

Papers of Hugh Dalton:
Original Manuscript Diary

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1955
(Folder of Loose Manuscripts)

Reduction Ratio:

12 x

DIARY.

1/1/55.

M. W. L. The cottage is finished, apart from a final coat of white paint on the outer doors. The Wilds, all of them, have just moved in, and all seems happy and promising well for the future. (But cross fingers.) ^{elderly} This is an important step in our life towards greater comfort, and retirement. It will cost

~~It is cold, with an east wind.~~
a lot more in wages, and we have depleted our capital to build the cottage (though we have increased the value of our real estate.) But I think it will be worth it.

It is cold, with an east wind, and I spend today on our annual accounts for 1954. Our expenditure was down to £252 last night, in spite of more than £300 spent on doctors & nursing home. - first of my slipped disc in Feb condition for my influenza gut, etc in December. I hope this is to be an annual affair!

I've been composing pretty well lately, but for days I have finished the chapter, c 1960, "Cromwellian" repeated by Churchill. But what a hell of a

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1/1/53 (2)

Got a diary and papers I've kept. I don't know
when I shall finish even the first draft of Vol II,
& then it will be much too long, & it will
take a great effort cutting it.

T.C. and I

8/1/53

Tony is our first visitor, staying the night at W.L. since the completion of the cottage and the arrival of the birds. He is most interesting and suggestive in his talk about the U.S. - whence he comes back last month from a Smith-Mundt tour trip. If socialism = a Yankee Society, will U.S. now socialist than V.K.? He will work these questions into his work. He had many other in U.S. working very hard at this, even just the first. (I had seen his face before since his return; once on his afternoon of his return. I had left a message ^{via} Tom to ask him to bring me up when he got back) and a few days later to discuss the ARK. He had been, normally, very full of U.S. talk time. He had been very happy there - happier than for a long time - and had got a tremendous lot out of it.)

R and he go a walk together on Sunday (9th). She comes back knowing & liking him. I think much better than ever before. I am very glad of this. His constituency program is very tiresome. Ted Rees

L.C.D.1

8/1/55 (2)

intelligent Regional organizer, it will be the S. Glus
 will have a Tony rank of 2,000 to 3,000. I have a
 would look for a too optimistic response. But T must
 decide with 2 members at outside reaction to paper
 tone or not, and meanwhile there is, apparently, no real
 else for him to go to. He has seen Len Williams,
 who appears friendly, & appreciated Len's advice. He
 extended for Leeds (probably Alice Bacon, but possibly
 Dennis Healey) & Tony were the 3 highest priorities
 for my vacancies, but had nothing immediate to offer.

Many of his supporters say the new S. Glus could be
 won by T, but if he fails, effect on morale will be
 very bad. Some of his more intelligent supporters see it
 from his point of view & would like understand his policy. He
 will be having several meetings here in the next
 few weeks, - all very troublesome & difficult.

if he loses down at the next election, he will be
 without the income, - though, I doubt, he could soon pick
 something up again. Our submission to Hilary will be a local
 decision here. And he will look forward relatively being
 out of the house. I will push around and do what
 can, but it will be long.

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28/2/53.

H.G. to lunch, alone, at the flat. He was in a good mood, & I think that he and I are a bit closer again now than we were last year. I urge him to be active on T's behalf.

He says that he has spoken to C.K.B., H.M. & W.W. about the possibility of enquiring Price (Mr. Manchester). The idea, he says, was well received by all, & W.W. was to speak to Price. We must not let the idea hang fire.

We planned, half serious half in jest, the next Labour Govt. I asked if, pending the Premiership, he was drawn towards F.O. rather than the Treasury. He said no, but falling to F.O.

was the most ~~difficult~~ difficult of all the matters. I said that Wilson would be delighted to take to Treasury, if H.G. was clear.

As to F.O. none of the possibilities were really satisfactory. However, we agreed, should have made No 1 job first, like he has developed. A repetition of it, he agreed, was quite out of the

question. H.G. then asked what about Sus Rice or Roberts? I was strongly against Sus Rice for this. Home Office would be better if he wanted the politician. He was much too cautious (C.S. on Capital Management) and too anti-Russian for F.O. In the end, we thought Roberts the most promising man. He had done well at Strasbourg, had presence, and pretty good judgment, and, we thought, much more of a front. But he would be in T.U. - F.O. condition of our Party. I was against a transfer to F.O. (remember Simon). The question should not be

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28/2/55 (2)

Sp. Callaghan 18/2/55, L.H. Lik, Housing 12/2/55. (6)

Treated legalistically. Showmen, we supposed, the Wool Board. H.G. wondered whether Tony Williams could do Agriculture again. I said certainly not. He was too old & constantly in pain. I did not think he'd entertain the idea for a moment. Geoff Brown was the Division Minister of Agriculture. I said we must sweep out all the old people. L.H. & H.G. were joining in, the only one must be brought down drastically. I, for my part, didn't want to be in the new Govt - I had said I'd be a lawyer & must cut other old ones. One point like was still with old age pensioners. Someday I should make a strong speech or a striking declaration on this subject. Our new Govt should be almost wholly vital of 1945 & after. He said "you are splendidly consistent" about Beveridge? It depended, of course, on how B & his rest behaved in the interval. [Two days later, came to discuss debate, with consequences to be described ^{course} later.]

if their behaviour was tolerable, we considered B either Defence or Colonies. H.G. said we must remember that he was always in the hands of his officials. I said I had suggested Colonies in 1951, in terms of Labour. For Government he thought & on 1 job outside the cabinet.

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28/2/55 (3)

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Transport. 2 recommendations desirable. It must be an absorbing job 2 keep him out of other matters.

Retaining Wilson might take Wilson - he was been on Under Development Peoples. (Always writing & talking about them. I enclosing H.S. to Union of Dufferin Jay for Board of Trade. At the Treasury he seemed hell like but Reg & Tony, but I said I didn't think would do. He wanted a Minister of State (Treasury) for this purpose of Chris Mayhew. Reg he thought would be an excellent F.S.T. with (confused Reg & Tony).

Reg much more considered perhaps a better Parliament. Tony will make with sweep, and I emphasized with Reg's answer - reserves of power, owing to his many meetings H.S. thought T might go at first to Board of Trade to do all Overseas Trade, including negotiations.

Low is now Minister of State (B of T.) Later if Mayhew went from the Treasury to a Service Dept. Tony might succeed him. H.S. said the field of the possible T minister was awfully bare. Perhaps

Widdley? (Later some one else suggested Fiermanji.)

Bothwell he thought has heard of some excellent relations. Unjoked Thorne 2 Aug. 2 how about with Wilson & S.G.? I thought you might be too old for the job.

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Keep

7/3/55 (Monday)

Back for a late lunch for W.L., where it was very cold and disagreeable (weather only.) Found a Summoner to a special Party at 4.30 this afternoon. This is a considerable action following on Berwin's speech, & contact with House, last ~~Friday~~ week, March 2nd. We must decide a line for Ptz Mtg on Wed. March 9th.

Final decision is to recommend to Ptz Mtg to withdraw the whip. If carried, this decision is communicated automatically to National Ex. (as it was in recent case of Silverman, Yates etc now defied Party decision - due to my stand in Ptz (I'm - to abstain on Ptz's Agreements. N.E. decided to take no action.) Four of us voted, at the end, against this - Griffiths, Roberts, Wilson & I - and Atlee. Atlee he did not vote, being in the Chair, agreed with us. Our alternative was to recommend a severe vote of censure & report this to the N.E. I voted that the best next step would be to provoke B to resign from the Party. He has done 2 days self. Contact 2 is in the habit of resigning. I said I thought that, if the reason of the censure motion were strong enough and if it was moved in a deliberately offensive speech, there was a good chance that he would resign. But they didn't ^{do} this. Jim Callaghan said it was too clever by half. I replied that it was better to be too clever by half than too stupid by three (or more.) Those who were strong for withdrawing the whip was Callaghan, Ede & ~~Atlee~~ ~~Baker~~ ~~Summerskill~~, all of those came

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7/3/55 (2)

(3)

in early. Progress supported by Morrison, ^{Hall, Shawcross & Mudd Bahr} & ^{to Whiteley} also by Gos Rice (after a slight wobble anyway.) (Switshell did not come to till near the end, but was for withdrawing the whip.

For the voting was 10 to 4 with the Chairman not voting. It was recognized by all that proposing to withdraw the whip, & still more so because of the Party if decided by the N.E. would cause the hell of a strike in the constituency where little nests of Beronites are ~~to~~ active ready everywhere. It gives the Tories a wonderful opportunity to cash in with an early election. But heavy trouble can't be avoided however we do. H.G. said that he believed that the Party would not attempt that I agreed with him, several, H.G. C.H.M. were also very good till B was out.

W. H. W. said that they thought he must be voting in particular, several said that you couldn't treat Selwyn Selwyn. & Yates were stronger than B, whose office was so small & great.

This agreement carried much weight, and it was thought that, unless we recommended the withdrawal of the whip, there would be an outbreak of some form of lawlessness. It was mentioned that some of these were now again showing a "kettle" movement, based on his alleged weakness & nothing. A lot of members are joining about with their names sharpened on both sides, some

said. As to whether we could carry the recommendation to withdraw the whip through the party, most seemed confident but I am not at

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7/3/55(3)

all same. And, if the majority were small, it would be very weak. (George charged Smith to me afterwards that if HULL told the meeting that they had to choose between him & B, he would win. But I don't think it done that way. In the earlier part of our discussion I let Paul & UZZ several suggested proposing a vote of confidence in the leader, but this was not passed. Several, including myself, spoke strongly against it.)

It was insisted that secrecy was very essential - no mention to press or outside colleagues - particularly a letter must be sent to B tonight, giving him notice of our intentions. He is ill with flu, down at his farm, & cancelled several meetings last week end. No doubt, when he has the letter, all will leak from him - American.

Jennie 8/3/55 had secrecy was wonderfully maintained. No morning paper carried anything. It broke in the evening Standard in the afternoon. (George Hutchinson, who spoke to me on Wednesday morning on the phone was very proud of himself for this scoop.) Jennie, I heard, had been telephoned from the farm to the HULL this morning. I did not till the middle of this afternoon, and about the House at all. I was in a standing CEE on the Parliamentary Bill in the morning; gave lunch to Will Davis, militant because Varnick, now gone him & UZZ were examination this morning (Harrison)

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8/3/55 (2)

Talk with Soms. We having met, said W.C. wanted now a (with elect. & Edna) agreed but Butler said he would be paid for ~~writing up report of death.~~

him much better than when he last saw him of some of it went straight into P.A.'s & sent through them; then added down to down floor to dictate to Peggy, & only put up ~~for~~ about 5. Roy Jenkins then told me that he heard most of the reasons & how they had voted. He had just come from some Fabian Club. So I guess it was H. Wilson now told him. Roy was very doubtful whether we should set withdrawal of the bill through to the next week. He thought it would be postponed for however long B's flu. This puts it off till next week. Meanwhile B's flu every year will be long. (Other people will be staying till weather. Time is on B's side. Dine with Downside. & left friend of B's & B's & B's.)

9/3/55 evening standard says me up to say that Daily Express

again a story that Wilson, Ede & I voted against withdrawing from H.G. was straight gutter. I say that I must have commented, but that this version is not nearly true. There will, in doubt, be discussion talk about death at tonight's meeting & Paul's view. But there wasn't. It was nearly all on the line to be taken at 11.3. Opinion handed, as we talked in favour of putting it Monthly - Brown & present leadership, Arthur Down to Hunt & Wilson. ~~CKA~~ Very unwilling (2 11/11/55 for, probably had to follow if ~~CKA~~ more resigned.) Robert, ~~to~~ Callaghan, H.G. & I say here to a point. Now we must go all out to him. ~~CKA~~ at some point says he thinks he can't stand. But he jolly him along. If he speaks up, twice & once.

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10/3/55.

TABLE 5. Hutcheson (Gaming Standard) to leave at G.H. and impress
 on him that we shall now all stand together on Paul's tree, and shall
 get ^{the} message, & doubts cleared, if motion to withdraw the report not
 carried; also that we shall accept a separate motion of
 confidence. The only way to show to confidence will be to
 vote for recommitment. (I hope C.R.A. will stand up to him
 next Wednesday.) I also find that ^{G.H.} ~~he~~ has the 42nd
 night in his 2nd book.

See H.G. in my flat 5.45 to 6.15. We must stand firm
 or we are sunk. He will stretch a synopsis of a speech
 to C.R.A. I said that Alf Reeves copies. H.G. says
 then give it to C.R.A. now is when most sensitive to
 working men. Talk with A.R. now is very firm & tenacious:

~~Jim Griffiths~~. Much shocked by H.M.'s attitude, - he says
 with me that he was thinking C.R.A. must lose, like
 S. C. - at least Paul's tree. Jim Griffiths, still

having ~~the~~ Ritters, tells me that George Chetaya
 has asked him whether there is any way out & they
 to come out only if A.B. heavily approved. But that will be

unworkable at all. J.G. clearly still has a faint hope that
 it may happen. I would like to see the possibility
 now. That I don't feel inhibited to. H.G. was completely right in
 Cullaghan's firmness, & I wish I may have been responsible!

11/3/55

Moving paper full of it! And M.G., first of them to print it,
 gets the four names right. J.C. rings up and

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11/3/55

say that he's spoken to CRA on telephone & suggests
that on Monday he should support V.M. enquiry into
effects of nuclear tests and no more till we have reports
He thinks I might write to CRA in that sense. I say
I'll write something, & perhaps that is what he gets it on
Monday morning. J.C. asks me not to suggest, even
joke, that one reason why he's so firm is because if
one B-site on N.E.C. resigns, J.C. will automatically
succeed him. (If that's what J.C., Sostice, Heenan
Dunn & Lang & others would make it!) H. Massingham
rings up, & I give him back (V.M.). He asks why did
J.C. ~~just~~ not withdraw of now? I say he didn't. He
asks who was nearest in the line - I say you (Lang),
& indicate Deputy Leader, Sostice & Shirewell. I may
advise H.G.'s point. I say that, though I voted in minority,
that is not a big part of the Union Record, & I shall
therefore, without hesitation vote with majority.

12/3/55

from his point
Beyond issues statement, that his differs with CRA are not
Derbyshire, but only on policy. H.G., now is speaking to members
Duncombe & had not intended to refer to that, rings up, & in discussion
what he might not say. He will write something emphasizing the
B's conduct in the House on March 2nd (B.R. says, must help
don't recall that at all.) I get a standard resolution from

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12/3/55 (2)

Bp Hurdell's Local Labour Party. One CLP executive meets tonight. I shall ring up W.D. tomorrow & find out what W.D. has done if anything. Resolⁿ are being brought, all of course, ~~for~~ for B, for various CLP's. H.S. & I are both a bit apprehensive that C.P. may make an U.S. U.S. today is only Saturday. (May be till Wednesday!)

Stokes is reported today as having said that you could have a man in a football team now kicks the ball forward in the stomach whenever he feels like it. I read in one paper that the great Lord Salisbury once said that, when he'd considered all the evidence and taken his decision on it, he didn't spend time worrying about the consequences. Lord left them to the case of W.D. W.D. says it's not I do; the only danger is not changing your view, if there's some new evidence.

13/3/55. (Sunday)

Sunday Press full of it, George Price's Margaret and Peter Townsend divert some attention! Now the front cover of B - it's that Shadow Cabinet take broken Stokes under, now it's provide that, before now it's W.D., a meeting shall take night to be heard by Shadow Cabinet, as well as by W.D.'s Party. One W.D. was raised at our meeting, but S.D. will read out & appear at the time that W.D. was W.D. of W.D. was at issue. (I hope we haven't missed on this!)

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13/3/55 (2)

Most of today's press adds nothing, but the Observer stands out. H. Marrison has a very clever piece; he has found out everything, including my motive (in case not expressly attributed to me) of pushing resignation by means of "too clever for too simple". There is also a thoughtful leader, suggesting that after 1950 we were suffering from the "malaise of success". This leader is very good, esp. by Tony, never saw L.P. do so well? Will Davis on telephone tells me this afternoon that

B.A. C.P. gave last night was in good & unimpaired. He was in the U.K., Leamington. Crows, both being absent. Tony passed, he says, a number of resolutions & rejects, none he did not feel he could uphold. That there was no strong feeling on violent speeches, & they seemed to know that I had voted in the minority. Criticism, he says, is in difficulty & there may be some change in arrangements of secretoryship. Davis sounds helpful. I was to address S.M.C. on Saturday, March 26, when I shall deal in the Constitutionary conference

Sunday press makes hardly any reference to Bervais' growing defects of character & conduct, his inability to discuss, rather than orate, his intervention of the great majority of his colleagues, his increasingly evil face, when silent & not speaking. I write tonight to C.P.A. not to mention my visit to Nelson, debate, & my own weakness on B.A.

DITRY.

14/3/55.

(45)

H.G. sends me, and Alf Roberts, a note of comm. from
A.S. to be put into CRT's hands, by A.R. as the only
working man of the 3 yrs. This is fixed on conference
in Paris at 7.30 pm. in Room A, off Lower Passage;
A.R. to give it to CRT after vote at 10 pm. i to pick
him up in lobby & take him to his room.

Remember that that A.S. may apologize on Wed,
but he seems out of character & L. Hunter tells
me that Jennie, Kate & Mallicien are joining
him apart apart, apart apart it. Hunter says
CRT. concluded with him & Margaret and asked "what
would be ^{to you} of my apology?" replied "Hjorn in meeting."
15/3/55

Special meeting of Paul's Unit, called at my suggestion to
Smyth field before Wednesday battle, at 11.30 am.
CRT ~~put~~ starts with "what do I do if he apologizes?"
Jim (Bill) is the only really nervous man, but
CRT also a bit nervous. Wilson says his feeling
some time would be an apology. Finally he
conclude, with practical minimum, that CRT should say
it's too late: he's had a heel in white wine. We are
firm for voting a straight vote. With reports from Jim

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15/3/55 (21)

He was sure we should win tomorrow but by how much depends on how C.P.A. put it. (20)

scrips lost 160 votes with the heavy sick list. about 80 against. Total 253. but heavy sick list.

Opp finally agreed that C.P.A. would take a vote of confidence in him or us; he'll say that opposition to our proposal is a vote of no confidence in us. That he wouldn't refuse ~~any~~ amendment of heavy clause; though this will be equivalent to no confidence in us.

H.G., E. Summershill, ^{Small} J. Roberts & I. Quite strong today in H.M. Jim Phillips kept H. Wilson rather resigned. Jim Callaghan saying little, but not much. Soshill strong, but almost in count.

So it comes primarily on the little man tomorrow. If he's firm, he'll win, & by a fair majority. I leave the House at 4.30; to see me no votes. (It's with us now to fold does anyone without being engaged in the stand topic.

George Moore, to whom I speak by phone at Henry Watstein flat, says strong standard for 140 certain votes for Platten tomorrow, & go to park. He says A.B. says something like that & that friends in the House say. Some no doubt were voting him to apologise tomorrow. I said that if he showed signs of apologising, someone would intercept it, & still laugh mockingly. Then he would be caught. 3 strong phony were prepared to say they had this kind of reason. 3 strong phony were prepared to say they had this kind of reason. 3 strong phony were prepared to say they had this kind of reason.

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16/3/55(2)

B says he'll make a statement now, if he has a right of reply
 taken. But there are ^{two} "only one" speech" and so he
 a defiant air, he starts. Clear at once that he shall not
 be embarrassed by an apology. ~~His~~ Complaint that he did
 not know, till C.R.A. spoke this morning, would change
 against his own. Then replies - C.R.A.'s speech, in part
 denies point (2) of March 2nd, he meant of their
 would give a lead, let our leaders do so. Claims from
 man report that he is not everyone present since he
 meant. ^{attacks H.G.} In putting his fact point against him
 at Doncaster ^{last} week. Mr. G. Brown
avoid most awkward points with skill. Mr. G. Brown
mi. Recalls that in 1947 G.B. was working
 a part, he says to be taking the line he is. Then his voice
 rising to the familiar "Suean", then one the men were
 one working against the leadership. Those hat-check-faced
men sitting on the platform. "It's a lie" shouts one
 of them, & then Jim Callaghan. Then an attack on Douglas
 Jay. "It's no use Jay sitting there smirking". Then a
 declaration that he went from a splinter party. And so to an
end. Then Fred Lee moves, & Maurice Coleman records,
 an omit that B he defers & causes B's conduct, and ref
to write behind C.R.A. to win the votes out of the
party elect. C.R.A. had at first planned to use his

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16/3/53 (3)

would be in order, since it combines two elements
 opposition to withdrawing the vote, & confidence in present
 leadership. But he doesn't insist, & Lee moves, probably
 & Edelman seconds, less well. (He says you can't make
 a party viable by castrating it; howls & (another) to
 his debate program after this, a piece of paper is passed
 along the platform. (I think in H.G.'s writing) for signature,
 & then to be handed to C.P.T. saying that he hasn't made
 it clear that he should not resign unless ^{any in danger} withdrawal
 & that unless he makes this clear, he should be defeated. This
 is signed by all Paul & Lee (except (signature) & woman I don't
 know it, & Wilson now is diplomatically absent) and also by
 himself. C.P.T. reads it & puts it on his desk. He looks
 he may be reserving a firm statement for the future.
 on 1947 - they must wait for my authoritative account
 Vol III - G. knows how much an effective speech. Says that
 in that year he thought Bevan would be the best PM
 & has now conceded this. Alice Bacon asks B
 whether he remembers in that summer talking her by the
 arm & walking her down the corridor and saying
 that C.P.T. was ~~hopeless~~ hopelessly weak and that they must
 have Bevan as PM. (Bevan screams "Liar, liar"). Daines
 asks whether he remembers at that same time taking
 her along to his mother's room, & drawing the curtain,
 and saying that C.P.T. is much too weak and

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16/3/55 (4)

must be fast and of other speakers, Tom Fraser deems
 B very strongly, for persistent intrinsic a year leader mt. to
 Irvine. In B, is, in usual, a gift to the other side, left
 with a slanging match with Bessie Braddock, - "a
 Government" view "a ex-libit." E. Procter makes a
 malapropos mt. - B's speech; Collich a rather effective
 speech, in favour of Lee's motion, but admitting B's ~~faults~~ ^{misdeeds}.
 C.R.'s reply is not strong. Referring to 1947, he says he knows that
 there were more than to let rid of him, but ~~long~~ ^{all} ~~promised~~ ^{came to}
 "ultimately coming to Bessie's loyalty." He adds neither new ~~new~~ ^{new} points,
 nor strength. When he sits down Elsie Brunker, very plucky
 woman, says how she is in disagreement with her C.P. in 1953,
 but wants to know whether it - motion repeated, C.R. who
 colleague would resign. C.R. says in a weak voice, "we
 should have to consider our position."

voted for Lee's cond - 124; a/m - 135;
 for main (withstand) 141; a/m 112.

A very poor meeting, in a heavily attended meeting.
 It will now be difficult for N.E.C. to support B.
 Misfortunes (1) the week's delay, during some agitation
 in the working unit stood up; (2) the refusal of Paul Usher
 to accept my advice - to put down a heavy motion and
 and try to make a reply; (3) the decision to withdraw the
 having been taken C.R.'s weakness this morning. Someone

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16/3/53-57

to his West Gate, in the Vendee. "I shall walk
in my word, & I shall hear the birds singing, and I
shall be very happy. Because I am sure that in that
word I shall meet either a bird or a man without his
word."

said "he was weak this morning, because he wanted some women
way the vote would go, and was determined, whichever way
it went, to stay on as leader.

The matter is not raised at our first West meeting at
5 pm tonight!

I felt I couldn't leave among them upon talking
about it, so tried to carry someone out to lunch. But
H. McNeill, woman, John being failed, I invited, had
the Israeli tent to lunch & I joined them.

To one Jimenez I said "Will you join the Party
was unanimous against Beran. They all either voted
to censure him severely or to withdraw the stamp." There
was the bad face I could put on it.

17/3/53 Next day I spent mostly with Ben Draper, lunch,
Count and Dinner, to house I took Tony on my
guest.

18/3/53

To W.B. I go down to the House to vote of household
expenses with Bill. Now he has only 85. When
division is called, not enough to his expense.

I repeat 2 stories in reply to her I feel. (1) Billy
Draper to me at Canberra, asking what he thought of his
new collection (he had just required to put) "The same as the
man thought when the cat had bitten - keep 3 and
break the rest." (2) I don't even recall

T.C. 21

(3)

18/3/53

Took T to line at a Draper Court Dinner. Ratten's voting
after all was over was over Baram, culminating in a Party
with ^{the day before election!} a small majority, withdrawn the whip.

I think T likes the dinner more in fact, especially
the 2nd speech by speaker. H.P. can be picked up by
John Farmer now shows him around the Chamberlain
all, including the House, including the
he then come back to my flat & talk. He
is working very hard at the Beach, & enjoys his
Parliamentary lull. He is very pleased at how the
Beach is shaping.

He is very vexed with H.G. for taking on the Union,
the wrong line over Baram. He thinks my line -
heavy clause motion was a good way to move
Baram into resignation - was the right line. He will

by feeling his way out. Mulley & Allen have been
unconditional Saints-like. But now they are going to tell
him what they think of this last weekend

The constituency problem is sticky. One set of W. Gos
LI means to find out from W. Gos what they want West, - I have
deliberately delayed till the B. business was over. I have
Pannell, v. friendly, message drafted on him. Think it is a
5000 majority with prospects of appreciation. Selection time
delayed till after the Parliamentary election. If W. Gos off, Don't
would be pretty good. Long has a special.
we must see (Smith). I must see her William
last week.

DIARY.

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30/3/55.

At Paul's office we discuss our relation to proposal for early General Election. In 1929 and 1945, the precedents now noted for a spring election, there was cooperation by the Opposition in getting business through. But this would now mean facilitating Finance Bill and summing Supply Days. ~~Most of the~~ Ministry in 1945 C.A.T., H.E. & H.E., in addition to support, are against such cooperation. We want to see Eden first in office 2-3 weeks (6 weeks till October). I suppose that Eden will look very small after Lijman, - "little Diplomat in striped trousers", - first step for a very long time now has been had ⁱⁿ - ^{the} individual responsibility for a Home Front Dept. - any local first experience. Suggested we should convey to W.C. our view that a (with election) wouldn't be playing the same. steps taken to this end.

31/3/55.

Hq. tells me he has spoken to C.A.T. about Price (W.P. for Tony in the past.), but it didn't seem to be very much troubled.

I'd say the W.S.C. temporarily patched up the Bern case. This had no doubt become necessary, owing to previous delays & hesitation. But, by a good majority, they caused a pretty stiff conversation; approving a motion of P.M. in withdrawing the W.S.C. taking note of W.S.'s apology & warning that future breaches of discipline will be severely dealt with.

DIARY.

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3/13/55 (2)

C.H.A. - Jim Griffiths wanted to be ~~less~~ less stiff. I abstained.

[Last week end I was at Bishop Auckland and, at my own request, met G.M.C. Most 70 attended. Garry, new President, in the Chair. Not strong, but doesn't seem to like broken record Galtie. Aston & Sheldon new vid-P; a good legal chap. ~~whose~~ wife is one of the best of all.

I make a long speech (I'd been told to wait, but the ~~fact~~ of his expulsion or otherwise with come before N.E. with a few days. It was reported in press that I had voted against withdrawal of hon. I said I did, and it had, of course, long been known ~~that~~ I had been against German Remit. So I had a good back round with Bertram etc.). I speak of need for unity but insist that B has done very badly. I detail his misdeeds. I give Durham cases of Benford & Mould. Even did much less than B. Could have one law for his type & another for small. Have done by Nidolater. If he ~~was~~ ^{has} been big enough to say "in saying" it would have stopped things coming this far. I almost weep. Could be proud of D.H. Com miss word line; So did Com Prin (Danzburh). Prin's obj ect was to divide and weaken Lab Part.

Prin Munn & Pickering & Galtie (the 3 B's etc) shake the other 67 sat silent. IV & I were both pretty reasonable & agreed with many of my points. But IV attacked Galtie & Morrison. Galtie made a shocking speech, jumping about & shouting. "I am a Nidolater," he shouted. "B.M. is truly advised."

DIARY.

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30/3/55.(3)

at Dunlop on May 1st. Come & hear him!" No attack on me, but a most impressive performance. Little sniffs - like young mouse & seeing Senator in Iraq - & jawns of water nervously suppressed to have said to both benches with a very little applause. Then Lumsden says, in a few sentences, that he must respect majority decisions. Considerable applause. Then I reply, Maria N & P, do for future, pretty vigorously. "Do I say his is the one to strongly unhelpful speech." To hear you speak I say, "one would think that it was Lord [unclear] & that all the rest of us were a lot of scally wags." Then, thinking I might seem to some to have hit ^{them} before hand, I said "now I'll do what I've said myself."

I also defended H.C. and said, jokingly, that he had been chosen by rank & file of members to speak at Miners' Gala tonight.

on 2-10, if I've hurt your feelings, I'm sorry. Shake hands. This rather had him about, but he would not refuse.

Then, at end of my speech, a pause. Then Jack Bell says he wants to move a vote of confidence in our members. This is seconded, and carried unanimously, (I think, at voting, since he is sitting on the bench.) Then Simpson suggests that I should press another resolution, hoping that Party

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31/3/55(4)

will be invited & I don't see why they should. I disagree
 with them from this, & ask them to leave it in my hands, to speak
 to the sense of meeting. Don't expect to. I think on Monday
 & etc. This evening's performance shows that I can
 beat G. in G.M.C. if I put myself to do it. That's what
 a bore! And on E.C. he can pull people both his
 way. It is shocking how silent & inert all the
 decent people at the G.M.C. are. I speak, in this regard, to
 Maurice Welford, now he's just sat ^{the} back, saying nothing.]

~~31/3/55~~

to make it an
one-way.

I catch C.K.T. this evening to press point about Price. He
 like with a long talk. I open with Price, casually
 mentioning Tony, but mainly praising P. C.K.T. will see him.
 Count, he says. Not this with dissipation however. Price is always
 straight party. That would let some new persons just after
 election, whichever way it went. (Price is a bad bloke!)
 We then speak at length on ^{next} ~~future~~ but first, if we win
next election. I say I don't believe we can, certainly not if it's
 a quick one. I say he must go on as ~~leader~~ leader until then
 in the long run inevitable success. He says he can't go on since
 long, but is v. critical of H.M. He opens with me that H.M. (what
 John to P.O. He says with H.M. But for C.K.T. doesn't
 want ~~even~~ H.M. to lead the House again. This very much, I think, C.K.T.
 leaves. He says he won't do it. H.M. going back to the House

DIARY.

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31/3/55(51)

File? He could do that. I say that if he'd take it, that would
be admirable. He speaks of others. (With H.G., I not mentioning,
since he & C.R.A. have been so much at odds over Berry. But
I'm clear that C.R.A. would think of no one else on that side.)
He says one of his points is that he doesn't know the
difference between a big question and a small question.
He gives me an opening by saying that one must be realistic
next time, and make many changes. I then say that, if he
I then propose, no one else over 65, except Jim Griffiths,
now has a Trade Union value, so he is first. It seems
that C.R.A. 21 last week ago. Of 15 shadow labour,
9 are now over 65, and of those 4 are over 70. I will
then nominate, Ed, Shinnell, N. Baker & Hall should be in
next time. I don't want to be in, and if he keeps all these things
out, I'll back him up. Mathews & Purvis, I write a suitable
letter for publication at the right moment. (Likewise, if he don't
win, he must get all this out of his mind, & I'll
not stand. I give a lead here too.)

Other possible peers. John Dwydale (but he appears with me
that he will a success in House), John Strachey (he's willing
not to have him in next year), Phil N.B. (but has just a few
advise is possible) & Tom Williams (but he probably hasn't any
more.)
He leaves, he's been paid at 5' hour, he has

From the suggestion Roberts, & I back this up. A Trade Union
man better than a lawyer for this, he thinks. He recall
Judge Griffiths, even Ed's work. That has gone off since then.
Shinnell. West's, he looks kind. I say Paul would be a
an approach if he was given anything else.

DIARY.

(2)

31/3/55 (6)

Soskice. I say he'd never do for P.O. think too emotional.
 Remember that awful speech he made about Capital punishment.
 How about H.O.? I ask? No, say C.M.A. you don't want a
 thought for H.O. either. "Let them stay where he is", i.e. /u
 on an low officer. Bertram, if his behaviour? How at
 about Deface? I suggest. That C.M.A. don't like that. ~~Angus~~
 Angus,

I say, he would a C.O. like Stewart. C.M.A. say skin will
 won confidence of many ~~former~~ leaders. He was how
 about Wilson? Bertram? I remind him that I recommended
 him in 1950. He'd let V. Rea. (his full of Cuban prejudice
 against writers.) Wilson? Back to Board of Trade, he

thinks. I said he would not pass there before. Jim
 Callaghan? I'm glad to find that C.M.A. is strongly in
 favour. I suggest the Housing (Local Govt. He thinks Transport

and in the Cab. I suggest he should be moved to ^{another}
 Home Front post, ^{but} let that old enough to be Ministry of Defence.
 George Brown, he not agree. Agriculture, and Action

Buttensley, he not agree. Commonwealth Rel? Angus left
 is best post? I wonder. C.M.A. states not. I suggest Education.
 He says "Michael Stewart is being prepared for that." He would maybe

Stewart. Perhaps Admiralty? C.M.A. states states at view
 office - I agree warmly - de Penrose at tri. Crossman,
 I suggest a heavy Home Front job outside the Cab "National
 Insurance & Pensions" say C.M.A. with a chuckle. Parker,
 and many had been in his. "Don't let it be a disaster" he says,

DIARY

31/3/55 (7)

U: L'homme. [C.C.A.]

and Maxima is lame and doesn't fit. He still hankers after
 Gene Hall, but I will very strongly that he's too old.
 Tom Fraser we both like very much. Bev. much surprised
 next time. H. McNeill never drinks. I say he always looks
 as though he drinks too much. E. Davies looking next time. But
 he & his wife drink too much. Ch. J. had to speak to him
 severely. I suggest that Davidson, Ugo really too old, might
 be suitable. He has worked very hard & well. Ch. J. not
 very optimistic. We both agree that Bob Mellish should be an
 under secretary. We deplore lack of good young men. Ch. J.
 has noticed Roy Mason. I think he might be tried. However
 He says me about Fred Lee. I say quite good up to a point,
 but comes to an end rather suddenly. I praised him, of
 course not claiming too much for him.
 This conversation took a long time - but it will be seen
 that we left many things & persons undiscussed.

1/4/55

see Len Williams, primarily about ^{as seat to} Terry. We discuss, as
 recorded elsewhere, Dunford, Eastleigh, Nashville & Grant-Ham.
 Volving v. food. I have Mike W-T also in mind.

Television tonight on the News with Elliott, Bookley &
 Crossman. Less news than usual, by trial, a dull dog, and
 Michael Peacock, a commonplace young man, then Stuart etc
 by Rasthorpe & Lavinia. I think didn't even see & hear
 or share but only part of it. As at the end is pretty over
 in his voice. Some dull descriptive stuff about the prices
 of food, whisky, etc

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(23)

1/4/55(2)

Most amusing part of the evening is at Beatty's house afterwards. Where all gossip freely. B is sure Winstanley is going on Tuesday (the 5th), but it's awful for him that London newspapers will still be off on a strike owing to strike!

Eden, they say, is accepted, but without enthusiasm. Eden, Butler & Macmillan are "not a triumvirate, but a trinity". No friendship at the top here. But no present challenge from outside the three. Physically, Eden, they say he was 3 times cut up. Has made a wonderful recovery. He can still play tennis. His movements at the top are more free than either of the others. Butler is very tired (- and what a job he has!) and felt the loss of his wife very much. And Macmillan shuffles along like an old man. He had a full bladder of fashion at long ago. B thinks the others will be watching Eden and that he may well be poleaxed in 18 months time.

Crossman, obviously hating Suitsell more than he loves Bevan. B, he says, has apologized, to keep himself in the Party, but he has an apology in his heart. One day after the N.E. rejected him he had a ~~the~~ conversation with Bevan. In first part of the record, he attacked the Independent Organisation and said he'd beat the next. In the second part, he tried to veer against the H. bank. One "fall-out", he said, was a new factor. We must all think again.

Crossman missed his gifts. I said this was all

DIARY.

1/4/55(3)

fantastically exaggerated. And the main defects were
visibly growing. He was no longer capable of discussion, but
only of monologue. And he never went to the Tea Room.

I jeered at M. Stakgold's "memories of hunger". C said
"you don't go to the Tea Room either." I said "Yes, I do, I've
never seen him there." ^{or you} C said B would get the money
to write 2/4/55. I said he would die. I said he was very
from all responsibility, as for the minimum 10's play, when
having H.G. would beat him, he stood for Treasurer.

C said B was always talking about his "long term
strategy". C had been very ungrateful C, because, under
the title "The Kettle puts his foot down" the P.S. had
said that "the great majority of Cuban supporters would
accept the Kettle as their leader, the Smiths as their
financial expert and the Bevan as the inspirer of their
Swissair flight." B had told C that this reference
H.G. was ~~grossly distorted~~ "gross disloyalty".

Boothby & I had remembered earlier to one another
that their ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~themselves~~ showed their hatred of one
another too openly; he ^{Stoneman} managed our relations
even when ^{more} ~~less~~ smoothly.

C also mentioned about S'berg; I jeered at those who said
they were quite undistinguished & knew no language. Sullen at
the time & that day. And why was Edelman kept? Afflicted, you would say.

T.C. and I
2/4/55

Saw main → (in the next few days I start pricing
tickets of my own on price. They will
be. I was told by a lot of people that it
seems on 1/4/55 that the winning ticket will be
Lacey

We dined tonight at the Atropolis, & he came back to my
flat for a final drink.

His constituency problem is very difficult. Our hopes of getting
Phillips Price out of W. Gloucester, (a constituency name would
suit T perfectly) before time for a change at the General
Election now seem almost gone. I had hoped for a
Peerage for him in Dissolution Honours, but C.M. Soplex
are always pro party, though after the election, whichever
way it goes, we might have some new Peers.

I saw Lee Williams yesterday, & talked about T. He
spoke of Doughty, Eastleigh, Ruschcliffe & Goutham, & had
sent T's name to the bank 2, since they had asked
Humphreys
for names. L.W. thought Eastleigh better than Doughty,

& Ruschcliffe better than either, but Phillips & other evidence
don't bear this out. I didn't, of course, mention W. Glos to L.W.
5. This evening T wasn't attracted by any of the 3 new
suggestions. (Doughty was an old suggestion, passed by Charlie
Parnell.) He's very Real, quite naturally from the point of
view of the future, not to win a marginal seat, & then be in
and out by 1958. & that to be always missing it. He'd
sawer first 2 lose this time, & then be ready to take his
chance of a good by-election. He's inclined now to hang on
till the last minute, on chance of something suddenly coming
loose. (Particularly if George the odds seem now against this, this
election doesn't come for some months.) But he's against Doughty
a bit more in view of C.P.'s friendliness, though he hears there are
strong local aspirations. All a good feat here, & I feel very

DIARY

32

4/4/53 to 7/4/53.

intensive electioneering on behalf of my two young friends, Tony & Mike. On the 5th as expected, Winston did resign. The end, in the House, was flat. On Thursday, his last day, he didn't come to morning tea P.Q.'s - as we had expected - & he bid us farewell. Ned did Eden show himself.

Two newspapers in London! This meant a muffled going. Butler, to whom I said "I expect you had to push", replied "Yes, he had. You see at the end he couldn't do his business in Cabinet. He spent all his time composing his answer to P.Q.'s." Other related that he looked much too much. I will go for a detail. Very confidentially at the Commonwealth P.M.'s Conference.

Butler told me, on the 6th that he himself would like a Cetera election. - Unlikely that is looking at all the population guesses from yesterday in the Cab.

On the 6th, & Thatcher had himself that election night be delayed till Oct. Spring advice, I felt and wanted given to Eden to delay. "The brave thing", said Mr. [unclear] of to announce that there would be no election this year." He himself, he said, didn't think much would

happen? was in, & didn't want to continue in office. Butler on all the obvious party arguments, the case for going Smith seems overwhelming.

On the 6th Parliaments to the old boy in the House, & welcome to his successor. I shake Eden's hand and go out feeling [unclear].

DIARY:

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4/4/55.

See L. Williams at 3. I explain that Tony wants to be
back to work, & L. likes the idea of winning a majority. He
was a doctor before war time & takes his chance of
G.-election afterwards. And he feels he must give
up something at last moment. Of course, I will
mention W. Gos.

I then suggest we should send
Mr. W.T.'s name to Grantham, & also to Frank
Shepherd & Eastleigh. Agreed.

I then ring Shepherd and fix a meeting in Paris with
Mike next day. And Mike to warn him. He was
going to Mid East on Friday.

I meet Price in the street. He is trying to get in
in debate on our adherence to Turkey - having said that I
ask him to meet me afterwards, in dining room. He
does. Both people, including Grossman, are at next table.

So I talk with P about the Paines, etc. Mr
Curt Grossman joins & I tackle P on Peerage. He
says he'd like it. He'd like "a niche" for himself.

Like at Westminster, as he plans to do. That adds
that he spent his 70th birthday hunting with 1. people
2. his horses, and has just told his ^{people} that he'd
like to give up & has been re-elected.

He said "No" to resigning the other day, because
we put it "very abruptly", and because Patten had

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4/4/55 (2)

~~but it is~~ badly before about it. He then jumps out a
rehabled ~~to~~

Story. There have been two previous ~~cases~~ offers from
by Atlee in 1941, when Stansgate, Winston, & J. Woodrow
& someone else went up. I was offered it & accepted,
after consulting his family. One ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~group~~ ~~said~~
"I'm afraid it's off." I asked why. & ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~said~~
& looking uncomfortable. "I'm afraid I can't tell you."
I was very indignant. I said "No doubt it has been
difficult in the Coalition, & Winston & the others
may have objected to so many ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~group~~ ~~said~~

Then, said I, there was a second case in 1952,
after the election. ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~said~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~interested~~
wanted his seat. Would he go to Lord? He
consulted with his wife, but he would, if he
liked, be a Lord-in-waiting. I told me that at 1957,
he had been ~~asked~~ ~~to~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~House~~ ~~of~~ ~~Commons~~, & said that neither he nor his
seat was in the market, & that he had no wish to
be a Lord-in-waiting, - & left the ~~man~~ ~~said~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~interested~~

[In fact, the trouble in 1941 was that it was discovered that P's
wife was a German - a valid objection - and also that before, he
had been a suspected Communist - that was some time ago!]
But now, I told him ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~said~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~interested~~

DIARY.

4/4/55(3)

35

He needed pretty strong letters, & I would bring it especially in April/May & Friday, & in Foreign Affairs. He seemed very pleased with it. I asked whether I could tell him that he would like it, & he said yes. He began to speak about when it would come, & when he should tell his constituents. I said distribution matters were just part, but that would face it with a date in an early date after. He said that he had been & had asked him to dinner recently to meet the Turkish Ambassador. He was becoming pleased & pleased as we talked. I advised him not to worry at present about telling his constituents, & timing of dates of announcement. (One, most deliberately, did not speak on any question of success, nor did he.) Crossman came back, & rejoined us, & he had to change his conversation. Then when he had got rid of them, I again started to tell his family. I said it might be well to tell his wife, but not Peter nor Tony - yet. Very good! I rang up Tony & said "Pete wants a peace, & I hear from a high authority that there might be election with a new Gov. (we had been assuming May.) He was disappointed at both these announcements!"

DIARY.

5/4/55.

I told CRT that I would like a Pearson. I suggested CRT should see him. He was afraid of the news & said he would.

I had Frank Shepherd to the HM C₂ & he doesn't seem to like me much a taxi to Mike's flat. I proposed Eastleigh. Then Mike & I went off to dine at the H. P. D. Mike was clear he couldn't take it because he was not good enough. He could become an M.P. & still run his business without loss of credit. But not if he ran it in a better way. This was a slightly new slant to me, but quite rational. So he agreed that we should write to Shepherd next day. I'll write to Frank. (Wed. & enclosed letters.) If a fresh election comes, I don't see much chance of doing better for Mike. If it's delayed, something might happen. But I'm disappointed not to have been able to do better for him.

6/4/55.

I must get a move on the W. G. S. I rang up CRT & said he should see P. today. (Tomorrow the House adjourns.) He says he will if he can't get 200 of. I mention Tony as an alternative speed. Then I try to reach P. & find his London number. No reply. I let his Newcastle number from the house.

DIARY.

35

6/4/55(2)

Office. Lying in. A servant says he is ^{still in} London today, but catching the 6.35 train home this evening. The servant thinks he will be at the House of Commons. I telephone twice to the House leaving a message for him to ring me up. No reply! I lunch in ~~the~~ ^{at} 10 only to the House. P has not been seen there today! Just ^{at} 4, after the Tribunal - Winston, I go again to ^{the} "Clerk's room", & urge him to see P today. I tell him that P thinks Eden will be agreeable. I again mention Tony. Eden says "he's a very promising young man, but there are other claimants without knots, eg Justice & Summashill. I say, with great assurance, ~~that~~ "they are all fixed Justice, is going to foster. Summashill to Warrington. I saw Len Williams yesterday. Winston is the only one of my importance not ~~to~~ ^{to be} placed." He accepts this, but apparently being in touch with events. About 5 P rushes up to me, very excited. He has only just got my telephone message. I say "my intelligence service is melting fast. You are proposing to catch the 6.35. You must cancel that. I have to go to see you today." I agree. We go to Allen's room. He says "I will see you 6.30 with Miss Kelly (CMT - Sec) of the interview. I

Diary

6/4/55(3)

(He had mentioned Sushila to me as the Secretary
anti-Soviet Successor he would like. I had
said low Sushila from being to-jerk, but had the
Sushila Team? now they's stand. I

When Roll H.G. now is in the library, 2 or 3 days stand. I
am in the corridor, just before 6.30. C.K. goes by. He
says "I haven't seen him." I said "I have. He's coming
to see you at 6.30." A few minutes later O. appears.
Says: "He's waiting for you. Good luck! Let's have a
word afterwards." Soon after 7, C.K. again appears, with
a party now look like conditions. He breaks down
with S.G. to me. "It went very well. And he was very
pleased by the success." I asked "Does it mean the
- young man?" He said "Yes." (It was important to be
to me, should just mention T.H.P.)

I then found P in the library, & he went down to
the Hanover Room. He said "He was awfully nice.
He told me that in 1941 it wasn't his fault. He said
he wanted me to speak on Foreign Affairs in the
Lords, as well as on Agriculture. He said he
thought it would be arranged. Bishop's House in June. I
told him I knew she was not, & he seemed very pleased.
And then, said P, they had talked about a successor. "You
had advised me not to, but he retained it." "Well," I said, "the
important thing is your presence, & I don't want to complicate
a settlement at all." "Well," said P, "he suggests to me to say
husband. And that would suit me very well indeed.
We don't have any reservations. In fact, down in the

DIARY

6/4/55(4)

on L.A.

Forest were mixing in fact" he said, eyeing me a little carefully. "he passed a resolution about to H.R. in favour of the Paris Agreement." "U" I said. "L.A. Contravention is all over now. I had Pre-Bertram views on L.A. But L.A.'s Jimmie. It's a matter of fact. L.A. would agree with you on L.A. It's a strategy bet - Bertram. Do you know him at all?"

O.K. said P. They had been County members by the way & he had a good opinion. I said so & ad 1. He was very helpful to Robert Dettler. I had a good background, & good brains. (a good personality.) (Don't deliberately didn't let it on at all L.A.) How would it be to have him over for a night during the recess, & talk it all over with him? "Yes, he said, he'd like to do L.A. would I be seeing him? I might be, I said, & I would give him P's message, either orally or by writing.

That night I rang up Tony & said "Price mixing you to spend a night with him during the Easter Recess. It to arrange for the year talking over the Forest" He was amazed. When I told him he expressed much gratitude. - I always happened he expressed much gratitude. - I always

discomage for much of L.A. - I thought L.A. may & midday had been brilliant. I only hope it comes off. There are still some difficulties about P's message - I've been hearing on top of that.

DIARY
7/4/55

Lunch with H.G. at Hampstead, with D.J. & the three wife
young men - Tony, Roy & Wanda. "A booze up as
H.G. called it, finishing off w/ a lot of walrus wine, with
very greenish cold pork, mayonnaise potato, ^{sauces} & cheese.

Fixed befuddled not to speak of W.P.A. in front of
Wanda now. I hope will let the Saints B'ham, but
Dante went in the front. T & I - I Roy with car -
stay behind afterwards. L Roy driven up back. T tried to
T shall write to P and accept Row with to stay with.

Later I ring up P and ask her his wife when he has
He says very much. I then say I've seen T now will
be most delighted to know L is writing. I think my T
again & report.

So far with her privilege
negotiation. He may still fail, but without my efforts
last 3 days it would never have begun to show any sign
of succeeding.

The talk at L's lunch was very frank &
interesting. The 3 young men - D.J. & I were absent
were critical of H.G. over B. affair. They feel the Post office
so not have seen to withdrawing the stamp. (on this my opinion
had been taken.) They thought H.G. unaccountable
difficulties is C.H.P.'s. Had that he was being labelled
Right wing. Had meant devote more time & effort to attacking
Tonia. When they had finished I spoke with most who

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(11)

7/4/55(2)

They'd said. Several of them also said about H.G. must not
squarrel with C.K.T. (I agreed with them. I said I wanted
H.G. to lead the party and to succeed C.K.T. directly. -
I was a little shocked to
find in still playing with the idea of H.G. replacing C.K.T.
with himself as Deputy. I said this would be work. But
H.G. would prefer H.G. to C.K.T. as leader. H.G. said
he had had to do so much of the anti-B fighting,
because H.G. did so little. He said that some of his
T.D. supporters sometimes used him as a young intellectual
supporter. It is quite a large share. H.G. spoke, in his reply,
with earnestness, sincerity, and he was longer afterwards, much
longer.

The trouble is that as I said, having to depend primarily
again attacks from the so-called left, for an hour into
a perpetual posture of defence, and I am almost sure
enough left for attacking the Tories. But this must
be kept in mind. BUTSKELL, a name invented by the Economist,
large enough adopted by the Bermites, must be destroyed.

And I imagine H.G. thinks that I should have done
more to fight the Bermites, I support him. But (a) I have
always been trying, rather vainly, indeed, to strengthen "unity". (b)
I have been persistently involved, until a few months ago,
with German Bermites, and for some time I was often embarrassed
by Bermites affairs.

DIARY.

(42)

14/4/55.

At W.L. planting pines (Austrian and Corsican) all day with Wild. Much earth carefully sieved. Give Wilds their deposit and license fee (£6.10.0) for a newed TV set. This, I think, will both make them happy, and help to settle them in.

I think much of my Sonbarium, towards which there will be some good autumn plantings.

15/4/55.

Back to London.

Eben announces at 7.30 ^{pm} that election will be on May 26th. This, at least, removes uncertainty and makes immediate tasks clear.

16/4/55.

With Will Davis to Wembley, to see Bishop beat Headon 2-0. Rather a surprising game, but fast & clean. 100,000 Spectators. Dine and spend some hours with team & John B.A. 2 stables at Great Eastern Hotel. I pay £8 for beer. etc. also 5/6 charge from the ^{W.L.} American Club. Florrie broke her leg yesterday, & is in hospital. Will very normally worried. There seems a chance that the new Adel Hotel, on Woodhouse

DIARY

16/4/55 (2)

Close Estate, will be open in time for ^{my} election campaign.
If so, I might stay there.

17/4/55 (Sunday)

Tommy rang up this morning from Bristol. LOR has
visited to P.P. had been very successful. LOR says he didn't
care for either wife or Peter. That P.P. was very
keen to have him as successor, & drove him round
the constituency - LOR it seemed wise not to meet
the agent or other leading local figures. T thinks it
would be a dream constituency. P would vacate
it for general election, if he could get something
a little firmer from C.R.T., whom he doesn't much
trust in view of past difficulties. C.R.T. is
now lecturing of C.C.F. in Canada, & it may be that I
shall have to speak to Edna about P's Peerage.

And he fancies himself as
carrying on the Dilke tradition.

Look into this tomorrow. Meanwhile no mention

to Ben Williams or Ted Rees, (wasn't sure if would be
adjunct to LOR). In case, LOR's Swanskill or less probably Sasha
left 2.7.1945. LOR may be officially made a member.

19/6/55.



Heavy struggle with P.P.

His report has put me
wind up his side he made stand;
The work misinterpreted & re-estimated,
L.T. misinterpreted etc. S. Halsey writing
might put up a counter.

I reply that it is still time. Mr
Grove asks H.P. not to comment, etc.
and decide, without lengthy writing
for me. Danger if I stand & only
return on June 8th & getting a
Revenue. (This matter has a
good deal.)

His wife wants his not signed
copy - in the end, he signs her name
(10.15 pm) and tells her to tell
about not to print elect. name
he had had 2 local men to put off
the date until May 6th for 11th & 20th.
C.H.A. now due back in 11th & 20th
the very hard work! the very
not yet done.

DIARY.

21/4/55.

spoke on the Budget, opening from our side after mandling, now departed for Thursday with ill. I had a good deal of fun, especially with the arithmetic of the income tax reductions, and with the pocket relief from the new annual loan to earned incomes. "Under the Tories," I said, "it pays to do no work." Our people, those who were there, British Parliament is dying fast, liked all this.

As to Tony 22. 4. 55, I spoke to H.G. early on the phone. I have written C.H. a pressing letter about Jimmy's short 2 P.P.'s, humor, and urging him to speak to A.E. very soon. He C.H. is due back on London trip at 8 PM. There is a N.E.C. this morning. He will let my letter early this afternoon. I asked H.G. to pass him, this morning, to see A.E. today.

He did so this afternoon. I saw him later & he said A.E. was quite well disposed, but wanted to look up the precedents. I saw P.P. and told him this. He was happier than usual. He said "another complication has arisen." His agent, whom he had taken into his confidence, said that it would cause great consternation if he didn't fight the general election at the last moment; it would be much resented if someone new was suddenly pushed in; and the Party would want someone, probably a TV candidate with money. I discovered all this. I told P.P. that it was very common nowadays for

DIARY.

21/4/55 (2)

C.L.P.'s to choose people without money in just a L.T.V. nominees. He seemed v. surprised. I asked if I could give an envelope. I said Tony to S. Sp. I fear that he has mentioned Tony to his ^{supervisor} ~~supervisor~~ ^{but} added that he had no money. (with v. doubt - think so)

That night, dining table to members dining room with T.O'Brien & Jones. I saw on new P.M. 2 hrs Chief Wain at a table by themselves at the far end of the room. Nearly everyone else had gone. (Wain had never been invited here.) So I followed T.E. 2 started on B.A. Festival, etc & then went with him alone with Mrs. Jones. We talked, superficially, of the international scene the coming elect. etc. I said I found all this very moving. He said he had never seriously disagreed. At the end I spoke of P.P. He said he'd asked Patrick (B. Hefner) to look up the precedents (I wanted some reaction C.A. had distinguished between Dissertation and

Tony had been talking of this immediately before at dinner.

frighting honours. If he could get it in D.35" otherwise it would be much easier. But I didn't say this. I invited P.P. and said he was in a neat stew, I wouldn't say anything to anyone. Jerry went - still seeming in a v. good mood - I said he also wanted his seat. I casually mentioned T. He laughed v. much at this. I said this mention was a / and

DIARY

21/4/55(31)

calculated risk. At least I hope so, I had to decide
quickly how far to go.

22/4/55 (Fri)

Spent sitting (11-4) on the Budget Reserves.
I went down just before lunch, to C.H.'s room.

Miss Shelly says "Mr P.P. has been in to see him." I
went in, and what a reaction he had had to a message
yet from H.E. He said No. P.P. had come of his
own accord to enquire. I saw P.P. now said he
had put off going down till the 2.15 train, but in
case there was a message. He said, very miserably,
"I don't want to leave the Forest under a cloud. He

should see a letter from his agent, reiterating his
points about P.P. standing at General Election, even if
elevated afterwards, (2) resentment if raised, (3)
Party would need a candidate with money, (4) I don't
want at once to bring other officers of the Party into
consultation. I tried to let him to postpone things
on (1) & (3), till we had the Peerage in the bag, but
repeated on (3) was: I had said by day. He seemed to have
accepted it. On (4) I warned him very solemnly of danger of
anything getting into the Press. I urged him to bring no one
else into confidence. He changed his 2.15 train. He

DIARY

22/4/55 (2)

Said that C.A. had promised to ring him if he had any news. That C.A. was away in the afternoon. He left as it promised, I had another quick word in the passage with A.E. He said Patrick had not sent him ^{the} 2nd note which he had asked for. "After all," he said, "I only heard about it yesterday." This note I smile, but I felt I had gone to the utmost limit I could be passing him. He said "we've had a cab all this morning."

I had arranged to go to the house with me after the House rose. I told him now that had happened.

I said I was discouraged, but there was still some hope. He had told me on the phone the day before, that he had agreed to have a go at Dartford as a reinsurer, and that Charles Parnell had got him the nomination of all the A.E.V. branches. He had told them, when accepting, that he was also involved somewhere else.

It was clear to me that that the great was the trouble, thinking about his own financial position. Three mile Dartford selects on Sat, 30th, while w/pt.

on my assistance, has put it off till the following Saturday, May 7th (or 8th) (Friday 6th) This may make an awkward timing.

23/4/55

Spoke to P.P. at his house at 11.00. I told him of my feelings. I warned him against discussion. He said he had decided to feel more but I don't know. He said he

from the conversation on Monday, but he had written me a letter. I said I would read it in my next letter.

DIARY

25/4/55 (Mon)

King H.G. He thinks that if H.E. agrees to pay on P.P. T should not merely ring up, but go down to contact & see Ted there. We must H.G. say just bulldoze it through even if P.P. people get some. I say that probably feeling P's work is a weak man, thinking about his share. I would take, but now it's important, support to P that he should pay for a while, to want cost of a job. Cost of elect will be covered somehow. H.G. asks if I

—then mentions T & H.E. I said you write a letter that this was a good work with calculated with. H.G. says he's glad I did. He thinks it was right. He thinks T should miss D.H. can see if ^{reminded me that} the present on the day speaking to T, he said she belonged to Tom Williams' voice, but my Jane a little to his next company.

I rang back H.G. and asked him to speak to T.W. if not T, my night pitch & persuade. He said he would, as soon as H.E.'s message is passed. Comes in.

I receive a letter from P.P. (company) with his own letter a week ago! His agent has worked on him. We must bulldoze him.

DIARY.

25/4/55 (2)

Go down in the afternoon to the House. Meet C.A. in passage. No message from No 10. He will ring him up. H.S. has phoned him. H.S. has phoned and looks like decent brief talk with him C.T. He agrees that T must take Ted Rees into his confidence, if he goes down & sees him, as he agrees that he should or seem as a "Yes" man. - if it does come - from No 10.

See C.A. again - H.S. has gone home - at 6.30. No reply. He has asked P.T. Blake, p.s. at No 10, now is dealing with it. to reply tomorrow! Either difficulties are being manufactured, or the man is very busy. Don't miss the possibility of the letter! Tell T. I make no communication to

P today. I tell C.A. I'll see him again tomorrow afternoon. He says Railway Strike, ^{concerned by H.S.} ^{will do his job} ^{strange?} passages full of wondering ^{ways} at one end. She goes to Warrington tomorrow to complete your Tommy's billiard & 3 others. Warrington by off, Park rejected & B'ham, unless we what Grant's. I mention Eastleigh too.

I feel very low and am impatient with little group on Finance Bill etc. I tell them they're living in a mortuary, but don't seem to realize it. ^{have been offering to share Cambridgehire & devices.}

DIA RL

(51)

25/4/55 (3)

I also took Stichter & Hunt deposits for Sunday before polling day. Presch, Hunt, me all, I shall do outside my car constituents.

26/4/55.

12.20. Rang CRA "Any message from Mr 10 yet?"
"Mr. I expect it this afternoon."
Rang T, and arranged to see him at his home at 4.
Found CRA on the bench at 3.55. Sat beside him.
He whispered "I've spoken to his secretary. He says they're working on it now." Later outside, he seems to have a weak bladder and to be always running to the rear - he says "they're working on it now." They say it's very complicated. "If I must be honest, I can't do any more."
However left as a wife. I hate about shot my bolt with CRA today. H.G. must have a few hours, if no news. Today he's in Bangalore - I hope his flu won't snuff him out.

Walked with T on terrace. He ran into P but didn't say much. P didn't seem to understand him much more critical than usual election was but than P. He asked that P second stay in 22a for some days, so that Ted Ross, if the right answer came, could see Jenkins.

DIARY.

(52)

26/4/55. (2)

P's agent, before P returned. We agreed that it was very important that C.K.T. said to P, if right man came. He should be firm ^{and clear} on national importance of the vacancy. I said I wasn't confident about U.S. I couldn't play other people's game of chess for them, in those tricky conversations. Last night I said that I seemed to be trying to play chess against myself on 12 boards simultaneously! We agreed that H.G. would write to Lee, rather distantly, 2 or 3 having his well, with P, but on Friday P.M., etc. I said I doubted whether P realized all this.

Later I took P out on to Terrace, gave him the news, and urged him to stay in London, in case something came in. I ~~thought~~ He said he'd planned to do this, till Fri. His wife, he said, had been very depressed over the week end. He seemed a bit brighter, I chuckled over "it" being complicated. ^{He was} Some, from his experience of life, that "it" ^{was} always was. And Eden would have found a lot of commitments he didn't fancy from the old way. I told P I had his last letter, but didn't want to discuss last 2 or 3. His peeve, I said, was the thing. Later I rang M. T. & told him all this, & about the

DIARY.

26/4/55(3)

He C intolerable. "wrote a shit hole this March!"
I went on a parious of all to T. Trying to talk in
corridor. I even a Peham, com is approval of 2nd (33)
of when, ungrace - by ~~some~~ moderate prof - C. ~~unpleasant~~

Evening Standard para.

in Dissertation has been ready

He does on machine, said, but only 1 chance is 100.
Clearly, I said, no use of him to go to British Council.
Each day that passes make it more difficult, except
through Dissertation Heaven, to shift P's decision.
T thinks he could get D'Ked, if he goes. ~~That~~
He's on

a great list of 3, John & local. Powell has been
working for him. But Frank Shephard told him that
an attempt was made to help him off the short list, by
alleging that, at a private conference, he had said that he
was against any more nationalisation.

At the end of our talk, I tried to persuade him
that there wasn't all that difference between political
life with a safe, and a not-so-safe, commitment. If
he was D'Ked this time, he'd have it ^{pretty} easily next time.
~~But~~ Denis would be against us this time, for us next time.
And that would be 10/10.

He was very grateful & appreciative of all I'd done &
tried to make quite a long speech. I said, first, I hate
to be beaten. I put him a combination of affection and
esteem. I think that I couldn't have given more for
us this. (But I am very pessimistic now about getting
with him for good, except by Dissertation Heaven.)

DIARY.

54

27/4/53 Sat.

Rings up H.G., just back from Brussels with half a voice.
TOLD him the news, ^{about} I told him to find C.R.K. today. He
will. I will suggest that he speaks again to Eden. Kinging
to his p.s. on 4th day, is no good. I rather indifferently

10.45 - 1.15: Joint meeting in the House of Lords & U.K.
with N.S. on election manifesto. I have it a good
deal. Cat will threat to renounce capitalism. But in

pledges to speed up employment & new credits to the urban sphere
living standards. Improve style here & the case. Cat will still
jeer at 'pukka' schools. Pass, stand by long majority, against
C.R.K. & Beveridge. decision to further declaration in the Budget,
including own decision to make it; I reject proposal to further
document on Civil Defence.

^{the} Kinana will U.K. I am H.G., with no voice, whether
he has killed C.R.K. Or. 5^{pm} Paul & U.K. Learn H.G. is
change on board. Monday N.S. I find C.R.K. again. Why not
speak to Eden? T will be Dept on Sunday. He says he'll say
Division will say. I say "say speaking to H.G. now. After H.G. -
say to H.G. "for out a restful voice. That first had little then. He
said after the Bill." Later he says he should talk to little man, who
says - & it doesn't sound too good - "H.G. will be waiting to
hear tomorrow, on day after."

see T - now earlier had said he thought he should be
getting himself physically prepared for Dept - he now says he
hears from N. Dadds that it's all fixed up in favour of local
men now with half votes, absent, he has bullet at start.
I say I'll see Ken Williams to answer morning. T says that

DIARY.

27/4/55 (2)

Edna. Dean Healey's wife, was known to Forest, has heard a rumor that P would be withdrawn at last moment & people are guessing it's a forgery. All very bloody! (Bart) on board, with a big smile. Susan and Stan, & Kay & by electricity. But I think he'd better stand somehow, even if badly beaten.

28/4/55.

see Len Williams at 7.30 and take a town of the 2 wires. He & some banker are both friendly to Mike, were her done an alias on the basis of a changed address, not notified, & a failure of new records to forward letters. But 2's was given election, for reasons I deal for Mike.

I take L.W. half into confidence on Tracy & W. Gus, & promise to inform him of any further develts. Everything else now available is either settled, or in course of settlement.

Lunch at Draper's good lunch and dull & static. Take 4 pm. Back at home see C.R.A. He has letter for H.E. saying he'll put P into Birthday Honours, to keep with warning about old objection (communist youth) & Minister having been impressed with it. C.R.A. says he'll inform him. He asks me to collect P. I say he must be firm with him, & insist on his resigning at G.E. I find P and congratulate him warmly; I see him again after he has seen C.R.A. very happy. I tell him to telephone in (provided P. to his wife, on resigning or fixing G.E. still definitely

DIARY.

30

28/6/55 (2)

resistant, though he reports what C.H. said. I tell him this is now a matter of fact. I must tell Lee Williams. He's a little awkward, I think.

I go straight round to L.W. & tell him the whole thing. He rings up Ted Rees, & tells him to go & see Jenkins & C. L. & R. tomorrow. C.L. is a grand old man now retired. Rees reports that Jenkins is slick, wanted to succeed P. & is clearly keen in his determination. He gave a cutting vote against having a full time staff. (?) Confusion is rising later talk with P. between Jenkins had time apart. and Jenkins President of Party. I mention that T belongs to M.L.G. & they might vote him something. L.W. thinks T shouldn't go ahead without vote of D'fd. of present members of W. Glos.

I then catch T and bring him back to my flat. & talk to him. It is a mildly funny story anyhow! He will let his house with L.W. tomorrow afternoon - was he has had time to hear from Rees. I shall be in my basement room.

I read that T should try to catch P. ^{had conference last evening of D'fd} ^{at L.W.'s house last evening} taken himself & try to put his point of view. R. says I'm

I go to Home's later. See T. He has talked to P. now. However, seems not to understand or be interested. Like elephant going through jungle. - Unhappy. Tempting but shy.

I then pick up P. and take him down to Harcourt

Diary

26/4/55 (3)

~~I put it to him that he might look a bit himself. He agreed to look a bit himself.~~

Noon. I report to him my visit to H.P. "This doesn't
 want a by-election within a fortnight. I say that Press
 will see Jenkins. (Laker (wrong judgment) "they seem to
 want me") tomorrow. P should see L. Williams or
 Wed morning - he would be back till then. P still
 fretting about money. I tell him that T is member
 of M.C.B. & they might make him a grant towards
 his interests P more than anything
 else I've said (influence of Jenkins.) But he isn't
 really interested now in T, or his merits as successor,
 only in his own position. What can he say, if he
 withdraws now? He'll be "hated" & frost for "denying"
 them. (Jenkins again, - stick, eloquent wordsman.) I
 say "for private reasons." They'll learn very soon,
 in a few weeks, what those are. He says what can
 I do during the campaign? Could I speak to him?
 No one would understand. Had the procedure?
 This adoption only is on May 7th. There must be a
 week's notice. There must be time for new
 nominations. I say "let's leave this to the experts."
 H.P. will advise me on all this. They're used to it.
 And now let's wait for Reid's report. And you see
 how the "we can't do it" had to be left, & it very
 happily. A only outwardly friendly to this silly old
 stubborn self-proclaimed "black head".

DIARY.

29/4/55.

Ran T at 10 am & see L. Williams for afternoon, & he guided by him out D'H.D. First run Day May 12th. Something might come before that. ORR hopeful about his spec. oro yearover spent in old oak!

To my constancy by Ken just after now. All well there. Spoke to West-est. Supervisors, Safford, at Deer Valley Hotel.

30/4/55.

Good May Day Process. Two bands and four long banners, & many small ones. ~~free~~ Thick woods along his route in Noyake St.

At Ken's Adoption meeting. No incident. I spoke of Lempert as agent, & my job will be to support him. Intraic, just Day, didn't mention him.

Good talk with Will D. Lempert. All along visit Woodhouse. Mrs Florie is in order.

Hospital will burden leg.

1/5/55.

Visit Doug & Sam, now kept by Charlie Brown of Spring Street, at Ellersley. This is Lempert's country.

DIARY.

(59)

1/5/55 (2)

Back in London, and in flat about 9 pm. Telephone call from T at Victoria Station. He comes round, has a scratch meal, with plenty of gin, and a talk.

All has gone very ill. on Friday (25th), as you see many L.W., now told him that Ted Rees had reported that he had seen Luker and Jenkins in W. Hrs. But the latter had had a meeting with Price, and had decided quite finally (but at this very late stage, I must admit, not unreasonably) that he must fight the election. L.W. had advised T to join the D.F. - he had promised earlier to go - and he had just come back that evening. It had been as bad as Norman Dodds had told him. A small majority for Lawry, a local candidate, and a nice man, but not a socialist, offering £700 of help towards his election. A Bertramite element very bitter & unpleasant, ^{backing a candidate of their own.} ~~and~~ they had introduced questions to T. I had fired at him all the stock questions for German Revenue to Kenya. It had been a long business, hot, important & weary, and rather depressing. And now he had accepted the St. (Southampton) on the telephone. They had ~~told~~ ^{invited} him to come, and

DIARY.

(60)

11/5/53 (3)

never having seen him, and delegates had been waiting
in 3 areas from 3 to 7 pm. They sounded lovely
people. But of course it could be wrong. Last time
H. King won it by 400, but it has been most
adversely redistributed, & H. King has dented off to
~~the~~ Itchen, the other Southwestern Division, in
succession to Ralph Morley, now is dying of cancer.

He was a great friend T.

I am very sad and depressed by all this. T
has come back out of all this team any of them.
(But Suskie, I hear later ~~that~~ has lost 5 votes
by 3 votes to Hillier, now 1000 floor
and 5 only £100. S leading in first 3
ballots!)

I write down a note of events, & ^{wherever} separate
& post it to T. Causes (1) butchery of Red:st, (2)
quick election, (3) slow movement, in successive stages
of price. Well "I done my damndest,
anybody can do no more". T very appreciative
you were really helped much, not even H. G.

DIARY.

(6)

5/5/53

To Cambridge, driven by Brian Abel-Smith, to talk to the Marshall Society on Thoughts on the Budget. The mainly

undergraduate audience. Quite funny, liked my jokes.

Brian said I showed personal magnetism!

Prof. Hall has been now now lecturing on it. I
is writing a book on it, came into the ^{preliminary} ~~first~~ ^{med} ~~med~~ ^{med} lecture.
I said, taking a shot at a student, "We packed afterwards, "Are you reviewing my

book for the Journal?" "Yes" he said. "Have you written it yet?" I asked. "Nearly" he said. Next

day Brian tells me that the (USSR) is that he had written a very hostile ^{and almost} review, and that Austin Robinson had sent it back! He must

have thought that I knew more than I did.

Write Brian to Walston, ^{It never appeared in S.J.} arriving very late.

6/5/53

Stay in bed till noon, as always in this house. Harry's Chairman & Sec. Gen. has packed in. So he is running the election from Newton Hall, with

DIARY.

(62)

6/5/55 (2)

a nice cement worker named Harry Davis on
a job. Catherine doing ^{the} ~~work~~ ^{work} of his work. - typical.

finelady.

Address 2 ^{evening} ^{meetings} - Colterham & Hister -
1 outdoor - Girtan in the rain - and do
several outdoor talks in the afternoon with
lead speaker. Quick but fair. We have a very
convincing answer and how will stop further rise
in cost of living.

7/5/55

Brian drives me back to London. We do some
outdoor talks through lead speaker on the way.

My hunch ^(hunch) is that Tories will have a
majority of between 40 & 100. And then our
interest now will start again! A glorious new
future for our Party. And in the future
I shall be out of it.

I am very sad about Tony. I told Brian, who
said, "well, it's
a damn pity, but that's the way it is." "Well, it

DIARY.

(63)

7/5/55 (2)

least I've desecrated the Cowley's epitaph
'He done his damndest.'
'Angels can do no more!'

Tomorrow I go home with Peggy. I shall write
no more diary till the election campaign.
Probably my last, is over.

When I looked in at the House of Commons
on Thursday - to catch a chequer - I ran into
P.P. I had written to him in the country, & he
hadn't had the letter. He said "I sent it (with
about Sostice?" (now had beaten by Zilliacus
(Sutton) He had forgotten all about Tony. Originally
he told me he would like Sostice as successor,
but I said "O, he's getting Sutton". Only then
did Tony, Saffersley (Rt.), come up.

Oh Hell!
note to H.G. (copy attached)

DIARY.

1955 General Election. (May 26th.)

DALTON 21,804

YOUNGSON 15,959

Majority 5,845.

My vote dropped by 4100, ~~or~~ Tory vote by 900, total vote by 5000 and my majority by 3100.

This was my 10th General election & counting 2 legs, my 12th Parliamentary. And it was the most tedious, ~~was~~ apathetic, uninteresting, & I think, worst organized & least all. Party, in 1951, this was subjective, owing to increasing age (I am now 67) and very limited political ambitions.

All over the country, except in marginal seats, there was apathy. Lab vote fell by ^{more than} ~~roughly~~ 1 1/2 million, Tory vote by nearly 1/2 million. In 1951 Lab vote was 224,000 more than Tory, though latter had a Parliamentary majority. In 1955 total Tory vote was 907,000 more than Labour.

DIARY.

(65)

1955 Election (2)

There was great disillusion to attend meetings. (I held many fewer than meetings.) We all kidded ourselves that this was because the election was viewing T.V. or listening in to Sound Radio. We were wrong. A B.B.C. reporter later that the political audiences were no longer, either on T.V. or Sound, than on a normal non-election day. And audiences of any politician depended on ^{other} what went before or after. One great fault was that people were not much interested in the election.

There were no burning issues, no unemployment, & much overtime. In my computer I was related to saying that prices - & here I read out a list of grocery prices at two dates - had risen 2.3% per day under the Tories now had increased to that value back into the £. (a) rather rather than Eden should go to top-level talks. !!

I stayed, as always, with Bill Davis from Sunday May 15th to Thursday May 27th, a election day. I went away on Sat May 14th & lay in the sun on Sunday & Monday, going out early to speak & helped Cate at Pearson & Macdonald, staying the night with him, & returning to St. in time for election meeting on May 17th.

DIARY.

(60)

1953 Election. (3) can report and

I had also spent two days in Cambridge, with Brian
 Phil-Smitt, now drove me halfway, speaking for Harry
 Walston. From 1st. I spoke with George Chatterton at
 Stockton & Dai Jones at Harrogate party. Both can come Sunday.

Florian had broken her leg & was - perhaps just mending
 in me - in hospital most of the time. Two ^{George} Cousins,
 husband & wife, lived at Manor House & helped.

With Leapsworth, an agent, worked magnificently. His
 personal loyalty to me and his financial energy were perfect.
 That he had no previous experience in Agent & this
 nothing which could be called organisation & he was an
 object of jealousy, especially from Galbraith - a wretched
 little woman now came & spoke me otherwise than
 last chiefly, I think, to distract the Tribune & then
 about the Hydrogen Bomb. Walter Orman, on the

other hand, worked hard & loyally as sub-agent at
 Shildon. These things ending at Barrow Castle
 or beyond - except the faithful few at Middleton
 & old Byke at Eggleston. Driving through with
 loudspeakers from town & made new Hearing State
 at Sander, but not a single ^{labor} contact! Lived at
 on winter & the streets.

DIARY.

(68)

1955 Election 51

I a 4 or 5 year Parliament, that I shouldn't stand next time, that there was no need to say this to anyone else for several years. I said the same to the afterwards, & she would ^{me} not let it out for a long time.

We lost surprisingly few seats. I piece very much of Tony. I am mildly sorry about some of the others. There was no peace

of Bill! The Home Affairs Committee of his anti-interventionist activities in Russia (1920).

So then I went into action against the Old Men on our Shadow Cabinet, not really successfully, as I relate elsewhere.

But I felt exceedingly unenthusiastic about Kipf's Archduke. I felt I had had just about enough of them. I just couldn't bear to think of fighting another election there.

DIARY.

31/5/55

(68)

1 complete drafts to C.R.T., for publication & (a) covering.
Desmond Donnelly comes in the afternoon. I takes them on.
- to go to Peggy Limerick. She letters to Whitely &
with Hall talking them of my decision, & affecting her W.W.
given up (with some) & her contacts on Member's Pension,
and W.H. saved for my example, and 2nd stand again (P.S.)
C.R.C. Mrs. with 2 Passes, to ~~later~~ send my letter to
P.A. on Fri (writing them on the Thurs last it was coming) to
Publication Saturday morning. She so also from Daily Mirror,
was specialise in the Guinness line, but they might be
interested. I also saw some stuff, would be most lead,
reference to some Handwritten of Evening Standard

1/6/55

Rang up Peggy in afternoon. D.D. has given her the stuff, &
she had delivered my 2 manuscript letters to C.R.T.,
Secretary this morning.

Later in the afternoon C.R.T. rang me up to talk. He said
he'd got my letters. He wondered whether publishing a
letter to him from the last way of handling it. One
first they would have to consider it of election of
offices, etc. I would make a statement there. I said
this would do. I'd thought a lot about this & was convinced
that a letter to the Press first before Parli-ment was the
only effective way. He said that it would only be a
very short session anyhow, and he had thought that
"we could all go on as we are" - without any

DIARY

1/6/53(2)

new elections. Unlike the conference. I said that this would be a fatal proposal. It would make a shocking impression in the Party and in the country. We must make a new start in a new Party. (Immobilisation, a start after war?)

He said he didn't intend to go on an Italian holiday this first start session. I urged him to suspend judgment on this. He said he must say something on this. I sent my letter to the Press. I said I was sure that he agreed with my basic line. He said he did.

I suggested that he should say in his reply that he agreed with my basic line, and that his personal position must be further considered when the Party meets. He again tried to persuade me not to send my letter to the Press. He had at first thought he said that I had only intended to send it to the Herald.

I sent 20 to D.H. with a shocking paper, my words I wanted maximum coverage and comment by various papers. Such in Times & M.G.

Finally, I said "I feel I have a duty to put my view at this time. This is a matter on which I have felt very strongly for a long time, as you know. I must now blow a bugle." He said "I will try to work out an echo."

This was the end of our talk. No doubt his still very kind. If his mind is his mind not to go on beyond the conference, my letter & its publication will change his date.

DIARY.

71

2/6/55 (Thurs)

Telephone
2 calls from Crossman. 2 one from Tony, Desmond
said Dick may manuscript judge to write, and the mirror is
publishing it tomorrow (Friday), with an applauding leading
article. Dick very cooperative. Reminds me that I told
him at end of last session that I would do this, when I
came home one night to talk in violent spirit. I
said I'd said the same to many others, including Jim
Callaghan. He promises to make no reference to me
to my letter to C.R.T. to be released on SAT.

Dick rings up again later, in a fuss because Peggy,
on my instructions, has told mirror that they should
look out for my letter for P.A. Has afraid she has
alerted other press. I say no; only to mirror,
because I guessed they might be following this; & I
told her to alert them, before I knew that Dick
had got my dope from Desmond.

Tony rings up, says for news. This shocked when I
told him that C.R.T. said he didn't mean to go on
being leader beyond short session. He asked whether
I would like him to alert Observer (Massingha)
and Stanley (Cross-Neale). I said yes.
Call from the vicar, about 8 pm. Daily Herald,
not knowing how to get my number, had rung him up.

DIARY.

2/6/55 (2)

(72)

and asked him to ask me to ring them up. We don't
often see the vicar. He stayed a long time. L & R talked
to him very pleasantly about Archbishop ^{of Canterbury} & the
Preservation of Old Churches. Bellamy ^{the vicar's work} etc. He
drank a short whisky. I rang up D.H. who asked
if I could verify statement they'd heard. I explained
my not seeing of Shadow Cabinet, they'd heard nothing
about my letter etc. I did, and talked to them a
little. I said I hoped other veterans would do likewise.

3/6/55.

Raining today, after 3 lovely days. My house voice is
rapidly returning to normal.

A lot of telephoning!

8 am P.M. ring, & refer to my letter, & he releases
to me set morning. In rather a flap. "Some papers
have broken the contents," they say. "I don't see
which?"

"The Daily Mirror & the Daily Herald," they
say. I explain that I have seen no papers yet. I
shall, of course, see them later, but I am deep in
the country. Have they sent me my letter?

O no, but, particularly in the Mirror, there is a
front page splash, of Americans in the round

DIARY

3/6/55(2)

my letter. P.K. asked whether I would now agree to
 release of my letter at once. I say no. (1) It wouldn't
 be fair to CRT, whom I had told that the letter
 wouldn't be published till Sat morning, & he might
 be relying on it for publication. (2) Now that would it
 be to release it - now? It would only help the
 Evening Papers.

(which attached)
 Later when I see the Press, I am very pleased
 with the Daily Mirror. Good front page story, particularly
 re: ^{reputation} my success when I gave Dashwood, & he
 gave Dick, headed "Dalton makes way for
 Youth" & leader, on p 2, on "Make Way for Youth"

"We applaud & now how can we make a wise, and
 unselfish, decision." Then naming the 70's

"When are they going to move out? If the
 Dalton has shown them the way. When are
 they going to follow his sturdy example? The matter
 is urgent." D.H. ^{with} his usual incompetence as
 sub-editor could head it "Dalton
 to fight front bench."

DIARY

74

3/6/55 (3)

Express says

"Socialist M.P.'s were saying last night that on H.D., ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer and lone wolf of the party hierarchy, is going to shake his top colleagues with the advice that they are too old and should quit.

"Mr Dalton, 65, is expected to refuse re-election to the Opposition Shadow Cabinet, and to suggest that other party leaders over 65 - with the exception of Mr. Butler - should follow his example.

"Most of the leaders will indignantly refuse."
Other paper details of a lot.

Daily Telegraph, not mentioning me, says that there's

talk of an age limit of 65.

Good for the first day's press. With any luck we'll keep this thing running for a week.

Ring from George Hutchinson - it seems Desmond did not contact him. We agree that in this afternoon

Evening Standard he shall quote me direct, confirming my intention, but not referring to my letter to C.R.A. He will also ring up all the other veteran undertakers

DIARY.

3/6/55(4)

Then whether they intend to run again or not. This will upset some of them. On the other hand, if some stand with me, it will keep the new stream flowing. He'll leave an E.S. at my flat.

Ring from Peggy. She can't make out what's happening. She thinks everything has gone out of control, and is coming out on the wrong day. I reassure her. It is ^{not} moving according to plan. She said Desmond were clearly most distrustful when they met yesterday at my flat, and he handed ~~off~~ order my material. He told her nothing of his guide for ~~me~~ ^{me}. She told him nothing of his letter. She told me this ^{afternoon} morning that there had been a lot of telephone calls for me. I said I didn't want any more press, but would take calls from personal friends. I asked if C.K. was replying to me for publication. She ^{said that Mrs. Streeby told her he hadn't sent anything to the P.T. this} morning, and this afternoon he has going to the north. I think this is for the Durham Women's Club. If so, he will have a chance to talk to Whitely. 2 Perhaps Mrs. C.S.

DIARY.

(76)

3/6/55 (57)

Inter

Ede and Watson, & he may make a statement on his personal intentions there.

R. was enjoying all this & really as much as I am, says it's like poking a stick into an ant-heap, & making the ants run in all directions. I imagine some of those indignant reactions being rung up today by the press!

Seldom ^{has it been} ~~is it~~ such great fun to do one's duty!

4/6/55.

press pretty good today. That the poor little man wants able to work out an echo. No reply from him. Times gives my letter in full, a middle page, with lead in not marked and a few lines.

It says I have made a "major" decided decision. Times, he learns, the "New" Lab have now only written the 70, & no one else minor picks up my "underpicking" over 65!

Worried. I call this my "plan 2 Shadow Lab". Shaw will be revisiting next in the my suggestion to alter especially as fit as ever he says, the just will has connections but illusions.

DIARY.

(Written a week later, & with perhaps a little overlap with what has gone before.)

3/6/55. (Fri) at W.L.

Daily Mirror & Daily Herald carry my story.

4/6/55 (Sat)

All Press carry my letter to C.K.A., but no reply from him.

5/6/55 (Sun)

Desmond arrives, with Secy at 11/30 and drives R & me from Luton to London.

6/6/55 (Mon)

Parliamentary Ctee at 4 pm. I deliberately don't go to lunch at 1/4 C today, not wishing to be involved with Press, or even Mrs.'s, before meeting "mes chères collègues" (2 accents)

But I went to Willy Bowden's room beforehand. I found him with his feet up on a chair, looking older than the hills. I asked him if he had had my letter. (It had been a very friendly letter, appreciating all he had done, and the length of time he had carried this great burden, urging him now to lay it down, praising Bowden's work on Mrs.'s Pension Scheme, so needed to ease men's minds. Sending with good wishes to Thelma & her work at Peter Hill.) He said yes, & he had been intending to reply to it. He wanted to go on as Chief Whip for another year. He had discussed this with Bowden before the elect. I tried, gently, to dissuade him. I said that from what I had heard,

DIARY.

6/6/55 (2)

he would not be unopposed. I hoped there would not be a contest. --- I hoped Thelma claimed her travelling expenses to and from Peterlee. He said William now sent a car for her & sent her back after the meetings. I said that this was best of all.

At 4 pm. Party office met. First hour piffle, ~~very~~ diffuse reflections on the election. Second hour, on election of officers & rest of office, very noisy. C.A. began with a statement on his own position. He said for one month longer. If we'd won the election, he would have gone back to No 10, but not for longer than a year. He must make up his mind soon on a long-term leader. If the PM wants him to, he'll go on for this short session. (We all thought then, and until we saw the Queen's speech 2 days later, that this would be a short session ending at end of July.)

Shirwell then raised the question of my letter. He complained of my action and of my "publicity". (This, coming from him, surprised me.) I was, he said, the last person to raise lead he would follow. (I didn't realize it was quite as bad as that.) But I had embarrassed him. He had already decided, before my letter was published, not to stand again for Shadow Cab. (I wonder.) He had decided to sit on the back benches. He said I had said that all serious parties at 65. I said he hadn't read my letter.

DIARY.

79

6/6/55(3)

There was then much & hot complaint about Press Campaigns, particularly by Sumnerhill and Ribey, and attacks on the leadership. There was complaint, especially about the Daily Mirror. C.R.A. said, he didn't see the Mirror. with a little grin and a shrug.

I then expounded my position and, to remove misunderstanding, read most of my letter aloud. I said that, in the last Parliament, I had become convinced that we, as a whole, were growing much too old; I had several times said this to C.R.A., I had used the phrase in my letter about the shadow of the Past and the Cabinet of the Future. Now, with ^{the new front and} the chance of a Lab Govt for 4 or 5 years at least, let us face the facts. I ask the O.V.-65's; 3 yrs. I ask them to give them 2 most ^{at least, but} serious in their own minds. (1) Can you mind back 10 years, to 1945? weren't we all wonderful then! But can any of us say that we are fit now, either mentally or physically, as 10 years ago? Of course the ^{honest} answer is 'no'. We're all well past our best, and getting further past it every year. (2) Can you mind forward 5 years, to 1960. Can any of us, over 65's, say that we should be worth a place in a Lab Cab Govt? Of course the 2 most serious

DIARY.

(90)

6/6/55(4)

is 'no' (3) Are there no younger men in the Pank's Ptq
now could take our place, and do as well or better than
we can do now, and much better in 5 years time?

Of course, the honest answer is 'yes. Give a bit.'

I said that I had named no one in my letter, except
C.P. Brown whom I had urged to stay on. Now had I said
that, ~~in addition~~ all over 65 should go; only that I
hoped that, in addition to myself, 'a number' would go.
And I had added that, in my view, it would not be
difficult to pick a first-class Shadow Cab, entirely
from under-50's. This might to some seem fantastic,
but I believed it to be true and wrote saying publicly.

Edie then made a very bitter speech, attacking me.
I had not thought that this old boy had so much bile
in him. ^{He was} ~~He was~~ evidently hunting eagerly for phrases
which he thought I should find wounding.

He said he could not object to the terms of my letter
to C.P. Brown, which I had read, but that he regarded its
publication as "most unconscionably". They all knew, he said,

that I had been ill physically for a large part of last year
but they were surprised ^{to find} that I was now ill mentally
as well. He had to meet his C.P. Unit week, - on
Thursday L. Pridgen, and would be asked whether he was

DIARY.

(51)

6/6/55 (57)

following my lead. In fact, he had decided, before my letter was published, that he would not run again for Shadow Cab. (I wonder!) But he would continue to sit on Front-Bench. (It is clear, I think, that the letter he sent to the Press for publication on Saturday was written in order to make a good show with his CLP. He probably read it to them boastfully on Thursday or Friday. I guess he's been in trouble with them, even before the election, as to whether he should run again.)

I had, he said, been called a 'statesman' (in a tone of deep contempt) by the Daily Mirror, and I had got a tirade of a column in the Manchester Guardian, in which they said that I had been a bad Chancellor of the Exchequer, that I had done something about National Parks. He looked/gave (in a tone of deep contempt) that I was pleased with it ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~tribune~~. My letter wasn't giving away a budget secret. But it was giving away what I might well have kept as a personal secret. Why did I think it mattered so much to other people what I did? This was a matter for everyone to decide for himself. He ^{recalled that he} had once said to me in Cabinet that the trouble with me was that I addressed all my colleagues, as if I was the Arch-Deacon addressing the Junior Clergy. He urged me to know

DIARY.

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6/6/55(8)

P.S. At the beginning of the second hour of our meeting tonight, it had been discussed whether we should have any elections at all now. It would take so long, some said, and the short session would be almost over before we had finished the elections. Roy W. therefore suggested to the P.K. Mtg. ~~that~~ - it would, of course, be their decision - that all officers & Shadow Cab should carry on until Oct, when, at the beginning of the next session we could have new elections. H.M. was for this. It would give new members time to get to know old members. H.G. was also inclined to think it would be safe! I said that such a proposal would certainly not be accepted by the Party, and rightly. How would it be decided? "Old gang snuggles down. Standing under change to prevent new elections for 5 months". H.M. said S.O. would only be suspended, not changed. I said that would sound worse still. H.G. said he saw the difficulty. I had pointed out, and didn't guess the suggestion. It was taken up, however, by several, and I did not disagree, but if we had elections now, we should not need new elections in October. Anyhow it was agreed we should have elections now.

DIARY.

(45)

7/6/55.

After last night's breeze at the Panel? Ctee, I came to the
PT4 Mtg this morning prepared to speak. I had a copy of my
letter to C.K.T. and would have read part of it. I would
have repeated that this Ctee was now much too old. A
lot must change after (1) for the first time for 90 years an
Opposition ^{or a second election} had not made any progress, but the reverse, against
a sitting Govt and (2) for the first time since 1931 (24 years
ago) the total Labour vote had not gone up, but had fallen by
1 1/2 million, more than 10%. I would defend
having given publicity to the fact that 9 out of 15 were
over 65 this year, and 4 out of these 9 were 70. I would
have deplored the tendency to re-elect, year after year, the
old, and even aging, gang, and to keep back the
young, but even aging, rest age-groups in their forties
and fifties. But there was no need. The
election business was formal. C.K.T. simply announced from
the Chair the time table for the nomination of leaders, Deputy
leaders and Chief Whip. No names mentioned, nor any
alternative to the straightforward election of the Panel? Ctee as
soon as possible.

I received this morning many congratulations from M.P.'s
on my initiative. But Alice Bacon was graciously identified

DIARY.

7/6/55(2)

and Summashill, now is becoming a bit of a bore on this, joined in and went on and on about the value of "experience". Bolt women thought I had made a great mistake.

Late Horace Holmes, at the conclusion of our group's meeting, said ^{to someone} that they had been told that both C.R.A. & W.W. would go to "Letchin" at the end of July. This seems a new decision and will probably remove the demand for a protest candidate against W.W. (Late H.H. tells me that W.W. put to them the proposal that he should go to July, and would mention they were in favour. He told them that C.R.A. was going at the same time. Of course, said H.H., they all felt they had to be in favour. "But," he said, "there is such a thing as wanting your welcome." W.W. today, sitting at the Ptg Mtg, looked a very old man.

Late Crossman rang me up to say that C.R.A., approached by Strachey and others, has decided that he has decided to go to July, and has given to Herald a statement that the Ptg has sent out today to make itself into an effective fighting opposition, and that he is always at the disposal of the Ptg. This looks like a repudiation of W.W.'s statement, which will be in some paper tomorrow anyway. Dick says he has persuaded Belton in view of possible fight against H.H. for leadership in the autumn.

DIARY.

(47)

7/6/55(3)

not to fight for the Deputy Leadership now, but to go back to the Shadow Cab and behave beautifully till the autumn. K.R.W., he thinks, will now have to be prompt why the Hell doesn't his old fool pack up now? Then he'd go out with nothing cheers and general acclaim. It's just spoiling his own finish.

Mr. Edelman is to write a piece about my letter etc in the N.S. (It wasn't, in fact, a very good piece.) I give him the plan of about breaking the log jam of the ancients. He says H.G. only bows stiffly to him, from the waist, when they meet. H.G., he says, must soften and paragon to the general body, if he is to be the future leader.

G. Hutchinson has seen the Honours list. He says there are 4 Peers, but no G-Whites. I press him on this, mentioning in names. So there is no Peerage for Price! What a joke. I ring up Tony & tell him. ~~He~~ I'm not interested enough to enquire what went wrong.

8/6/55

Kenneth Robinson, compared to R., speaks ^{to me} of possibility of Bowden running against H.W., and of Jim Hilliker running against H.W. One point is very difficult, but K.R. says that if someone else runs against H.W.,

DIARY.

8/6/55(2)

It would feel that he could be a candidate too. K.K. says that
W.W. is simply past it. His memory is gone. He can't keep
his appointments. Y'day Buchan-Hepburn had to send a
messenger to find him for a meeting fixed for 1/2 hr before.
I was w/ J.G. and arranged to meet him in Harold Room.
after the afternoon Paul's Uce.

Swore in. Churchill, too, has suddenly gone very old.
Like the fish won live at a great depth, subject to tremendous
pressures, and, when they are brought up toward the surface, and
the pressure relaxes, burst and die. C.H. got a cheer, when
the first Front Bench Lady sworn, and the ^{old} Front Bench
being about to swear, he shuttled the old boy ^{and} sitting in his old
corn seat below the gangway, and led him to join the
Chene. The old boy signed his name very slowly, hesitated
after ~~it~~ about putting in the name of his constituency. Later
I saw him in the Smoking Room, & greeted him. That he
was unresponsive. He brought my latest advice, he said
glumbly, would not be popular on the Board Bench. I don't
think he could hear much more from him.

A quiet Paul's Uce. The Joint private Uce. We see
Q's speech. So it would be a short session after all, but
will run for more than a year. Paul's Uce. many calculations.

DIARY:

8/6/55 (3)

89

W.W., I think, will retire now, and not risk being beaten in a contest. Volking is not very direct, but C.R.T. seems to be suggesting to him that he should retire. I say want a just chief Bowden, & how no one is against him.

I saw J.G. in the Hancock Room, & we drank coffee together. I urged him to stand against H.M. I said he was the only man, now available, who could be a Peacemaker in the Party. We recalled H.M.'s shocking show at the Fed. "He claimed it," said J.G. I reminded him that I, and other C.R.T. & E.P., had wanted J.G. to take it. I'm afraid J.G. will be afraid of this contest. (He was. He said that a fight by him would be out of character. A number of others had approached him.)

Tommy to dine at Metropolitan. He says he's started again on the Book & pleased with it. He's had a number of invitations to lecture & write. This is reassuring, as showing that he can earn fairly easily. We agree that he should write nothing serious with his present the Book. I give him an account of recent goings on. He thinks I adopted a very harsh line to the U.S. 65's at the ^{SLA House Club} ~~SLA House~~. He thinks now that he would be quite content to be out of the House for 3 years.

8/6/55

Lunch with Malik, Soviet Amb, and Chernyshev, an economist who has been with U.P. No one else. Talk about Lab Party changes & leadership. I said I should like to see Malik & Chernyshev. I said I should like to see Malik & Chernyshev.

DIARY

(90)

9/6/53 (2)

Dine with De La Rue. Annual dinner. Usual crowd of 200-300 and diplomats.

Before I went to lunch there was a Ptz Mtg. It had just started, when I arrived, and W.W. was on his feet, looking very pathetic, heavily explaining why he had now decided to retire at once. He seemed visibly injured; spoke against intrigues & press campaigns; took a long time to come to the point. Ended "after the end of this week I shall be able to say no more." Then a whole ^{string} of speakers, beginning with C.A. now called him "one of the greatest whips of all time," & followed by H.M., "an leader to thank for 1945 to 1950", a number of speakers, including Hayman & Palk who paid tribute to Richardson & ^{his} understanding towards Bill Buchan. Popp Leavelle on behalf of the whips, "resenting Press Campaigns"; Slater, on behalf of Durham M.P.; recalling ^{his} Aged Minister's House. Visit on behalf of Oldham M.P., also resenting Press Campaigns, ... Quite like an emotional funeral service. And all this 2nd grief and protest quite unnecessary. He could have gone out with his hand high and the band playing a triumphant march.

Then C.A. & his own position. Since it is to be a long session, he would be willing, if they wish, to go on till the end of Sept. That was the usual promise. They must choose a younger leader. He has led Ptz twice to defeat. (In fact counting after 1935, 3 times.) If we'd won, he would only have been defeated

DIARY.

9/6/55(3)

↳ go back to No 10 for a year.

Began then rises and mgs C.R.A. now to put a fixed date. That would lead to speculation and intrigue for now on. "Well, I suppose you", he said, "but no limit. Just go on." "Good then." C.R.A. asks "Is that the reason with?" "Good then." C.R.A. "Anyon around?" No response. C.R.A. "Very well."

This is almost certainly the end of Hays as far as future leads. He'll be 68 next Jan, 69 in Jan 1957. Too old to succeed C.R.A. now.

Massingham is Obama next Sunday (12th) lets it look wrong. Misses point that Long Session, yesterday Short Session. First realized this week. Changed my calculations; what that there was no threat at all to C.R.A.'s leadership, if he could go on for the present. He says that when S. Cal met on Monday (6th), most were confused and agitated, taking C.R.A.'s lead subject for this week.

Mark Justice taken.

I sense that Lynn Vajda Truman is leaning to the front. He's been in contact with Livingston & others. I shall nominate him for Paul's use. We need a lawyer. I intend make some talk with U.S. House Justice - need it on any emotional ~~maneuvering~~. If V.P. gets on now, it may

DIARY.

10/6/55.

Letter from Ede to C.H. in the Press. Very much to me.
Some papers, e.g. D.H., play it down as "ironical." Clearly
he was very much disconcerted by my letter. I think he's
been in trouble in his own constituency on grounds of
age. He told us in Party Office that he would be in his
constituency this week and would be asked whether he was
following my example. I expect he read this letter to the
some of his constituents before sending it to the Press.

Poor old boy! I think he must have been battling
w/ anti-Delta emotions, & an inferiority complex for
years. Now it's all burst out! I can't think how
this letter will do him much good, or me much harm.
Too obviously bilious. And anyhow he's making
another vacancy in the shadow cast, & that's what I would
like to do.

I receive & in the next few days many letters
indignantly criticizing Ede.

And there is much canvassing of vacancies
every one seems to have his own list:

DIARY.

(93)

21/6/55.

Write R to Winkler - Arboretum, near Sudbury, presents
to National Trust by Dr Wilfrid Fox. We go round,
with Gith, M.T. Land Mark & Fox, & afterwards lunch, mostly
apocally, with the latter. This is a delightful
expedition. Wonderful collection of Surtis (including
Munster Ashes), small and other trees. I make
a good impression on Fox on Surtis, & get many
useful tips for my own proposed Surtis Arboretum at
W.L. Fox, or so, is charming & very expert. He is
going on a trip with Hillier to U.S. to study Surtis &
other trees. He writes me a very friendly
letter in reply to mine of 15th. We meet
again.

A social day. To spend at Mike's &
meet Bastian, (half way to go to Antistoke
at Xmas, after finishing Vol II), & then to Susan
& her party & Lucy & Bastian,
who has now saved the Zircon for 25 years.
It is still going strong. The old party of mine at 15.

22/6/55.

Last meeting of old Parliamentary Club. I can't go,
having to join my father & others in receiving the

DIARY.

(9)

22/6/55 (2)

Queen Mother in the Middle Temple. That I write
C.N.A. a letter, - a little sardonic in parts - asking
him to meet my colleagues, whether or not they
are to be members of the "rejuvenated Ctee";
recalling that I was on Ctee before any of the
other present members; having been elected just before
Xmas 1925, at end of my first session; that I had
never been defeated in a contest for this Ctee, though
I was not on it for 4 years, from 1931 to 1935, when I
was out of Parl. for 13 years when I was a
Minister, from 1929-1931 and 1940-1951. (This leaves
13 years out of 30 when I was on it, 1925-9, 1935-9,
and 1951-5) I end with hope that C.N.A. will find
new Ctee not less dynamic nor more hard to
discipline than the old. I hear that he read this
account. Owen Kee was a S. Clerk. Owen Callaghan
proposed that Edie should thank me on behalf of Ctee.
Paul Gode printed.

DIARY.

23/6/55

Result of voting for the Shadow Cabinet announced at-PTG Mtg. (Detail attached)

All the 7 old members standing again are re-elected (including Noel Barker at No 9), with Bertram, Brown, Greenwood Stokes & Hutchinson. In addition to the 7 old members we've elected the only 3 ~~new~~ surviving ex-Old members (Bertram, Greenwood & Stokes), and the oldest new-ex-Old member candidate, Hutchinson, aged 65. Peter King known in Brown, as a sub to youth & energy. Not very convincing! Clearly, since N.S. got on, I would rather re-elected had I stood, I do would side & skinwell. I probably even with Hall. Average age was down for 60 to 55. We must try to let-it-down further in lifetime of our Party. But, since we are 1/2 an order away from we must drop 1 old man call you & replace him by someone at least 15 years ~~at~~ younger, to prevent age gap from rising.

Frank & Younger missed it by only 1 vote. I wanted both of them. Had them, with 10 of Hutchinson, Conn Butterfield, Van Thomas & Wilkey.

DIARY.

(26)

25/26/6/53

Week end at S Regress with N.V.A.W. Good rally, with
many bands & banners, & good hymns. I read letter
about Agricultural workers & miners as my favourite,
I then another blast for youth (a document attached) with
a ~~new~~ warning for year work.

Jack Maddigan has written me 2 most moving letters
about Cole. (attached.)

27/6/53

Here from Sunday about the proposal (-L.A.'s
re-appointment of all members of Az Uliff's Committee,
John C.V. Peat, now now to be M.P. of Ditch. Another
letter carried on with Davis.

DIARY.

6/7/55

Interesting

Removed

Boran.

His hair has suddenly gone quite white, & his bushy eyebrows too. And his face the colour of beetroot. This may be the fresh air of the park or it may be drink.

Today I was walking along the Park to lunch with Sadd at the Museum. I met Skinnard, Spinning with sparsely bearded face, & ex-M.P. He spoke of his 2 hours last. And then A.B. "I hear his drinking now much," he said. "I saw him yesterday" - apparently at Swan Hushival Board do - and he looked awful. "Well, I said 'he's drinking.' So thought his wife was to blame for keeping him in a bad way."

I then walked on to my date with Sadd. Hardly had he begun lunch when he said, remarking by the way, "I hear American Review's drinking now much." Nothing from the girl different from other 10 minutes. That night I walked home with Crossman, & then to his house for a party. I related this. He said, but I know, works & helps. The cards had now particularly pulled out. One left. He said into a group now seen with heavy drinker - Harker, Hall, Bird, Delaney, etc. He

DIARY.

6/7/55 (2)

ended that Mr. Frost also doesn't know much. And that he (Lussman) had seen A.B. drinking at 3 pm - not early! And that his partner was with Miller, leading to his resignation via SLATU, was immediately after a lot of drinks at lunch with him (Lussman.)

I tried to persuade A.B. to take Chairman's allocation a new Shadow Cab posts. He liked this.

7/7/55

I told G. Brown about the previous day. I said it would be the best solution if the A.B. thing faded, rather discreditably, out of our front rank. I also told him that Lussman, before the Shadow Cab election, had been going round saying that I was running G.B. & Tony Jenkins.

"Variety is the spice," I said.

Old Uncle Ed is dashing around like a six year old. He speaks every day from a back bench. - sometimes ^{using} ~~using~~ ^{sometimes} ~~sometimes~~ ^{points} ~~points~~.

DIARY.

(39) #

End of Oct. 1955. (1)

- I should not have gone anywhere, but my fractured ankle, still in plaster, was a good alibi - it was the only way that I had made something of a comeback.

Atk that H.G. had also done well, declaring himself a Socialist in warmer fashion than the Bertramite propaganda had prepared delegates ready for. Atk on the other hand, though he had afterwards made two ^{private} speeches, was still of a more liberal, and began with a mild outbreak at the "private" session, full of hate against Trade Union bosses, which had a shattering effect on the Treasurer.

He said, hearing all this, the leader is not elected by the Conference, or even by the T.U. Women, but by the M.P.'s, and I forecast that, when we got back to Westminster, dealing with an autumn Budget evening, H.G. would be ahead of H.P. before the end, and that Atk was ^{very} quite out of the hunt.

Though I heard that Bertramite might vote for Morrison to try to beat H.G. out. But, if this was widely reported by Gaitskellian beforehand, it would turn some neo-Bertramite voters against Morrison. There was also a doubt in my mind as to whether, if there was a contest between

would not feel that he "owed it to his position in the Party" to stand.

Presently Atk shows no clear sign of going. But it is becoming embarrassing that his uncertainty

2nd Oct 1955 (2)

Should continue. It is constantly discussed in the Press. (They even reported me, quite accurately, as saying to be Oxford Univ Lab Club in the night week last of Oct. but we must have a young man, not a Canadian reader, approving to (Jan of age.) Now Shivers writes in the Star attacking this maybe of evening last night is more like H.F. attacking "old school" but praising old men. And he speaks in the same sense to his constituents. This must help H.F.

In the Trade Union group there is now an indication to go to C.R.A. and dwell on the desirability of delay.

3/11/55.

I have a long talk on all this with George Knowlton on all this. He is Chairman of TV group. Press Edwards, he says, is the going to them, I want to be careful, not upset the group as a whole by precipitate action by a few members of the group's Executive. say that he

G.B. has now, since maybe, definitely become a Gairdellite. He says that, especially with H.F.'s

END OUTING. 1955 (3)

Langston

shocking show in vote of course. The district
 Union he'd get 10 votes - against Jim ^{possibly} Patrick
 Berwick support. The says that since Monday, he has
 told H.M. Ubi, and advised him not to contest
 the leadership now but to stay on as Deputy, &
 be majoritarian to H.G. This would be much
 easier. S.B. told H.M. Ubi to ^{be} beaten in leader
 and then consent to stay on as Deputy. And,
 S.B. says he pointed out if H.M. Ubi
 Deputy, he would be off the Party's list ^{maybe}
 next year. If, however, he stayed on, he
 might have change of age at that time - "now
 we want wisdom" S.B. added. I am much more

doubtful of Ubi, but don't comment.

S.B. said H.M. had taken all Ubi's advice very ill,
 & had complained of being deserted by his friends.
 P. Gordon Walker, with whom S.B. had once been very
 close, but less lately, and whom had till now
 been an extreme Americanist, now, S.B. says, shares
 his view that H.M. would be hopelessly beaten if
 he ran for the leadership. S.B. hopes, following

21/11/41

(102)

End of October 1953. (L1)

Recent talk with P.S.W., hoped that the latter would also feel H.M. was devoted Gaitshellite, who is Sec^y of the T.V. group, said to me in the tea room, after last Monday's fiasco, that H.M. ought to be "scaling up" the No 2 position, which means the same thing.

Had now seen G.B. Langford (Nov 3rd), H.M. made an awful mess of Burgess and Maclean at Langford's Piz 10/3, & he seems likely to make another Parliamentary fiasco next Monday, Nov 6th. When there is to be a H.M. debate on all this on adjournment. He added that

H.M. & A.B. were seen to climb in the smoke room tonight, looking a drink (if you see them, H.B. said!) D. Donnelly next morning on the phone confirmed (L2)

My conclusion, so far, is that, barring something very unforeseen, H.M. has the leadership in the Party.

It will come down in the next few months.

G.B. & I then spoke of deputizing leadership, if H.M. should drop it.

G.B. hoped H.M. would not set in

reference. G.B. would love that A.R. Howard Nov. 1 said

to Langford H.M. would like to see Jim Milligan, who would be Nov 2 to H.M. remember - Trade Vicarage, and to look into the

31/10/55.

I wind up Vote of Censure on Gov's Budget & Housing Policy. A very great Parliamentary success, one of my best ever. Loud and prolonged opposition cheer" reports the reluctant Times. 2 M. Edelman has an amusing laudatory piece in the Statesman. Tories howling with anger and interrupting, at my first. Likening Butler & Baldwin now had said "if I had told the country the truth, I should have lost the election" and now eliot Churchill had written in his index, "Baldwin" Stanley confesses putting party before country. Only difference, I said, between Baldwin & Butler was that Butler has not yet confessed. I met much congratulation from an MP's 1/2 hour ago after.

It went all too better because H. Morrison, making the vote of censure, had been ^{un}intentionally bad. Took 70 minutes, made no points, delivered no punch, and got some people talking uping out. It was an utterly pathetic performance. And this leads onto the leadership.

End of show:

At the Mangan Conference - name I did not attend.