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Tories at war: Anna Soubry accuses Boris Johnson of supporting Brexit in bid to become PM

BUSINESS Minister Anna Soubry has launched a blistering attack on Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party civil war continues.

By **KATIE MANSFIELD**

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Anna Soubry launched a personal attack on Boris Johnson

The Tory civil war on Europe exploded back into the open as leading Remain campaigner Ms Soubry accused the former London Mayor of only backing Brexit in an attempt to become prime minister.

Ms Soubry also said that Mr Johnson never believed the Leave side would win just one day after the historic referendum which saw 17 million people vote to leave the EU.

She told Channel 4 News: "My anger with Boris is that I don't honestly believe that he believed what he was saying to people."

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My anger with Boris is that I don't honestly believe that he believed what he was saying to people



"Because, you know in all the newspaper columns that he has ever written, he has never said 'I'm for Out', and he positively told people - people like Nicholas Soames - 'I'm no

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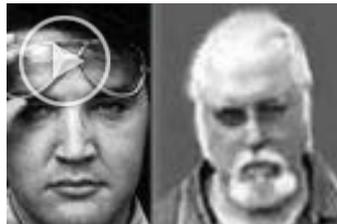
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Anna Soubry

Outer', and when I confronted him with all of this, all he'll ever say to me is 'It'll be all right, it will all

be all right'.

"And do you know what I think? I think he didn't think that they would win.



The Business Minister said Boris Johnson supported Leave in order to become PM



Anna Soubry said 'I don't honestly believe that he believed what he was saying to people'

"That's why it was all going to be all right, but for his own interests - wanting to be prime minister - he went for Leave, because it would serve him in his leadership ambitions.

"And I am cross about that because this issue was bigger than any one person. It was about my children, our children's future, and our grandchildren's future, and now they are seeing the



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consequences, as we warned them, as we said, come to reality."

Ms Soubry also accused Justice Secretary Michael Gove of not putting the national interest, or loyalty to old friend **David Cameron**, ahead of his concerns on sovereignty, as other Cabinet members did.



Mr Cameron is under increasing pressure from the EU to speed up his departure after saying he hoped his successor would be in place by October.

As the impact from the Brexit win continued to reverberate, Tory Remain backers are said to be getting behind Home Secretary Theresa May as the best-placed candidate for a **leadership battle** with Mr Johnson.

Former minister Sir Alan Duncan cast doubt on assumptions that the former London mayor was the inevitable choice as Mr Cameron's successor, telling BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "Do not necessarily assume that he is the darling of the Conservative Party activists.

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"A lot of them have loved the notoriety and the excitement. But actually, once you scratch the surface a little bit and ask the second question, a lot of them don't want a permanent ride on the big dipper."

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