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tional Service, Treasury, and External Affairs.

Mr McMahon has been Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party since 1968.

The Predecessor

THE outgoing Prime Minister Mr John Gorton, rose from virtual obscurity. The sudden disappearance, while swimming in the sea, of the Prime Minister, Harold Holt, in December 1967, pitched Mr Gorton into the highest executive office.

He was at the time a member of the upper House and it was the first time that a Senator was elected to the leadership of an Australian political party. Mr Gorton resigned from the Senate and won a by-election to the Lower House in the seat made vacant by Harold Holt's disappearance.

Mr Gorton first entered Parliament in 1949 when he was elected to the Senate for Victoria as a member of the Liberal Party. The son of a citrus orchardist, he served as a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II.

Those Who Fell

THE fifth Lok Sabha will not see many familiar faces of prominent party leaders and front-bench debaters. Prime Among those missing is the former leader of the Opposition, Dr Ram Subhag Singh, who was unseated at Buxar in Bihar. The Chairman of the Congress (O) Parliamentary Party, Mr Morarji Desai, will, however, be back, though a much lonelier man in the greatly thinned opposition benches.

The Chairman and ex-Chairman of the Swatantra Party, Mr Mino Masani, and Prof N. G. Ranga were able debaters and always heard with respect. Mr Masani was for some time Chairman of the influ-

ential Estimates Committee and when the "Grand Alliance" was being formed had pleaded hard for the adoption of a common minimum programme. He had virtually walked out of the four-party talks on this issue but was later prevailed upon by Mr C. Rajagopalachari to accept the much looser combination finally evolved.

The SSP has lost heavily, its General Secretary, Mr George Fernandes, and Mr Madhu Limaye being among the casualties. Mr Limaye never spoke without the most careful preparation and had mastered the rules and procedures of the Lok Sabha to a point where he could raise a privilege motion or a point of order almost at will.

Mr Fernandes had defeated the formidable Mr S. K. Patil from Bombay South in 1967 but did not make much of a showing this time. Perhaps his only consolation might be that Mr S. K. Patil, who tried to deny him the South Bombay nomination, was himself humbled at Banaskantha in Gujarat. Though a Mangalorean, Mr Fernandes, like other members of the SSP, only spoke in Hindi in which he was very fluent.

Though trounced at Rae Bareilly, Mr Raj Narain (SSP) may yet reappear, unrepentant, in the Rajya Sabha, of which he is a member.

"Shadow"

Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chairman of the Jan Sangh is among the few top party executives in the opposition to be returned. But Mr Balraj Madhok, a former Chairman of the party, has been defeated.

Like Mr Vajpayee, Mr Prakash Vir Shastri, General Secretary of the BKD, is a polished orator in Hindi. He too will not be in the new House. But the greater loss to the BKD is the defeat of its Chairman and founder, Mr Charan Singh, from what was regarded as

a safe seat in Muzaffarnagar. Mr Charan Singh, whose party has been absolutely routed, was twice Chief Minister of U.P. and was preparing to play a major role on the Central stage at the head of a substantial and crucial following. In the earlier stages of the making of the "Grand Alliance" he was even mentioned as the "shadow Prime Minister." Even if he was not king, he fancied himself a king-maker.

Ladies' Exit

The new Lok Sabha is also going to see a high turnover of women members—some of the Prime Minister's bitterest critics.

Mrs Tarkeshwari Sinha is a forceful speaker who gave as good as she got in repartee. She was one of the youngest members of the House when first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957. Dr Sushila Nayar, a former Health Minister and an associate of Gandhiji—Pyare Lal, Gandhi's secretary, is her brother—the Maharani of Patiala, Mrs Sharda Mukherji, wife of the first Indian Chief of Air Staff, and Mrs Sucheta Kripalani, a former Chief Minister of U.P., have all been displaced from the Congress (O) front benches.

Mrs Kripalani and Acharya Kripalani were among the rare family couples in Parliament. Acharya Kripalani did not contest this time.

Three Rajmats have been returned: those of Jaipur, Gwalior and Jodhpur, the last being a newcomer to the Lok Sabha. The Gwalior Rajmata's son, the young Maharaja of Gwalior, has been elected, to provide possibly the first mother-and-son combination in the Indian Parliament.

The Congress (N) has returned a number of women members, including Mrs Subhadra Joshi and Mrs Mukul Banerjee from Delhi.

Varahamihira