

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 14, 1964

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### PRIVILEGE

MR. DIEFENBAKER—PROPOSED ADDRESS TO  
HER MAJESTY FOLLOWING ROYAL VISIT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege affecting the rights and prerogatives of parliament. It has to do with the visit, which concluded yesterday, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to her Canadian realm.

As hon. members know, as Queen of Canada she is an integral part of parliament. Misinterpretations have arisen as the result of untoward events which took place during the course of that visit. Some of these events have produced a strong reaction among her Canadian subjects as a whole. Furthermore, the image of Canada in the commonwealth and abroad could be seriously impaired unless this house and the other place were to speak out with the authority of parliament.

I believe that the time has come for the parliamentary representatives to speak for Canada and the Canadian people. The only way in which the views of Canadians can be expressed is through parliament. Instead of approaching this matter in an acrimonious manner I raise it as the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, and I hope to have the support of the house for the suggestion I am about to make.

The Prime Minister is absent today on official duties. If that were not so I would ask that the suggestion I am about to make be brought before the house today. However, that being impossible, as it would constitute a discourtesy to him, which I am not desirous of bringing about, I suggest that tomorrow the Prime Minister have placed before both houses of parliament an humble address to convey to Her Majesty, the Queen of Canada, the appreciation of the Canadian people for her visit, and to assure her of the deep loyalty, affection, love and devotion of all Canadians to her and the throne.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my right hon. friend for noting the fact that

the Prime Minister is engaged in the closing session of the conference with the provinces and on that account is not able to be in his seat today. My right hon. friend may be assured at once, notwithstanding the necessary absence of the Prime Minister, that it would be his strongest wish that both houses of parliament take the particular suggestion made as yet another way of indicating, what is clearly an established fact, the loyalty of this parliament and this nation to Her Majesty the Queen.

On October 13 Her Majesty the Queen sent the following message to His Excellency the Governor General:

Please convey my warm thanks and those of my husband to the Prime Minister, government and people of Canada for the kind and loyal welcome which they have given us.

We are both very glad to have been able to be with you at the time when you are commemorating the first meetings of the Fathers of Confederation and I send you my deep and sincere congratulations on all that has been achieved since those days, together with my heartfelt prayers and good wishes for the continued happiness and prosperity of all who dwell in this great country.

In thanking M<sup>me</sup> Vanier and yourself for your gracious hospitality in the capital I would ask you also to express our sincere appreciation to all those whose skill and care contributed to the admirable arrangements which were made for all parts of our program.

Elizabeth R.

The Governor General replied to Her Majesty in these terms:

On behalf of the Canadian people, I wish to express warmest thanks for Your Majesty's gracious message which has been conveyed to the Prime Minister, the government and the people of Canada. It is deeply appreciated by all.

The presence of Your Majesty and of His Royal Highness amongst us has strengthened our admiration and affection for, and pride in, our sovereign.

The kind words concerning my wife and me and all those associated with the arrangements for Your Majesty's stay are greatly prized.

Georges P. Vanier

The Prime Minister thought it desirable, in addition to these memorable messages, to send one to Right Hon. Sir Michael Adeane, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., private secretary to the Queen, London, England, on October 13, 1964, in these terms:

I would be grateful if you would convey this message to Her Majesty the Queen. "As Your