

Younger tipped for Trade takeover

By Our Political Editor

It appeared last night that a successor to Mr Cecil Parkinson as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry might be named during the weekend.

The senior of the three ministers of state at the new enlarged department, Mr Paul Channon, was named as soon as Mr Parkinson resigned as the man to be in charge in the interim.

However, it was emphasized that there was no reason to prefer Mr Channon to either of the two other ministers of state, Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Norman Lamont for the ultimate succession.

Among names of present members of the Cabinet most frequently mentioned yesterday was that of Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Younger, aged 52, has headed the Scottish Office since the Conservatives were returned to power in May, 1979. The Prime Minister has on several occasions made plain her high regard for him.

The names of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State

for Employment, was also mentioned yesterday and it is believed that Mrs Thatcher's first intention had been to put Mr Tebbit in charge of Trade and Industry when she reconstructed the Cabinet last June with Mr Parkinson going to the Foreign Office and Sir Geoffrey Howe to the Home Office.

But it is unlikely that Mr Tebbit could easily be moved since he has just entered on ticklish discussions with the TUC General Council over his plans for further changes in trade union law.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport, has been mentioned as a candidate for promotion before every ministerial change since the Conservatives came to power. He has many admirers in the Commons. However, he is not thought to stand especially high in the Prime Minister's favour.

Another middle ranking minister whose promotion to the Cabinet is thought certain to come before long is Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health. Mr Clarke, who is 43, entered the Commons in 1970.

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