

# Personal Portraits

**P**OLITICS and sport are two of the fields in which the English have made a name for themselves, and in these fields two of the best-known living Englishmen are the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the cricketer Len Hutton. Early this year the BBC produced programmes about both of these men which, on transcriptions, are now to go the rounds of National stations of the NZBS. The first, about Len Hutton, will be heard from 3YC at 9.30 p.m. on Monday, November 8, repeating from 3YA at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, November 16.

The radio portrait of Hutton is by Howard Marshall, the well-known sports commentator. Among the highlights in the career of the famous Yorkshire batsman he recalls his opening against Australia at the Oval in 1938 with an innings of 364. Hutton was then only 22, and Howard Marshall, who was describing almost every ball over the air, has recaptured in this programme something of the excitement that swept the big crowd during that innings. But the talk is more than a reminder of the big events in Hutton's career—it is in a larger sense a portrait of a man who since his youth has regarded cricket as a serious profession to be studied and mastered—a game to be played by logic and reason.

An injury to his arm early in the war forced Hutton to reorganise his methods and adjust his technique, and he did this so successfully that he captained the victorious English team in the 1953 Test match against Australia. Listeners will hear how he faced the problem of playing cricket with one arm two inches shorter than the other, steadily regaining the confidence and skill that have made him probably the most technically accomplished batsman in the world today. Howard Marshall suggests that though Hutton's place among the immortals of the game is already assured, we have yet to see the final development of his character.

According to William Clark, Foreign Editor of the London Sunday newspaper the *Observer*, politicians as well as members of the public were surprised when R. A. (it stands for Richard Austin) Butler became Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1951. Mr. Clark's talk about the Chancellor is an informative, personal portrait of a man who began teaching in 1925 after a brilliant university career, was elected to Parliament four years later, and had become Under-Secretary at the India Office by the time he was 30.

Mr. Clark recalls that Mr. Butler's first Budget speech was "watched with suspicion by both sides of the House." Its success made it clear that he was a politician to be reckoned with, and his popularity grew rapidly. In spite of his shyness he has never avoided publicity—he has been far more accessible to the Press than almost any other Minister, and was the first Minister to undergo the ordeal of impromptu questioning in front of a television camera. As a result, says Mr. Clark, "Rab" Butler is one of the best-known people in Britain, but he is still little understood.



LEN HUTTON



RT. HON. R. A. BUTLER

BBC photograph

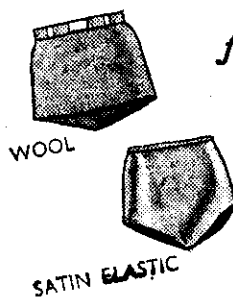
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