Since 1958, 13 Labour life Peers and Peeresses have berm crusted. Most Labour sentiment would still favour the abolition of the House of Lords, but while it remains Labour has to have an adequate number of members. THE two rival African Nationalist Parties of Northern Rhodesia have agreed to get together to face the challenge from Sir Roy Welensky, the Federal Premier.

Delegates from Mr. Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (280,000 members) and Mr. Harry Nkumbula's African National Congress (400,000] will meet in London today to discuss a common course of action. Sir Roy is violently opposed to Africans getting an elected majority in Northern Rhodesia, but the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Iain Macleod, is insisting on a policy of change.

Sir Roy's United Federal Party is boycotting the London talks on the Protectorate's future. Said Mr. Nkumbula last night: "We want to discuss what to do if the British demonstrations." Yesterday Sir Roy's chief aide, Mr. Julius Greenfield, telephoned his chief a report on his talks with Mr. Macmillan at Chequers.

Mr. Macleod went on with the conference at Lancaster House despite the crisis which had blown up. He has now revealed his full plans to the Africans and Liberals attending. These plans do not give the Africans the overall majority they are seeking. African delegates are studying them today. The conference will meet to discuss the function of a proposed House of Chiefs.

MR. IAIN MACLEOD, the Colonial Secretary, denied in the Commons last night that there have been secret negotiations on Northern Rhodesia's future. The Northern Rhodesia conference in London has been boycotted by the two main settlers' parties - the United Federal Party and the Dominion Party, But representatives of Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Central African Federation, went to Chequers at the week-end for talks with Mr. Macmillan.

Northern Rhodesia is a member of the Federation. Mr. Macleod was not at the week-end meeting. But he told M Ps yesterday: "I have no knowledge of secret negotiations." He said Britain had an obligation to consult the Federal Government. But the final decision remained with the British Government. Mr. James Callaghan, Labour's Colonial spokesman, said Sir Roy had no right to delay progress in the talks by refusing to sit round the conference table.

Informal talks at Lancaster House will resume today. PRESIDENT KENNEDY today Defended the appointment of a Negro as his Housing Minister, It has aroused strong opposition from the anti-Negro senators of the Deep South. The negro ix Mr. Robert Weaver of New York, One of his tasks will be to son there is no racial discrimination In Government and State housing projects.

Senator Allen Ellender, of Louisiana, sparked off the opposition by telling a television audience it was "current Washington gossip" that Weaver once had Communist affiliations. The Senate Banking Committee, which is headed by another Southern Senator. Willis Robertson, of Virginia - met today in closed session to discuss Weaver's appoinment. Senator Robertson later disclosed he had sent a letter to Mr. Kennedy saying he had received several complaints about Weaver's loyalty.