

*The late King George VI*

We all recall the happy time she and her husband spent among us only a few months ago, and we know how much she endeared herself to her Canadian subjects. Though young in years, Her Majesty is qualified to follow in the footsteps of her illustrious father. And she is well aware of her many responsibilities.

In addressing her privy council in the United Kingdom for the first time she declared—and these are Her Majesty's words:

I shall always work as my father did throughout his reign to uphold constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples.

There could be no better example and no worthier pledge. Hon. members, I know, will agree that the crown rests upon a head which will bring to it further honour and glory. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, like her father, comes to the throne at a most difficult and trying period in world history. As she assumes her great responsibilities I know I speak for all members of the House of Commons in Canada in expressing our earnest desire to uphold and support her in the task which has been laid upon her.

I now beg leave to move, seconded by the leader of the opposition, that a humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen in the following words:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, respectfully desire to express our deep sympathy to Your 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.

I also move, seconded by Mr. Drew, that the following message of condolence be sent to Her Majesty the Queen Mother:

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Your Gracious Majesty:

We, the Commons 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.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to repeat in the other official language of our parliament what I have just said in English; however, I believe it is fitting that I should repeat in French the terms of the two addresses which the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and I are submitting to our colleagues for adoption, because, in my opinion, they truly express the feelings of all Canadians whom we represent in this house, whatever be the language usually spoken in their respective homes. The addresses read as follows:

(Text):

A Sa Très Excellente Majesté la Reine:

Très Gracieuse Souveraine,

Nous, fidèles et loyaux sujets de Votre Majesté, les Communes du Canada, en Parlement assemblés, désirons respectueusement exprimer à Votre Majesté notre profonde sympathie dans l'affliction que vous a causée la disparition du feu Roi, Père bien-aimé de Votre Majesté.

Les Canadiens, dont nous sommes les représentants, partagent personnellement le deuil de Votre Majesté et de la Famille royale. Le Roi George VI a été un grand roi et un homme de bien. Par Sa fidélité au devoir, Son courage marqué, l'exemple qu'Il a donné comme époux et comme père, l'intérêt qu'Il portait au bien-être de ceux sur lesquels Il régnait, Il s'est rendu très cher à Ses sujets canadiens. Nous n'oublierons pas la visite qu'Il a faite en notre pays en compagnie de Votre Mère bien-aimée; les Canadiens n'oublieront pas non plus les liens heureux et nombreux établis durant la période où Il a régné sur nous. En communion avec toutes les parties du Commonwealth, nous chérissons à jamais et profondément Sa mémoire.

Nous accueillons avec joie l'accession de Votre Majesté au Trône et nous désirons Vous exprimer sincèrement notre loyauté et notre dévouement. Lorsque, accompagnée de Votre Époux, Vous avez visité notre pays, il y a quelques mois, Vous avez produit sur le peuple canadien une impression profonde et durable. Nous sommes certains que Votre Majesté s'efforcera toujours de favoriser le bonheur et le bien-être de tous Ses sujets. A titre de membres du Parlement du Canada, nous avons le désir et la détermination de soutenir et d'appuyer Votre Majesté dans toute la mesure de notre autorité et de nos capacités, et nous prions la Divine Providence de Vous assister dans l'exercice de Vos lourdes responsabilités.