priority classes, - children, pregnant  
women, & nursing mothers - one to go into each reception  
area. He agreed. (I do not know of sheep heads.)

I showed C.A. how I said I hoped he'd seen  
the book & file. He asked how my health was.  
I said I was a bit tired & sleepy, but otherwise  
all right.

DIARY.

49

21/3/51

At XYZ tonight Bill Picking proposed to restrict credit by raising rate of interest ~~at least~~ <sup>large to long term</sup> need it on short term sett. He was opposed by me, & half opposed by Robinson.

He was supported by Tony, Berney & Meade - the latter wanting to combine higher interest rate with capital levy.

Don't know why set a bit on the floor, but was inclined to oppose.

I was rather shocked by this reaction. I said it would lead to distribution <sup>cost of housing etc. Bill</sup> <sup>was raised</sup> <sup>had been proposed</sup> <sup>to put it up there and refer it.</sup> Tony said the great argument <sup>is that it will</sup> <sup>in the end</sup> was that it would depreciate capital values, & so improve distribution of wealth, hit reaction, & cause

living on capital, <sup>income was based on income distribution</sup> <sup>(living in houses)</sup> He said that many were prepared to spend

appreciation in their securities, but would rather if they depreciated. "only reaction was live with this income as my asset & my income."

This is a new argument, not to be found in Keynes, whose must be studied.

How to put it to people before?

I said credit control restriction by banks if necessary <sup>to regulate money</sup> <sup>supply in the bank and etc.</sup>



DIARY.

22/3/51.

Last Cab before Easter Recess. We shall all be the better for a break, though it will be only 12 days. (The Tories last night howled their heads off, and he moved the adjournment just after 10, but Wintour ~~was~~ perfectly in accord with the standing order; Wintour nearly assaulted the Sergeant-at-Arms, as he left with the mace; all respect for the latter, who is speaker & Deputy-Speaker, is rapidly fading. This is doing Tories no good - though not perhaps more harm - in the 10 months. Eden & Butler are said to be against these tactics, but Wintour is a common man.)

Great row in Cab today over H.G.'s proposal, backed by Health Minister & Summerskill, to change something of false teeth & spectacles; to put a ceiling on Health Service expenditure, & to make a series of increases in Old Age Pensions.

(H.G. had told me ~~the~~ <sup>in private only two days before</sup> that he had spoken to Eric, who had himself proposed the idea of a ceiling, & H.G. had advanced this from £393 m to £400 m, & brushed it up for prescription change. H.G. said that he expected more opposition from Nye, with support for H. Wilson, & asked why H.G.? H.G. said he was always interfering with Nye, & was hoping to get H.G.'s job if he had to resign.)

DIARY.

22/3/51. (2)

It went according to plan. H.M. in chair (Capt. Loring-Jones with hospital yesterday) announced that P.M. supported H.S.'s proposals & hoped Capt. Loring-Jones would accept them. <sup>It was clear that it was only a matter of time before H.M. would take them.</sup> So H.S. then thanked Mr. Neil & Summerskill, the latter speaking after H.S., & saying people would come much more about widows pensions than about a bit on votes & floras.

H.S. as expected, made very heavy weather. He was giving up a great principle of the welfare state. He could not speak of a "free health service." America press would give banner headlines to our retreat. Widows pensions were not an improvement at all, only asking what had already been lost. Why boggle at £23 million - the cost of to be recovered for votes & floras - out of a total budget of £3000 m. His own personal position would be rendered impossible; his prestige would be undermined as Minister of Labour. It will be known that he has been over-ruled. When P.M. first asked him to be M.P., he refused. He would give no reasons; that would only be personally irritating to some of those present. (I suppose, because he would have to say that he had wanted to be Chancellor, in place of H.S.) But, when he did take it, he was advised by P.M. that there would be no going back on what had been established since.

DIARY  
22/3/51 (3)

(52)

The point was that this was the last requirement. Why not cut £23 m off the sum estimated. He said he could not spend all the money we proposed.

Only H<sub>2</sub>, rather ~~poorly~~ ineffectively, backed M<sub>2</sub>. Lt Col Jim Phillips seemed del. frightened of the whole situation - not, perhaps, a good foreign Secretary all in all? - & wondered whether it could be all looked at again.

Allison spoke in support of H<sub>2</sub>, & so, very briefly, did I. I said that during the H<sub>2</sub>'s position, I realized the position he was under & supported the ceiling. He must make a firm stand. I was sure that the Party & the country would much prefer better pensions to free teeth & glasses. Stiffing teeth is still the free, & teeth after H<sub>2</sub>'s order, will be cheaper. & children's glasses will be free.

When H<sub>2</sub> said the general view was in favour of H<sub>2</sub>'s proposal, M<sub>2</sub> said he must reserve his position. He could not usefully take part in any further proceedings of the Lab. He seemed on the point of leaving the room. But he was reassured quite sweetly, asked to think

DIARY

22/3/57 (4)

Again, reminded that none of this will be public till  
 Budget Day, these weeks hence. <sup>As H.G. added that</sup>  
 he thought the tax changes will be popular. He said  
 he could sit for an hour unless he got extra support on ~~the~~ point raised today.  
 I don't think Nye will resign. But he will be  
 awkward, & will make all the trouble he can for H.G.  
 But H.G. will have very strong backing & I think his  
 financial picture will probably look pretty good.

Nye looked very evil this morning.

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By late train to W.L., I hope for an untroubled  
 week.

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I got the Strachan's delegation through. This week - at  
 a meeting with C.K., H.M., E.B. & W.W.

Only agreed to my main body, same as last year  
 except that Callaghan & I, as Ministers, fall out. & Billy  
 Hyatt & Tony move up & take over places. Billy mentioned  
 Cuba for Tony; I've played this one before.  
 Eirene house & George Darling the substitute. very hopeful  
 to open a wider Eric Peacock

DIARY.

25/3/57.

54  
Easter Sunday Reflections. B.B.C. says there have been  
record crowds in many churches today. I wonder if  
whether it means much if there were. I doubt it.

I have the sense of a chapter soon to be end.  
Unless there's a War first - & then, of course, a  
Coalition. - I don't see how we can drag on  
beyond late Summer or early autumn without an  
election. But if we could, we should be

mad to try.

The Tories will win, - perhaps handsomely - but  
we must fight our hardest, and <sup>with all our</sup> brains  
and hearts, to minimize our losses. To regain  
our "dynamic" will be much easier in opposition.

I can't pretend, in these conditions, to be  
able to set up a really driving interest in my  
New Department. Local Govt - & Planning

is obviously the right combination administratively.

And we are knitting it together pretty well.

Sheepshanks now will never miss a cake and  
never hit a six, Les Dame Evelyn Sharp - but men



DIARY.

25/3/57 (2)

given all, with tremendous energy, first class brains,  
 & a capacity for handling things & over instructions  
 of all kinds - & Whiffey on his two defecation. W  
 knows all about housing but would prefer anything.  
 "Smithy" figure some say. I find him well informed,  
 but a bit slow and set in his ways. He  
 retires in about a year.

Sheepshead agrees with me that we have a lot  
 of ageing birds on the L.G. side - The Health Service  
 had all the best in the old Ministry of Health, and they  
 have gone to the new Ministry of Health. But Jack Beddoe,  
 inherited from Nye, is a poor P.S. - much better  
 than William Wood, now in first class on legislation,  
 & ~~has~~ has written a book on the 1947 Act, but hasn't  
 the special kind of perception needed in a P.S. So  
 he goes back to the Division, & Beddoe stays, with  
 the idea on the whole, the personnel he brings  
 from the CP is better than what he takes over  
 at last. But what, in these conditions, can  
 I, as Minister, do?



DIARY.

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25/3/57 (3)

Most of the most exciting things are covered by the narrow Parliamentary majority - even apart from the probable early end of this Parliament.

1. Can't reform Local Govt, or <sup>seriously</sup> ~~fundamentally~~ amend the T.C.P. Act of 1947. I shall have time to deal with Water Supplies, though I have had one meeting with representatives of local authorities, or to reform markets, either in London, for this it will mean the L.C.C., or in Morians, setting up another for fruit & vegetables. I shall, I fear, have time to do anything drastic to decentralise London's population & industry - though I have plans for this, would Dame Wedge be fighting these against B & T officials about

But I have two bills which I hope may pass before he dissolves - the Mineral Working Bill, & the River (Pollution) Bill which I have introduced for the 2nd Reading, & have succeeded with infinite patience and comradely, and without one single division, in getting through Standing Use.

The only important & immediate things I can do are to push Housing along, hoping for a <sup>new</sup> re-investment fund, labour & materials, will be slow to come, &

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25/3/51 (4)

Simplifying & cheapening Davis a bit, with sacrificing "essential standards", but getting rid of second W.C. in 3 bedroom house, or would Nye insist, 2 1/2 per cent. small details.

121 to push on building in New Town. Price really on a rising curve at least.

131 to push on developing National Parks.

1 find great peace at W.L. in Parliamentary vacations - many foils & knottles drop from me.

So it was at Christmas, when I came down very knottled, but the fever passed, with a week.

1 have been digging a hole, to have to plant an English Yew. 1 want to plant a dozen or more in selected places.

DIARY.

31/3/51 - 1/4/51

Wrote Ted Bishop. Young  
but not very exciting  
candidate.

In the South West, where there are more marginal  
 Tory seats than in any other Region, and where,  
 even in seats not yet marginal, our vote  
 went up tremendously.

I went to Plymouth for a Private Delegate Conference  
 of Devon & Cornwall, visited their Housing Estate &  
 Reconstruction etc centre, had a useful private  
 dinner & talk with leading people in the movement,  
 & saw their offices, & lunched with the Deputy  
 Lord Mayor.

I ~~to~~ did an afternoon meeting  
 at Exeter, <sup>organized by me with</sup> & saw the Mayor & leading councillors &  
 officials.

I had long talks, and a constituency  
 tour of the horizon, both with Clem Jones, who is  
 retiring on May 1st, & with Ted Rees, former  
 MP for Hants, who is succeeding him.

Rees talked about Stafford Cripps. He had  
 always found Stafford a very difficult chap. In  
 1945, when he was anxious to resign his  
 Party, he & I wrote to see C.K.A. & Stafford  
 at No 10. C.K.A. said "we want Stafford back in

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31/3/51 - 1/4/51 (2)

the Party." Winkle <sup>as Rees</sup> said "He can come back at once if he'll sign his form." Stafford said "I'm not signing any form" & walked out of the room. Chit was annoyed with the two organisers!

Rees then went back to Bristol and set things in motion for the selection of a candidate for Bristol (E), since Stafford was still an Independent. Stafford came down and asked him if he was serious. When Rees said yes, Stafford signed the form at once, without any consultation with any of his old friends who had been expelled at the same time as himself. This reminded me of his independent line, rejection of associates, when he had to expel them.

Just before the 1950 election, he was almost not reselected. Rees told me this story in more detail than I had ever heard it before. Stafford hadn't been in the constituency for

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31/3/51 - 1/4/51 (3)

2 years and had taken no interest in the  
Constituency Party. He didn't want even to  
come down for the Selection Conference. But  
Rees advised him that his seat was in danger.  
So he came by car with Isabel. It was a very  
hot night. He took his coat off and spoke  
for 1/2 hour. Then a vote was taken on an  
invitation to him to contest the new S.E. District  
Division. It was only carried by one vote  
with 120 delegates present. He had told him in  
his speech that he was a very busy man, and that  
national affairs must come first. Then, after  
the vote, he said he couldn't give him an  
answer that night, and drove off in his car with  
Isabel.

Then Rees had to get busy to get things right.  
Finally Stafford presented to come once a  
month and then, but still only by a majority,  
they selected him. When he arrived, he gave  
me a little refreshment to Rees in the window. Rees says  
he's down for me. I said he'd obviously had  
his usual.