

Statue of Monarch

of this she has brought prestige and credibility to our system of government which, as democratic systems tend to do from time to time, commonly creak. She has been a stable person during a long voyage.

The Commander in Chief of the Canadian Forces is vested in the Queen, and her Majesty has performed three vital services for Canada in this area. First, the Queen has been the focus of loyalty for the Armed Forces, ensuring the military is an agent for and not a master of the state. Second, the Queen has brought proper attention to the forces as a link between them and the people. For instance, in 1984 her Majesty presented a guidon to the historic Queens York Rangers, the first American regiment, in a moving ceremony in Toronto. The Queen's presence drew 50,000 people to the event. These people, frankly, would not have otherwise paid tribute to and learned about that great Canadian regiment.

Finally, as Captain General or Colonel in Chief of the Royal Canadian Artillery, the Canadian Guards Regiment and numerous other regiments and branches, the Queen has always taken an active interest in the lives and concerns of the men and women responsible for defending this country.

As the fountain of all honour, the Queen has played a major role in bringing national and international attention to deserving Canadians. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Queen approved the establishment of distinctly Canadian bravery and service distinctions. The Queen thus fostered and brought recognition to public and voluntary service in Canada, making Canada a better place in the process.

The Queen has fostered the genuine multicultural character of Canada. She herself is a living testimony to the value of multiculturalism. She herself has in her immediate or distant background nearly 30 different ethnic strains and she is the personification of what Canada is as a country.

Her visits to many different ethnic groups in Canada for festivities and celebrations have helped both to enhance the culture of these groups and to integrate them more fully into the Canadian context. Among the more memorable of such visits were those to the Acadians in Prince Edward Island in 1973, the Ukrainian-Canadians in 1978, the Chinese-Canadians in 1983 and the Italian-Canadians in 1984. The Queen's involvement in the 1984 Loyalists celebrations also had a multicultural dimension because the Loyalists of the 18th Century were white, Indian and black.

The Queen's contribution in this area of Canadian life is nowhere better seen than with the native peoples. In 1970 at The Pas Indian Reserve, she created an opportunity for the Indian people there to gain a public hearing for the injustice they feel they have suffered at the hands of the Government. In 1976 the Queen received a much publicized delegation of Alberta Indian Chiefs representing Treaty Area 6 and Treaty Area 7 at Buckingham Palace. Most moving of all was her 1970 visit to the Inuit at Resolute Village. "Thank you", she said to those too shy to approach her, "for being just the way you

are". The Queen has seen genuine Canadian multiculturalism as a pattern for other countries.

Perhaps the Queen's greatest contribution has been to provide the Canadian Government with a human face, allowing Canadians to be truly a national family. No one can doubt her personal commitment to Canada and to its people. When she proclaimed the revised Constitution in 1982, she declared:

There could be no better moment for me, as Queen of Canada, to declare again my unbounded confidence in the future of this wonderful country.

In short, the Queen has succeeded in raising the Canadian Monarchy to heights undreamed of by Queen Victoria.

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, I thought I should speak in this debate because, among other things, my constituency includes the precinct of Parliament Hill. I congratulate my colleague and neighbour, in political terms, the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper), for his intervention and his advice to the House.

The motion calls for the Government to consider the advisability of commissioning a structure of a statue of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to be placed somewhere on Parliament Hill. I would like to discuss, not to take issue with the comments made by the Hon. Member with respect to the Queen's accomplishments. I would give her credit now for having been prepared to speak out as boldly as she has with respect to the deplorable situation in Fiji, giving her support, for the Governor General, as the only constitutional authority in that country.

The parliamentary system we have is an unusual one. I know the Queen has in fact been very conscious of her responsibilities to the Commonwealth and I believe she has played a great role as a rallying force within the British Commonwealth, something that no one could really have anticipated developing the way it has over the course of the last 30 or 40 years.

When the Queen came to office in the early 1950s as a young woman, almost all of what is now the Commonwealth, apart from the old Dominions, were in colonies of the United Kingdom. Now we have a situation where that is completely reversed. There are only a handful of colonies left and, for the most part, these are all independent countries which find a common bond together in British institutions and in the Queen as the symbolic head of the Commonwealth.

The question is does this contribution justify making an exception and having the statue of someone who is alive commissioned now for placement on Parliament Hill? Our country acknowledges our membership in the Commonwealth, but acts as an independent country. In fact, the British link, although it has been fond and strong in the past, is diminishing. Do we in fact want to embark on a tradition that we should continually have statues of our Monarchs in various places on Parliament Hill?