

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, January 16, 1959

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

## ROYAL VISIT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOUR OF CANADA BY  
HER MAJESTY AND PRINCE PHILIP

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a statement concerning plans for the visit this coming summer of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Since parliament last met plans have been progressing for a tour which will take Her Majesty to all ten provinces of Canada as well as to the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. It has already been announced that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will arrive at Torbay airport near St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 18, and that they will be here in Ottawa to celebrate our national birthday on July 1.

Next week a more complete outline of the Queen's itinerary will be made public. Suffice it to say at this time that there were certain principles that guided those in charge of the tour in making their plans. One of these is that elaborate state functions be kept to a minimum. It is hoped that Her Majesty and the Prince Philip will be able to see something more of Canada's newer industries, some of the mining areas and some of the parts of this country that are coming into prominence as national development and expansion plans mature. Visits to some of the outlying areas of the country will form a prominent part of the program.

The Queen of Canada will be in her Canadian realm for some six weeks, but, of course, the vast areas of Canada will make it impossible for her to visit as many places as she would like. However, there will be other visits in the future. The facilities of air transport will make it possible then for Her Majesty to see other parts of the country which cannot be included in this tour because of the limitations of time as well as transportation facilities. She will travel some 15,000 miles. The royal yacht *Britannia* will carry the royal party through the great lakes system, during the course of which Her Majesty will participate in the ceremonies marking the opening of the St. Lawrence seaway.

Next week, when the complete itinerary is available, it will be presented to the house

so that hon. members generally will know the nature and scope of the journey she will take, as well as why particular areas are included on this occasion which did not, in the past form part of any of the royal tours.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** I am sure, Mr. Speaker, all members of the house will have heard with the greatest possible pleasure, as indeed the country will hear, the announcement the Prime Minister has just made regarding the visit of Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh to our country. We will look forward to receiving the details of that visit in due course.

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that Her Majesty and Her Majesty's consort will receive the warmest possible welcome in this country, especially in those outlying districts which she will now visit and which it had not been possible for members of the royal family to visit in the past. I note the Prime Minister's hope, and the intention of those who are responsible for the visit, to keep formal affairs to the irreducible minimum. This has been a hope and an ideal which has been expressed before every royal visit that has been made to Canada, and I hope perhaps on this occasion there will be more success in realizing it than has been the case in the past.

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** On behalf of the C.C.F., Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the announcement that has been made and the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, by saying we are exceedingly pleased that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip will be visiting our country this summer and will be present at the ceremonies opening the St. Lawrence seaway. We know that Canadians from coast to coast will welcome this announcement. We are pleased that, so far as may be possible, Her Majesty's subjects will be given every opportunity to participate in the celebrations that are contemplated. We hope that the health and convenience of Her Majesty may be kept in mind so that the functions will not be too tiring for her.

We are pleased that she is coming to Canada once again; and while no one in the House of Commons can set the date for prorogation of this session, I would express the