

Statue of Monarch

and the right to elect people to legislative assemblies, are widely accepted. That principle has been defended in successive world wars by citizens of Canada.

We owe much of what we value to the evolution of democracy in the United Kingdom. The Magna Carta of 1215 is one of the documents on which the western world bases its concept of democracy. The United Kingdom evolved into a democracy over centuries. We, as a young country, have benefited from the evolution of democracy. We borrowed it at a mature stage. The United Kingdom evolved from a feudal system to its present totally democratic system.

The United States has also benefited from this evolution. It borrowed from the United Kingdom the basis for its democratic system which is a great contrast to the evolution which has taken place in many other countries. In communist countries evolution took place to the point of semidemocracy but then regressed. Communist regimes suppress the liberties and freedoms of their citizens. Certain other countries are not beneficiaries of the British democratic traditions. Some of the so-called developing countries of Africa are controlled by military dictatorships. That situation will probably exist until a revolution or other types of civil disobedience takes place.

We saw the toppling of the Marcos Government in the Philippines. We see the struggle taking place in Central America today, particularly in Nicaragua. The Somoza Government was overthrown several years ago only to be replaced by another dictatorial and undemocratic government. Popular movements do not always result in democracy and it is not uncommon for governments in these developing countries, once in power, to regress to a unilateral type of government system. We have not had that experience in Canada. For successive generations Canadians have enjoyed a democratic system.

When I think of placing on Parliament Hill a statue of Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of her ascension to the Throne, I think not only of her role in preserving our democratic traditions, our constitutional system of government, but also of the way in which the monarchy has adapted, changed, and responded to the political realities of the United Kingdom. I think of such a statue as a symbol of our democratic traditions, as a reminder to us all that in the United Kingdom and in Canada we have had a peaceful evolution of democracy.

In that regard we stand apart from many countries of the world whose histories and/or present-day life are marred by civil war. In many ways we are light years ahead of some of our sister countries in which the thought of a Chamber such as this to which elected officials can go to express their opinions and those of their constituents is only a dream.

That is what I think of when I think of a statue to honour Queen Elizabeth II. I am sure that the Queen represents those values to people throughout the Commonwealth. Her constituency is far broader than only Canada. The Queen has performed her duties at all times with great sensitivity and responsibility. She has endeared herself to all of her constituents throughout the Commonwealth.

In conclusion, I once again congratulate the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton for this important initiative. I look forward to the day when a statue of Queen Elizabeth II will be unveiled here on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my colleague and political neighbour across the Rideau River, the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper), has suggested that a statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II should be erected in the near future on Parliament Hill. My colleague referred to the tremendous support he has received from the Monarchist League of Canada and other provincial, national, and, I would think, international organizations.

It is very appropriate that we should discuss this motion today as we also debated today, as we have all week, the future of our Constitution. It is appropriate that we should discuss the foundations and fabric of our country on the same day that we debate this motion to erect a statue of Her Majesty.

I have a very vague memory of Princess Elizabeth that day when she was in Kenya and her father died and she became the Queen of the Commonwealth, the Queen of the United Kingdom, and the Queen of Canada. I was only six years of age at the time but my memory has been refreshed many times over the years by newsclips. That young princess went on to become a great monarch.

I have travelled throughout most of the Commonwealth and have recognized, not only the importance of Canada's role within that community of nations but the Queen's role as well. Whether in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean she has shown and continues to show tremendous leadership, as has our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). We are all very proud of our past, our traditions, and our ties with the United Kingdom.

I realize that the time for debate has come to a close for today and I respectfully request to continue my remarks when the motion next comes before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 36(2), the order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

It being 3 p.m., the House stands adjourned until Monday next at 11 o'clock pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

At 3 p.m. the House adjourned.