

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the second, a message of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen Mother, are in my opinion most fitting at this time, for it is entirely proper that the Senate of Canada should deal with them before it settles down to the ordinary business of the country.

I feel honoured in being requested, as acting leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in this chamber, to second the two motions, and, I believe they will receive the whole-hearted support of every honourable senator.

The one motion, as has been stated, expresses our sympathy and our loyalty and affection for our new Queen, and holds out hope for the well-being of the Commonwealth and the rest of the world in the years that lie ahead.

The other motion expresses our sympathy, our love and affection for the Queen Mother, who so faithfully assisted our late King George VI in the performance of his arduous duties, and without whose loyal help and affection his late Majesty could not have carried on the great work he did for the Commonwealth and the world at large.

On the morning of February 6, 1952, the whole world woke with a shock. Our beloved monarch had passed to the Great Beyond. The shock was the greater because his death was, I think, entirely unexpected by most people. His Majesty appeared to be quite well the day before, and had even been out shooting in the afternoon. No one, I suppose, looked for his early demise. Of course we all knew that recently he had been very ill and had undergone a severe operation, but we had been led to believe that he had made a good recovery.

I was on the train coming into Saskatoon from Vancouver on the morning of the 6th of February, when the news broke. Immediately a pall of sadness fell over all the passengers in the train, and grief was very evident at the depot when we arrived, and everywhere in the city of Saskatoon. The same reaction, I understand, was general in the United States of America. My colleague the honourable senator from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner), who was in California at the time, reported to me that upon the news of the King's death the whole of that state went into mourning: flags flew at half-mast; the newspapers carried extensive articles on the life of the late King and the present Queen, and the people were in every respect very sympathetic. We have since learned that what happened in California was similar to what happened in most of the States of the American Union.

We are reminded, honourable senators, of the visit to this country of the King and

Queen in the year 1939, just prior to the second world war. Upon that visit many of us who are present in this chamber this evening were introduced to His Majesty, shook hands with him, and attended many of the functions which were held in this city and throughout Canada; and we grew to love and respect our King in the highest degree. We were also fascinated by the beauty and the personality of his gracious Queen. Perhaps because of that visit to our country of our late King, and his Queen Elizabeth, we feel more deeply the fact that he has passed out of this world, that we shall see him no more.

We are also reminded of the visit in 1951 of the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The impression made by Her Royal Highness and by her consort on that visit was, in my opinion, rather wonderful. At that time none of us could foresee that the then Princess Elizabeth would so soon become our Queen, though most of us had a foreboding that the event would not be very long delayed. We knew that the King had been seriously ill, and I for one was of the opinion that before many years the Princess Elizabeth would become Elizabeth II.

Our gracious Queen is a very young woman. We pray that she may be instrumental in bringing peace to a troubled world, and that her reign will be long and glorious.

I have much pleasure in seconding both motions.

Hon. P. H. Bouffard (*Translation*): Honourable senators, in a country such as ours, where so many different elements contribute to the formation of a single national sentiment, nothing is more significant than the grief which the whole Canadian people felt at the passing of their Sovereign, King George VI, together with the unanimous satisfaction which they experienced at the accession to the throne of our gracious Princess Elizabeth.

My colleagues will not be offended if I say that on that occasion Canadians of French origin were among those who showed the deepest attachment to the British crown, and they will readily understand my desire to bear testimony to that fact in the language of these, the first Canadians, a language which the Royal Family speaks fluently and impeccably.

So that you may grasp more clearly the high degree of loyalty of French Canadians towards the throne, may I be permitted to recall the evening of May 16, 1939, when a powerful ocean liner, the *Empress of Australia*, escorted by two British cruisers and two Canadian destroyers, and having aboard Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth dropped anchor off the Isle of Orleans. I speak as an eye-witness. Bon-