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The Crown in the crowd:

Informality marks the 1973 royal tour

"...It is as Queen of Canada that I am here — Queen of Canada and of all Canadians, not just of one or two ancestral strains. I want the Crown to be seen as a symbol of national sovereignty belonging to all. It is not only a link between Commonwealth nations but between Canadian citizens of every national origin and ancestry." The utterance of these words by Queen Elizabeth II at a dinner given in her

honour on June 26 by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario concisely expressed the main theme of the royal visit that took Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh to 21 cities and towns in four of Canada's provinces. The informal mingling of the royal couple with the large crowds that turned out to greet them in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta conferred on this visit the

special character that led some newsmen to call it a "people tour". Some officials involved in the planning of the tour are said to have borrowed the apt Australian term "walkabout" to describe the informality of Her Majesty's numerous contacts with her Canadian subjects.

Thus at each stage of the royal progress — as such a tour would probably at one time have been called — the stiffness of the familiar formal ceremonies — the inspections of honour guards, the addresses, the presentations — was relaxed by a common touch, an easy communication with onlookers and wellwishers, that must have startled persons who had witnessed former royal tours.

Ontario

On their first day in Canada, after the official welcome at Toronto International Airport described in one report as "proper and somewhat subdued", the royal visitors spent an hour at the lakeside amusement park known as Ontario Place, where they attended a brief film showing and took a ride in a miniature train to watch a lighthearted variety show also attended by hordes of enthusiastic youngsters, who yelled their appreciation of this chance to see royalty at close quarters.

The Queen and Prince Philip spent their second day in Toronto making official visits to the provincial Legislature at Queen's Park and to Osgoode Hall, home of the Law Society of Upper Canada. At Osgoode Hall, Her Majesty opened the new Ontario Law Court by unlocking the main entrance with a silver key. It was during the provincial dinner held that evening at the Royal York Hotel, where the royal couple were staying, that Queen Elizabeth made the brief speech of reply from which the sentences quoted above were taken.

During the next two days, the royal train carried the Queen and Prince Philip east of Toronto to Cobourg and



Queen Elizabeth receives flowers from Trina Pelletier, daughter of Chief Leonard Pelletier, during her visit to Mount McKay in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on the recent royal tour. Trina is the 1973 Easter Seal Tammy.