

*Statue of Monarch*

We have a statue of Victoria just over to the west of the Chamber, and I think it is appropriate because Victoria is the Monarch who was in office at the time Canada achieved its independence. It may be that in a few years time, sometime in the next century, perhaps, it will be deemed appropriate to put a statue of Elizabeth on Parliament Hill, as she was the Monarch who was in power at the time Canada acquired its own Constitution and severed the last remaining legal link with Great Britain, given the fact that we appoint our own Governor General and we are otherwise independent. That is a possibility. But should we do this now? If we should do it now, on what basis should we make the decision?

● (1420)

I was concerned the other day when Conservative Members of the House discouraged or blocked the efforts of the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) to have the Government erect a statue of Lester B. Pearson, a Prime Minister of this country, a Nobel Prize winner, an eminent under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, a man with a distinguished diplomatic and political career in Canada, around the precincts of Parliament Hill to accompany the statue of John Diefenbaker which is now sitting between the West Block and the Centre Block.

But the fact is that that is a kind of an *ad hoc* approach. The parliamentarians of the day may lean to have a Pearson one day or a Diefenbaker another day. They may lean to have an M. J. Coldwell or a J. S. Woodsworth as people who were eminent leaders of the New Democratic Party. But I am not sure if I am very happy with that creation of *ad hocery*. I suggest that it might make sense to think through exactly how we do this in order to ensure that Parliament Hill is not, on the one hand, overwhelmed with statuary and, on the other hand, that what statuary we put up here makes sense for an area which has enormous symbolic significance for Canadians from coast to coast.

[*Translation*]

I want to say that Parliament Hill is an historic and symbolic site for all Canadian men and women. That is why we must stop, Mr. Speaker. Instead of simply making *ad hoc* decisions on the statue issue, perhaps we could consider setting up a Parliament Hill Commission to decide such issues. I suggest that we should insist that no more than one or two statues are erected on the Hill every decade. I do not feel we should adopt a tradition whereby all Canadian Prime Ministers should be "commemorated" on Parliament Hill.

[*English*]

I would ask my colleague this, even though he is a good Conservative. Would he agree with me that if it is appropriate to have a statue of John Diefenbaker on Parliament Hill, do we also, after his death, and I do not wish it to come soon, anticipate having a statue erected of the present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark). If the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) only lasts one term in office, and it is a possibility, and if he then leads his Party to a devastating

defeat, which is a possibility, would we then anticipate that there should nonetheless be a statue erected of the present Prime Minister, the Hon. Member for Manicouagan, because he did at one time lead the largest parliamentary majority in Canadian history? Again, I would have some doubts about that.

At what time will Canadians be able to reconcile their feelings about the man to come to the point of accepting the possibility of a statue of the former Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, that it might at some point live on Parliament Hill? I see some of my Conservative friends are chuntering a bit in expressing certain reservations.

In other words, these decisions are difficult to make. It is not good to make them while people are still alive. I think that we should have some more orderly way of making these decisions rather than making them on the kind of *ad hoc* basis that is being considered here.

I would also suggest that it may well be that other Canadians should be commemorated and not just people who are monarchs or people who are Prime Ministers. We have one or two examples of that already in different places on Parliament Hill, including the statue commissioned by Mackenzie King of the boy who is just outside of the parliamentary precinct on Wellington Street.

I mention J. S. Woodsworth, that great Canadian and the founder of my Party, and a Member of this House for many, many years. I mention the name of Norman Bethune, a national hero in China although he is a Canadian, but a hero of enormous repute in the People's Republic of China, a country which will grow of increasing importance to this country.

I would mention Georges Vanier, a distinguished soldier, distinguished diplomat, distinguished Governor General of our country, a man who embodies all of the finest traditions of French Canada. After seeing the games of a couple of weeks ago, I mention Wayne Gretzky, probably the finest hockey player that we have seen in this country for this entire century. Perhaps in a few years Jeanne Sauvé as the first woman Governor General of Canada since she became Governor General of Canada will have a statue erected in her honour, before a woman becomes Prime Minister of Canada.

In other words, we should not confine ourselves to only monarchs and Prime Ministers. I think we should beware of an *ad hoc* approach that says, well, because a person has been distinguished in her role as monarch we should therefore automatically feel that now that she is alive there should be a statue of her here. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if one asked the Queen, "Do you want a statue of you erected on Parliament Hill?" She might well say, "Perhaps there are other ways in which my interests, which are genuine, can be commemorated and marked". I am not sure if that is true. But that is certainly also a possibility.