

C 115307

Extract from Parliamentary Debates

British House of Commons,

Dec. 7, 1936, pages 1652-1653

Constitutional Position

Mr. Attlee (by Private Notice) asked the Prime Minister whether he has anything to add to the statement which he made on Friday.

The Prime Minister: "Yes, Sir. I am glad to have the occasion of making a further statement on the position.

In considering this whole matter it has always been, and remains, the earnest desire of the Government to afford to His Majesty the fullest opportunity of weighing a decision which involves so directly his own future happiness and the interests of all his subjects.

At the same time they cannot but be aware that any considerable prolongation of the present state of suspense and uncertainty would involve risk of the gravest injury to National and Imperial interests and indeed no one is more insistent upon this aspect of the situation than His Majesty.

In view of certain statements which have been made about the relations between the Government and the King, I should add that, with the exception of the question of morganatic marriage, no advice has been tendered by the Government to His Majesty with whom all my conversations have been strictly personal and informal. These matters were not raised first by the Government but by His Majesty himself in conversation with me some weeks ago when he first informed me of his intention to marry Mrs. Simpson, whenever she should be free. The subject has, therefore, been for some time in the King's mind and as soon as His Majesty has arrived at a conclusion as to the course he desires to take he will no doubt communicate it to his Governments in this country and the Dominions. It will then be for those Governments to decide what advice, if any, they would feel it their duty to tender to him in the light of his conclusion.

I cannot conclude this statement without expressing - what the whole House feels - our deep and respectful sympathy with His Majesty at this time."

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.G. 26, J 4, Volume 161, pages C114723-C115560)

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