

United Kingdom who is our Sovereign and who is loyally and, I may say, affectionately recognized as the Sovereign of our country. We all felt that it was desirable to have that recognition retained in the title as a proclamation of the historical, traditional link between this country and the United Kingdom; and the same feelings were entertained by the other two prime ministers with respect to their countries.

The question then arose whether it would be proper to have in the title we would use the traditional words, "by the grace of God, Sovereign." We felt that our people did recognize that the affairs of this world were not determined exclusively by the volition of men and women; that they were determined by men and women as agents for a supreme authority; and that it was by the grace of that supreme authority that we were privileged to have such a person as our Sovereign. Then perhaps the rather more delicate question arose about the retention of the words "Defender of the Faith". In England there is an established church. In our countries there are no established churches but in our countries there are people who have faith in the direction of human affairs by an all-wise Providence; and we felt that it was a good thing that the civil authorities would proclaim that their organization is such that it is a defence of the continued beliefs in a Supreme Power that orders the affairs of mere men; and that there could be no reasonable objection from anyone who believed in the Supreme Being in having the Sovereign, the head of the civil authority, described as a believer in and a Defender of the Faith in a Supreme ruler. ...

The procedure that was discussed was that we would each of us ask our Parliaments to acquiesce in the issue of proclamations by Her Majesty herself. It is Her Majesty who will determine, who will announce by proclamation what her Royal style and title will be for each one of the several realms of the Commonwealth. It is hoped that these proclamations may be issued simultaneously in the various realms of the Commonwealth and in the other parts of the Commonwealth that recognize Her Majesty not as their Queen but as the head of the Commonwealth.

The developments of modern times have been that the Sovereign does not exercise the Royal prerogative that has come down through the centuries without being sure of the acquiescence of Parliament. And it is for the purpose of expressing in advance that our Parliament will acquiesce in such a proclamation that this bill is now before the House.

In going over the elements of the Royal style and title I made no special reference to the Head of the Commonwealth. I think it is fortunate that, in spite of local situations that appear to make it necessary for the most populous part of the Commonwealth no longer to recognize the Sovereign of the United Kingdom as the Sovereign of its state, but felt that it was necessary for it to adopt a republican form of government with a president as the head of the state, nevertheless it wished to maintain the close relationship with the other members of the Commonwealth and remain in the Commonwealth.