

The late King George VI

fittingly moved by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). With them we unite in expressing our sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen, the Queen Mother, Queen Mary and all the bereaved members of the royal family. Millions throughout the world mourned with them the passing of a king who was not only a great but a good man. His life of service to the nations and peoples who comprise the commonwealth will be remembered with gratitude and pride long after the generation over which he reigned has passed away.

To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II we in this parliament assembled, representing the people of her realm of Canada, render our respectful homage today. The queen reigns but does not govern. For us the monarchy is no instrument of autocratic power but a tangible symbol of unity among peoples of diverse races, tongues, creeds and colours numbering indeed approximately a quarter of the human race. What a commonwealth it is. With the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Bermuda, Nigeria, Ceylon, as well as many other lands, Canada recognizes Her Majesty as the visible head of a world-wide and free association. Parliaments and governments may come and go, but the ancient crown remains above party differences and party strife, signifying continuity yet ever reminding us of the age-old road we still must travel in search of complete freedom, democracy and peace.

Her Majesty the Queen is young. We pray that her reign may be long, glorious and notable so that in her time, at long last, mankind may—

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
 Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
 Ring out the thousand wars of old,
 Ring in the thousand years of peace.
 Ring in the valiant man and free,
 The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
 Ring out the darkness of the land,
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that one of the first acts of this new session of parliament should be approval of the two humble addresses that have been placed before us for consideration. We have heard some excellent speeches this afternoon, and there is little left for me to say; but the group I have the honour to lead in this house do want to go on record as being in whole-hearted support of the resolutions.

Each of us feels that in the death of King George VI we sustained a personal loss. He

was indeed a great king, a good man and an exemplary father. Realizing these things we the more readily understand the depth of sorrow felt by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and all the members of the royal family. We would want them to know that our sympathy goes out to them, and that we uphold and sustain them through all their trials. We also say that we will rejoice with them in all their successes and triumphs in the years ahead. In special measure we extend our sympathy to the Queen Mother, whose years of loneliness ahead make hers the harder lot to bear.

We take this opportunity, sir, to affirm our loyalty and devotion to our new sovereign Queen Elizabeth II, and to wish her a long, successful and happy reign. We pray God to give her strength to carry out the heavy duties she will have to perform.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I declare the motions carried unanimously?

Motions agreed to.

Mr. St. Laurent: Perhaps hon. members would feel that they were having a more personal part in the expression of this tribute of sympathy and loyalty if we were to stand together and sing "God Save the Queen".

Whereupon the members of the house rose and sang

God Save the Queen.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. St. Laurent: I move that this house do now adjourn until tomorrow afternoon. I think it would be fitting that we defer until tomorrow the announcements usually made the first day of a session and the tabling of documents that is also somewhat traditional. Perhaps also before proceeding with the speech from the throne, which has been fixed for consideration tomorrow, hon. members would wish to take a few minutes to pay tribute to the memory of the deceased members from Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Hatfield) and Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Gosselin) who passed away during the recess. I hope Your Honour will permit us to do that before we proceed to consideration of the speech from the throne tomorrow afternoon.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 4.40 p.m.