

## PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN

NOTWITHSTANDING the radicalism of the Labour Party, it has consistently elected middle of the road leaders, while showering all admiration on the flamboyant, radical or intellectual. In the contest between the staid Gaitskell and the fiery Bevan, the former won comfortably though the latter was expected to score. Again in the contest between the conciliator Callaghan and the former President of the Oxford Union, which has the highest record of providing Prime Ministers, the fiery orator and the left-wing radical Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour party has stumbled into its habit of preferring sobriety to ability and skill. Son of a petty officer and educated in elementary and secondary schools, Mr. James Callaghan was the Assistant Secretary in the Inland Revenue staff federation. After a stint of war service, Mr. Callaghan entered Parliament, moved through several junior offices, such as Parliamen-

## On Men & Matters

—R. V.

tary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, before he reached the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1964. It was during this period that Britain faced the unhappy situation of devaluation of the pound. Though Mr. Callaghan volunteered to resign, he was persuaded to continue in office by Mr. Wilson. From 1970 to 1974, when the Labour Party was in opposition, Mr. Callaghan was a member of the shadow Cabinet and took keen interest in foreign and commonwealth affairs. When the Labour Party was returned to

power, Mr. Wilson appointed him Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Mr. Callaghan has participated in several international conferences and visited a number of countries in East Europe, Africa and the Commonwealth. With a quiet and balanced mind, Mr. Callaghan may be expected to rise equal to the challenge which confronts Britain today. The British Prime Ministership is not a bed of roses. Growing unemployment, high inflationary pressures and widening trade deficits seriously threaten the economy. Left-wing resistance to cut in social spending, coupled with a poor national economy, add fuel to the fire. Mr. Callaghan will face more problems than his predecessor, Mr. Wilson and will have to strain every nerve to keep the party together on many issues. Mr. Callaghan has good rapport with Washington and may bring a steadying influence to the country. Mr. Callaghan's performance in the next two years will determine the fate of the Labour Party at the next general elections.

### Hydraulic Power Unit

MIAMI (FLORIDA): An American firm has developed a portable hydraulic power supply unit as a substitute for bulky, more expensive compressed air-powered equipment.

Besides concrete-breakers, the tools that can be operated by hydraulic power include chain saws, impact wrenches, circle saws, post-hole augers, long-handle pruners, cable cutters, soil tampers, ground rod pushers and reversible drills.

The hydraulic unit manufactured by Aldia Exporters Inc. in Miami, Florida, uses less than two gallons (7.6 litres) of gasoline a day and costs only about one-third the price of an air system, the manufacturer says. The hydraulic unit is lightweight, is quieter than air-compressor units and generates less pollution. The unit fits in the trunk of a car and easily passes through doorways.—(USIS)

