

QUEEN OF CANADA:

Canada's capital prepares for a great Royal Day - the State Opening of Parliament by Queen Elizabeth the Second. Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Government House for Parliament in an open carriage - the Queen wearing her Coronation dress of white satin, embroidered with the emblems of Britain and the Commonwealth, and Prince Philip in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Ottawa is a small capital; its population is less than 300,000; but most of these seem to be lining the streets on this sunlit day.

The Royal couple show themselves to the crowd, on the steps below the Peace Tower of Parliament Buildings, before going inside for the official ceremony. Canada's Parliament models itself on Westminster, but while it retains all the dignity of the mother Parliament, its ceremonial has a more intimate and personal character. It is typical of the young Queen that her bearing is in perfect harmony with this Canadian setting. Hand in hand, she and her husband walk to the thrones of the crimson-and-gold Senate Chamber.

Canada's Prime Minister, Mr. John Diefenbaker, takes his position at the foot of the dais on Her Majesty's right.

To the members of Canada's 23rd Parliament, the Queen repeats the words of Elizabeth the First: "This I count the Glory of my Crown, that I have Reigned with your Loves". And Elizabeth the Second's own message strikes a chord in every Canadian heart: "Now here in the new world I say to you that it is my wish that in the years before me I may so reign in Canada and be so remembered".

Later, in the day, at a Government House reception, the Queen's magnificent State Gown takes everyone's breath away. A Norman Hartnell creation in pale green satin, its sweeping train bears a broad garland of maple leaves, each one sparkling with crystals and emeralds. And to recall the British Royal Family's mighty ancestors, the White Rose of York is mingled with Canada's national emblem.

At a State Banquet, the Queen and Prince Philip dine with Governor General Vincent Massey and national and provincial Government leaders. Now the full splendour of Her Majesty's gown is seen, as she takes her place at the head of the table (underneath two great portraits of her father and mother) and with the Governor-General on her right. Ottawa will long remember this brilliant climax to the first State visit by their own Queen of Canada.