

*Statue of Monarch*

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** After Joe Clark.

**Mr. Hopkins:** In that debate on the Private Member's Bill to erect a statue on Parliament Hill for Lester B. Pearson, the Conservative Members referred it to the National Capital Commission for further study to decide whether the site would be off the Hill or on the Hill. I take great exception to that. There should be no partisanship in this type of role at all.

Queen Elizabeth has brought a great attitude of responsibility and great dignity to the office she holds. We have no objection to having a statue on Parliament Hill when she has played such a role in Canadian affairs for such a long period of time.

I do not think it was properly mentioned today, but someone did mention that Queen Victoria was in office from 1837 to 1901. She came through some pretty horrendous periods. In 1837 there was a rebellion in Upper Canada, and a rebellion in Lower Canada. In the 1850s there was the Crimean War. Every time there is an international war we have internal problems in Canada. In 1885 there was the western Canada rebellion. In 1899 to 1901 there was the South African war. That created another internal problem in Canada. Monarchs have helped along the way to smooth these things out, and it important to recognize that.

In conclusion, I wish to say that in expressing our admiration for the tremendous role that Queen Elizabeth II has played, we certainly have no objection to having a statue of her on Parliament Hill. At the same time, I will not agree to having a site for a Canadian Prime Minister off Parliament Hill. I do not care from what Party they come.

**Mr. Daubney:** You already have one off Parliament Hill, Louis St. Laurent, and you put it off Parliament Hill.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Any statues to be commissioned in the future should be located here where the centre and the pulse of the nation is.

**Mr. Daubney:** You set the precedent.

**Mr. Hopkins:** Let us not play politics with these things. Perhaps there should be a special commission to advise Cabinet on these matters rather than throwing them out for partisan debate on the floor of the House of Commons. With us in the case of Queen Elizabeth II there is no partisan debate. I want to make that very clear.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hopkins:** There certainly is when Members opposite attempt to kill a Bill for a former Prime Minister of Canada, at a time when the Liberal Party of Canada totally agreed that the statue should be erected on Parliament Hill in honour of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. I knew that man well, and I agree that he belongs there. But I also wish to put forward in the strongest terms that any statue of a Canadian Prime

Minister should likewise be here on Parliament Hill. We should not have partisan politics about that.

**Mr. Daubney:** Did you tell Trudeau?

**Mr. Hopkins:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney) is shouting across. I wish to say to him that is not unusual at times.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Erie.

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to rise and speak in support of the motion introduced by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper) to erect a statue of Queen Elizabeth II on Parliament Hill in commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of her ascension to the Throne.

My appreciation for the monarchy springs from my family's love for our kings and our queens. In the early 1700s German farmers were offered free land in Pennsylvania and thousands took up the offer. Thus it was that my roots were transferred from Germany to Pennsylvania and then to Ontario.

● (1440)

In doing so, these new immigrants signed an oath of allegiance to the monarch of the day. After the American revolution this allegiance caused many of them to uproot themselves and to come to our shores. My history book informs me that my forefathers crossed the Niagara River in the year 1800, with the aid of friendly Indians, and settled along the shores of Lake Erie.

I believe our Queen is someone very special to Canadians. To us she is more than our ceremonial head of state, a responsibility in itself, for as we all know she is the guardian of our democratic Constitution that ensures the rights of liberty and of self-government for all Canadians.

I can remember the day of her coronation on February 6, 1952, when she succeeded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth on the death of her father, King George VI. Still young, with poise and confidence, she assumed the mantle of her responsibilities wholly and willingly.

I remember with pride, in the year 1939, as a boy of 12 years of age belonging to a bugle band and going to Niagara Falls, Ontario because King George VI and his Queen were to be there. I was privileged to be with that small bugle band from my town, to line the street, and to play as our Queen's mother and father went by.

As I speak today, Canadians have not been disappointed in their Queen. Rather, they have watched her with pride and admiration fulfil her role and duties with dedication and with diligence.

I suppose for a monarch, especially for the Queen, it has not been easy, balancing a fine line of preserving historic traditions and keeping pace with the mores of the present. Too many