

This could well be a picture from your history book; an evening in London, in the spring of the year. Sir Winston Churchill, in the sash of the Order of the Garter, awaits at No. 10 the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen. Her Majesty, with the Duke of Edinburgh, was dining with her Prime Minister. Behind the recording cameras, crowds packed in famous Downing Street to watch and cheer. For this, they guessed, was the end of an era.

At the dinner, Her Majesty had herself proposed the toast of Her Prime Minister --- an opportunity, she said, that had fallen to few of her predecessors. And here the young Queen bade farewell to the grand old statesman who had served her, and our country, so well and so faithfully, in war and peace.

The company at this historic dinner had included Ministers of the Crown, leaders of the Opposition --- and Sir Anthony Eden.

The next morning, Sir Anthony went to No. 10 once more for the final meeting of the full Cabinet under Sir Winston Churchill. Although no announcement had yet been made, it was expected that this day the Prime Minister would offer his resignation to the Queen, and that Sir Anthony would be called upon to fill his place.

In the afternoon, Her Majesty returned to Buckingham Palace after fulfilling a royal engagement in Sheppey.

And Sir Winston left his official home, for the weekly audience of Prime Minister with the Sovereign. Still no announcement had been made but the crowds that packed the route to wave and cheer, knew that this was a day in history. He had been Prime Minister for a total of nearly nine years.

Then came the announcement:

2218

Sir Winston Churchill had retired after fifty years in the political arena, though he still remains a Member of Parliament. His resignation comes at a time when Britain has reached new peaks of prosperity --- and the wealth of the people in National Savings is greater than ever before. Industry is thriving and expanding. ~~X~~ Steel -- nearly a million tons increase in the year. ~~X~~ Oil refineries' output up on the year by one and a half million tons. Gas supplies in 1954 --- four per cent up on 1953. ~~Eisxxxi~~ Electricity consumption, up ~~by~~ eleven per cent --- reflecting increased industrial production. ~~X~~ Motor car production up by twenty-five per cent. ~~X~~ Cycle exports --- twice as many as in 1952. Merchant shipping tonnage --- the highest output since the war.

~~Building a story of prosperity leading to a Budget surplus of four hundred and thirty three millions.~~  
A STORY OF PROSPERITY --- prosperity, leading to a Budget surplus of four hundred and thirty three millions.

Sir Winston's Churchill's unrivalled career brought these tributes from the ~~xxxxxx~~ world: President Eisenhower: The free world will continue to draw upon the experience and wisdom of Sir Winston, even in his retirement. French President M. Coty: France unites with Great Britain and all the free nations to renew the affectionate homage of her admiration and gratitude. Chancellor Adenauer of Germany: It is one of Sir Winston's greatest merits that the western world is living in freedom. And from the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations ----- our very grateful thanks, for all you have done.