FIREMEN RUN FROM EXPLOSION

Two Halifax firemen and a police sergeant run from a flaming building as the pressure of hot air blows out windows and sends debris toward the street. One fireman received minor injuries in the blaze which extensively damaged the Brunswick Street apartment building (CP Wirephoto)

JEWS SETTLE

Jews first settled in England at the time of the Norman conquest but were expelled at the end of the 13th century by Edward I.

Common Man Contact Vital If Home To Succeed

By GODFREY ANDERSON

LONDON (AP)—To be successful as prime minister, the Earl of Home must descend from the rarified atmosphere of British aristocracy and diplomacy to the hurly-burly of the House of Commons. He must establish quick contact with the common man.

Only by doing this can the former foreign secretary stand a chance of leading the Conservative party to victory over the opposition Labor party led by middle-class Harold Wilson in the election that must come before November, 1964.

The Daily Herald, staunch Labor party supporter, reported that Wilson was "beside himself with joy" over the Conservatives' choice for prime minister.

Lord Home will not achieve the new image simply by taking off the ermine robe of a lord and earl's coronet. It will be hard for him, though, to look anything but what he has been for years—a languid, cultured aristocrat to the finger-tips.

His patrician background, ancient lineage and vast estates are no asset for a prime minister of Britain in 1963. To the contrary, they can prove a handicap.

REMOTE FIGURE

To the man in the street, Home often appears as a remote and antiquarted figure living on borrowed time. Many are against a prime minister from the House of Lords on principle. "After all, he wasn't elected by anyone's votes," they say.

In fact, Home probably got the top job because few were against him rather than because many wanted him.

But those who wanted him were those who counted—other ancient families such as the Devonshires (in-laws of Harold Macmillan) and the Churchills, whose backing still counts for a great deal in even a modernized Tory party.

Yet the resentment of many party members smouldered on. They feel Home was imposed as prime minister by Macmillan and a small cabal. Some react angrily to the idea that a modern party can be led by a 14th earl who has shown little interest as a politician in shaping economic and social policies.

Home once confessed he didn't want Britain's highest political post because a prime minister had to know about everything and he knew nothing of economics.

Even on foreign affairs, Home is suspect to some. They remember his recent attacks on the United Nations and fear his apparently sceptical attitude towards it.

But his firm attitude towards the Soviet Union wins general backing. No one doubts Home's ability to talk tough in international affairs.

The big question in many minds is: Can he talk tough enough against Labor attacks in the Commons? Or is he too much of a gentleman?

Despite all the attacks from his critics, everyone agrees Home is basically a nice fellow. His manners are polished and easy. He plays cricket and hunts birds on the Scottish moors.

"A nice chap and a polite peer," sneered the Labor Daily Mirror. "A man without a face has been smuggled into No. 10 Downing St. Brand X is now the boss and you can like it or lump it until the next election."

Home's success in forming a government within 24 hours, although many thought he wouldn't, was probably due to Tory fears of the Labor threat.

Obviously the current disarray in the Conservative ranks could not be allowed to go on much longer if disaster were to be avoided.

By picking a true-blue Tory from the party's right wing as prime minister, the Tories have been accused of showing themselves more in tune with the second half of the 18th century than the second half of the 20th century.

Others feel that a party that wants to present a youthful, vigorous and forward - looking front should have picked its leader from the more-liberal left of the party rather than its diehard right.

Either Richard A. Butler, 60, the man twice passed over as prime minister, or Reginald Maudling, 46, chancellor of the exchequer, could have filled the bill. Now their open-hearted co-operation in handling finance and domestic affairs may still be vital if Home is to survive.

DENSITY HIGH

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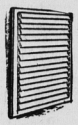

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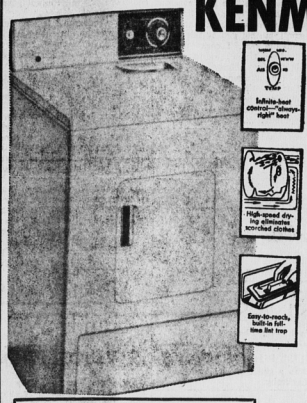

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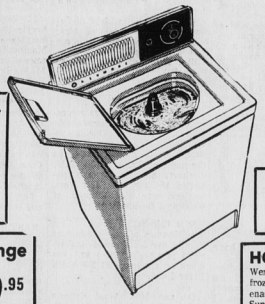

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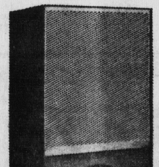

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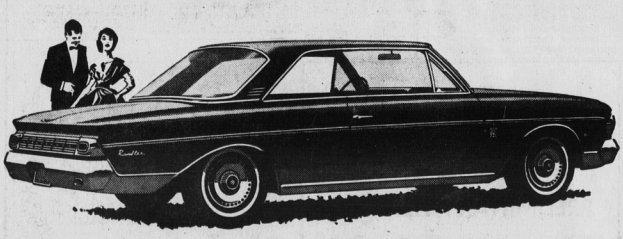

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