

Elizabeth's Speech

Cites Role As Queen Of Canada

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OTTAWA, Oct. 13.—The fervent wish that tomorrow's opening of Canada's 23rd Parliament might "give us a glimpse of the solid and durable foundations of our existence" was expressed tonight by Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. Speaking to the nation by radio and television from the Governor-General's comfortable semi-circular study, the 31-year-old Queen spoke easily and informally as a member of the great Canadian family. Her Majesty, breaking into French twice, stressed her own role as Queen of Canada and her unashamed pride that she is able to consider herself a member of a family, which, through its happy mingling on terms of equality of two great races, is a lesson for everyone. Noting that on Monday she would become the first sovereign to open in person a Canadian Parliament, the Queen recalled that at this ancient ceremony she will be presiding at a formal assembly of the men and women chosen to guide the destinies of Canada.

But tonight, Her Majesty added, "I want to talk to you more personally."

Later, at the conclusion of what was obviously intended to be by content and delivery an informal chat, the Queen came back to the opening of Parliament.

"There are periods when life seems a small, dull round, a petty business with no point. And then suddenly we are caught up in some great event which gives us a glimpse of the solid and durable foundations of our existence. I hope that tomorrow will be such an occasion. I hope that all of you will feel that you are taking part in a piece of Canada's history."

As the Queen, in a dress of powder-blue lame and wearing a Tudor bow brooch on her left shoulder, and pearls, spoke, she must have been conscious of the fact that many listening Canadians would be measuring her performance against the recent criticism of Lord Altrincham and others of her speech mannerisms.

But Her Majesty was much

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more concerned with what she had to say.

She spoke of the changes in the six years since she last visited Canada as Princess Elizabeth. There are more Canadians, the cities are larger, industry has expanded and the last frontier is being pushed northwards.

"The strength of the Canadian currency is the admiration of other nations," Her Majesty added, "and it reflects the unceasing and sensible development of natural resources and your own hard work."

The Queen said: "Industry and commerce may bring wealth to a country but the character of a nation is formed by other factors. Race, language, religion, culture and tradition all have some contribution to make, and when I think of the diversity of these factors in Canada today and the achievements that have grown from their union, I feel proud and happy to be Queen of such a nation."

The French Canadians were assured in French that the Queen "knows how much you love this land of yours where your ancestors lie buried . . . of your passionate devotion to your ancient faith and to your mother tongue. Loyal united with your fellow citizens you have helped Canada to play an ever-increasing part in world affairs."

Recalling the visit with Prince Philip in 1951, the Queen dwelt on the same theme.

"I remember particularly the welcome of the children . . . how you all shouted with one voice. I remember thinking that it augured well for Canada that the rising generation, whether English or French speaking, whether born here or abroad, could show clearly that you belonged to one great Canadian family."

Her Majesty reminded Canadians that when she goes to the United States next week, she will be going as the head of the Canadian nation to pay a state visit to a great neighboring country.

"I shall be going in other capacities as well," she added. "But when you hear or read about the events in Washington and other places I want you to reflect that it is the Queen of Canada and her husband who are concerned in them."

In the afternoon, Elizabeth and Philip walked in the garden of Government House; cloudy skies and too much advance publicity having knocked out a suggested drive into the autumn blaze of color still on the Gatineau Hills.

The Queen also spent some time working on her speech, receiving advice from Philip, who has become an old hand at TV appearances. While Her Majesty spoke tonight seated at a table in the Government House study that has the Royal coat of arms carved in oak above the fireplace, Philip, who had been with her until just before broadcast time, watched a monitor set in an adjacent room.

With millions of Canadians, he heard his wife and Canada's Queen conclude: "To you and your children I wish you peace and happiness. . . . Good luck and God bless you all."