

*Statue of Monarch*

When you ask visitors to Canada about the Canadian identity the answer you get most often is related to the fact that we have a queen. The Queen symbolizes international prestige which, in turn, adds to Canada's standing in the world. One need only remember a few years ago when the Queen visited the United States. Even today her popularity with Americans is tremendous. Her presence at the 1976 Olympic Games brought enormous respect and prestige for Canada.

The role of Queen Elizabeth II in the Commonwealth is crucial. In turn, our country's external policy is influenced greatly by our union in the Commonwealth. The reception of the Queen in all Commonwealth countries is warm and respectful. Everyone in those countries knows of her relationship with this country.

In honouring Queen Elizabeth II with a statue on Parliament Hill we will be telling the world of our unique historical make-up. Canada has two founding nations, French and English. However, because of historical facts, Canada adopted British traditions. Let us honour that fact by erecting a statue in commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of her ascension to the Throne. Thirty five years of devotion to our land is a very wonderful thing.

In her role as Queen of Canada one need only look at a 20-year period during her reign to realize that she has been a leading force in Canada's entry on the world stage as a leading country.

In 1959 she opened the St. Lawrence Seaway with President Eisenhower of the United States. She made a royal visit from coast to coast and back. In her July 1 speech she said: "If I have helped you to feel proud of being Canadian, if I have reminded you of the strength which comes from unity, and I have helped to draw your attention to the bright vision of the years ahead, I should feel well satisfied because I believe with all conviction that this country can look to a glorious future". She has indeed done her part to ensure that our land has become prosperous and great.

In 1962 she helped Canada mention to the world the launching of Telstar, the satellite developed in Canada in co-operation with other Commonwealth countries. In 1970 the Queen visited the North, demonstrating our sovereignty in that part of the land. The list goes on and on. During that time her duties as head of the Commonwealth also took her to many of the countries that link us to that great family of nations.

I am delighted to speak in support of this motion. I hope that the House will consider passing it. As we are all aware, Her Majesty visited Canada this year. She officiated at the opening of the Commonwealth Summit, which was an outstanding success. She also visited other parts of the country including the great Province of Quebec. I know that we will all be looking forward to hearing Her Majesty's very wonderful Christmas message on Christmas Day.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon to speak on motion M-135 proposed by the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper). I want first to congratulate the Member for his initiative in bringing forward such a motion. I wish to make remarks in favour of the motion. I am of the opinion that this would be a good initiative for this Parliament to undertake.

You will probably recall, Mr. Speaker, that I brought forward a similar motion to erect a statue for a different individual, of course, a former Prime Minister of our country. I brought that motion before the House in February of 1987. Nearly a year has passed and the working group on the erection of the statue in question has not yet been completely formed. However, I understand that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) is going to appoint such a working group very soon.

I hope that sometime in 1988 we will all be joining together on Parliament Hill to participate in the unveiling of a statue in honour of the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Canada's thirteenth Prime Minister who was, in my view, one of the most distinguished citizens this country has ever had. That is to sidetrack somewhat from the topic at hand today, but I believe it bears repeating.

This Parliament, through the Standing Committee on Government Operations, has adopted a report prepared by the Minister of Public Works on erecting statues in the future. The report describes those individuals whom we have commemorated with statues on Parliament Hill. It also suggests a policy for dealing with statues in the future. In general, it suggests that we should erect statues for very prominent and outstanding people. In general, to be eligible a person should be one who is no longer living. In the case of Prime Ministers, through that report we agreed that generally we would recognize those Prime Ministers who were elected to that office rather than those who were appointed. Of course, that policy does not apply in quite the same way when we are dealing with a sovereign. There is one outstanding difference, and that is the fact that it is generally accepted that when dealing with a statue in honour of anyone, that person would be deceased. The one exception that is usually accepted everywhere, including the report that we prepared for this House, is that in the case of a sovereign that requirement would not be enforced. In other words, a statue of a sovereign can be erected even if the sovereign is still living. Generally, that is the only exception.

• (1710)

What we have to decide is not whether the individual in question qualifies because, under the criteria that we have set for ourselves, quite clearly she does. First, we have to decide whether we wish to so honour the Queen. Second, we have to decide whether the thirty-fifth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign is the proper anniversary in which to do it. It could have been done on the twenty-fifth anniversary or the thirtieth. For