

Majesty in the great loss you have sustained by the death of the late King, Your Majesty's beloved father.

Your Majesty's sorrow and that of the Royal Family is shared in a personal way by the people of Canada, whose representatives we are. King George VI was a great king and a good man. By his devotion to duty, his high courage, his example as a husband and a father, and his concern for the welfare of those he ruled, he greatly endeared himself to his Canadian subjects. We will not forget the occasion when, accompanied by your beloved mother he visited our country, nor will Canadians forget the many happy associations established in the course of his reign over us. In common with all the peoples of the commonwealth, we shall ever deeply cherish his memory.

We welcome Your Majesty's accession to the Throne and we desire to convey to you a sincere expression of our loyalty and devotion. When Your Majesty, accompanied by your husband, visited us a few months ago, you left a deep and lasting impression upon the Canadian people. We are convinced that Your Majesty will ever seek to promote the happiness and well-being of all your subjects. As members of the Parliament of Canada, it is our desire and determination to uphold and support Your Majesty to the utmost of our authority and wisdom, and it is our prayer that Divine Providence will sustain Your Majesty in the discharge of your heavy responsibilities.

Honourable senators, I would also move, seconded by the Honourable the acting leader opposite, the following resolution:

Resolved, That a message of condolence be sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the following words:

Your Gracious Majesty:

We, the Senate of Canada, in parliament assembled, respectfully beg leave to tender to Your Majesty our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow and bereavement. We share Your Majesty's grief and loss in the passing of our late sovereign, King George VI, who was greatly beloved by all his subjects.

We pray that, at this time, Your Majesty may be comforted and sustained by the remembrance of what your loving companionship meant to the late king throughout his life and reign; by memories of service shared; and by the sympathy and love that everywhere surrounds Your Majesty in your great sorrow.

Honourable senators, I am sure that it would be the unanimous wish of honourable senators that we should take this the first opportunity of formally recording our deep sorrow at the passing of our beloved sovereign King George VI, of expressing our deepest sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and the members of the Royal Family, in the grievous loss which they have just sustained, and of conveying to our young Queen, as she assumes the great responsibilities incidental to her high office, our sincerest expressions of loyalty and devotion.

Down through the centuries the cry of the heralds "The King is dead! Long live the King!" has epitomized the nation's regret and sorrow at the passing of a sovereign, coupled with good wishes and fervent hopes for the

future. At no time has it been more applicable than at present, for our late sovereign, through his qualities of mind and heart, endeared himself to his subjects to an exceptional degree; and as our young Queen ascends the throne a flood of emotion is unloosed, striking the imagination and stirring the hearts of countless millions of her subjects, who in varied and divers manners owe her constitutional or spontaneous allegiance.

Under our constitutional procedure the Crown exercises a profound influence on the minds and hearts of all. Should the sovereign possess great qualities of mind and tact, as did our late sovereign, he may exercise a far greater influence on matters of state than most of us are given to realize. But it is, I believe, the qualities of heart that exercise the greatest influence. We still remember the pride we felt when, during the last war, King George VI, urged to seek safety elsewhere when death and destruction were raining from the skies, elected to stay with his people, sharing their fears, griefs, and dangers. We were proud of his private life, when, surrounded by his family, he gave an example of all that is best in family life. Though he walked with kings, he did not lose the common touch. An African chieftain, on meeting him, exclaimed: "Other white men talk to me as a coloured man; you talk to me as a white man."

And lastly, he possessed a deep religious conviction, in troubled times ever turning to the Almighty for consolation and support. It is said that when he suddenly found himself confronted with the responsibility of kingship, he went alone to one of Britain's historic chapels and there on bended knee prayed for strength and guidance.

Some time during the dark hours of the evening of February 5 and the early morning of February 6 his soul passed to his Maker. It is not given to us to know whether during those dark hours he slept peacefully on, or whether for a brief moment he may have regained consciousness. In any event there comes back to our minds a quotation he used in his Christmas message to his people during Britain's darkest hours:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied,

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the unknown.

A few days later a million people stood silently to witness the funeral procession through London, the stillness broken only by the cadence of marching feet. In St. George's Chapel—at Windsor, the ancestral home of