

Dief's Praise Gives Boost To Roblin As Successor

By BEN WARD
OTTAWA (CP)—In the midst of the election campaign, with all party leaders apparently firm in the saddle and intent on holding the reins of leadership, talk about successors is stirring anew.

The spark for the speculation was an unusual laudatory statement by Prime Minister Diefenbaker from the stage of the Winnipeg Auditorium where he officially opened his campaign last Monday.

It gave a big boost to Duff Roblin's standing among the potential candidates for the national leadership of the Progressive Conservative party.

After receiving a warm tribute from the young Manitoba premier who introduced him to the big Winnipeg audience, Mr. Diefenbaker referred to Mr. Roblin's distinguished political career and said: "I hope it will culminate in your taking in future your position in the Parliament of Canada as one of Canada's great leaders."

LOOKING AHEAD?
Mr. Diefenbaker has given no indication that he plans to step down in the near future—in fact, he's talking about five-year terms—but many observers interpreted the statement as his personal endorsement of Mr. Roblin when the time does come.

The prime minister will be 68 next September, when he will have been Conservative party leader for seven years through four federal general elections.

Mr. Roblin has led the Conservatives to three provincial election victories in Manitoba—in 1958, 1959 and 1962. The 45-year-old grandson of a former Conservative premier of the same province, he first came to power as head of a minority government just as Mr. Diefenbaker did in 1957. He has

backed Mr. Diefenbaker solidly in federal campaigns. Only a few weeks ago he ranked fifth in a poll on likely successors to Mr. Diefenbaker. But that was before George Hees resigned as trade minister with a verbal slap at the prime minister over nuclear policy and before Justice Minister Fleming announced he is leaving public life.

Of the others rated ahead of Mr. Roblin then, External Affairs Minister Green is the same age as Mr. Diefenbaker and Works Minister Fulton is leaving Ottawa soon, having been elected provincial party leader for British Columbia.

Most observers feel the 47-year-old Mr. Fulton, who tried for the national leadership in 1956, again will be a candidate whenever the time comes.

TABBORED FOR LEADERSHIP?
Talk about Mr. Roblin being a potential leadership candidate actually started in Ottawa back in that 1956 Conservative convention which chose Mr. Diefenbaker. He was impressive in a speech to the convention and his fluency in French was especially noted. His Manitoba election victories have kept his name in speculation, though he has consistently said his future is in Manitoba politics.

The kind of endorsement he received from Mr. Diefenbaker is hard to beat. Liberal Leader Pearson, 65, won the leadership in 1958 with

the personal backing of ex-prime minister St. Laurent. New Democratic Leader Douglas, 58, was the personal choice of former CCF leader M. J. Coldwell, and Social Credit's Robert Thompson, 48, reached the top after getting the public blessing of Alberta's Premier Manning, the senior statesman of the party.

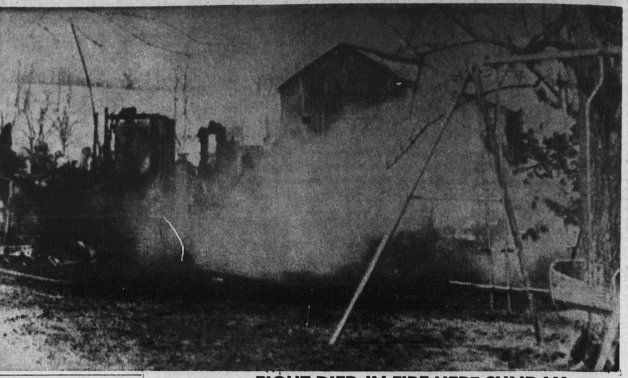
A strong point for both Mr. Roblin and Mr. Fulton is their ability to speak well in French. With the rise of nationalist sentiment in Quebec, bilingualism has become an essential quality for any politician aspiring to lead a national party.

A similar situation exists in the Liberal hierarchy where two bilingual men rate highly in speculation about possible successors to Mr. Pearson.

They are Paul Martin, 60, a French-Canadian although he was born in Ottawa and has represented an Ontario constituency in Parliament since 1955, and Premier Jean Lesage, 50, of Quebec.

New Expedition Seeks Monster In Loch Ness

LONDON (Reuters)—A new expedition hopes to prove the existence of Scotland's famous Loch Ness monster. The monster, supposed to inhabit the depths of Loch Ness, has been



EIGHT DIED IN FIRE HERE SUNDAY

A subject of speculation and argument for 20 years. Many people claim to have seen it and several photographs have been taken purporting to show an unknown type of fish or reptile in the lake.

The latest expedition will be led by Douglas Suckling of London, who said he and his son saw the monster during a recent two-week visit to the loch. Last month several well-known public figures and naturalists said it was possible for such a monster to exist. In a

All that remains of the Paul Rosenberger home near the western Pennsylvania community of Portersville where

eight died in a fire Sunday—a smoking pit between the barn and a children's play area. Rosenberger, six of his

children, and a young nephew died in the raging fire which left only a fragment of one wall standing. (AP Wirephoto)

ASK A-BAN

VANCOUVER (CP)—Arguing that a "balance of terror" is no guarantee against war, 191 University of British Columbia staff members have urged the federal government to refuse nuclear arms. They signed a petition addressed to the fed-

eral cabinet, leaders and defence spokesman of opposition parties, and B.C. candidates in the April 8 federal election. Dr. Peter Remman, philosophy professor who initiated the petition, said it was officially sponsored by 15 staff members.

GAMBOLING GOATS

Three-week-old kids, owned by Walter McCarthy of Aldergrove, B.C., near Vancouver,

Members Will Share Cost of NATO Fleet

BONN (AP)—An authoritative source said today the United States will shoulder less than half the \$5,000,000,000 cost of an international NATO fleet of 25 surface ships armed with nuclear missiles.

The cost is to be spread over 10 years. Under present plans, still subject to negotiation, the fleet will carry 200 of the latest model Polaris rockets. They have a range of about 1,500 miles.

Talks on the project have been going on here between Livingston T. Merchant, President Kennedy's special envoy, and top West German officials. Besides Chancellor Adenauer himself, his new defence minister, Kai-Uwe von Hassel, has taken an important part.

In an interview, von Hassel said the West German government wants work to start as soon as possible on the nuclear fleet.

He declared such a fleet would greatly strengthen the NATO nuclear deterrent and also serve to bring the United States and western Europe closer together.

TOURS CAPITALS
Merchant, who has been touring European capitals to develop support for the Polaris

jump for joy as spring warms the barnyard. (CP Wirephoto)

surface ships alone or include some submarines. The NATO fleet "would satisfy a very large part of the demand for middle-range rockets," he added. West Germany has sought to have these stationed on its soil, but the U.S. has opposed it.

On Hassel did not anticipate that all of his ships would be under the command of U.S. captains.

"I see no reason why a German captain could not be chosen," he said. "The best men will be given the commands, regardless of nationality."

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