

TOUR OF HMCS QUEEN CHARLOTTE SET FOR ROYAL VISITORS

'New Approach' Seen In Meeting Reporters

BY RICHARD J. GWYN (Special Ottawa Correspondent) OTTAWA—There's nothing better calculated to make a fervid monarchist out of a hard-bitten reporter than a personal meeting with royalty aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The Queen's house party for the press aboard the Britannia at Quebec City was typical of the new approach taken to the press on this Royal Tour.

Put crudely, it could be stated: "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em." Very noticeable has been the different attitude of the RCMP. On previous tours reliable word has it they were under order to keep the press well out of sight and where it could be done unobtrusively, reporters and photographers were given an unobliging shove of the shoulder.

CLASH WITH POMP
On this tour they have been souls of courtesy and co-operation. One RCMP sergeant who cut up rough with the press has been busted in rank and taken off the tour.

Some people are complaining the wheels are turned too far. The long straggly line of photographers in ill-pressed suits clash violently with the pomp and ceremony of well-prepared displays. Many spectators in the grandstand at the official opening ceremonies of the Seaway in Montreal complained their only views of the Queen and President Eisenhower were between the heads, arms, legs and cameras of the press corps.

On occasion, though, the public has been able to get its own back. A feature of any Royal tour is the gargantuan, obtrusive press bus lumbering close behind the royal car in motorcades through cities.

NEW PHILIP
In Montreal, where the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh received a most enthusiastic welcome, the packed crowds broke into hoots and jeers whenever they spotted the press bus, its occupants staring uncomfortably out of the windows engaged in collecting what editors call "crowd reactions."

The changed attitude of Prince

Philip has been the biggest switch of the tour.

Reporters on this continent were regaled before his arrival with stories of his hostility to them, especially photographers, coupled with the incident of his dousing two photographers with a water hose.

Also in the minds of newsmen waiting to cover the Royal Tour were reports by veteran Journalists who had covered Prince Philip's 1954 solo trip across Canada. In private conversation this correspondent has heard half a dozen talks of arrogance and indifference which showed the Prince in a most unfriendly light. That year none of these incidents reached print, but any this

time would have reached the light of day as most Canadian and U.S. reporters, unlike their British counterparts, were under orders to write all the facts, the lights and the shades.

GRACE RESPONSIBILITY
There have been no incidents to report. Prince Philip has handled newsmen with charm and amiability. On the Britannia, he answered loaded questions smoothly and easily.

With the Queen—it has always been different. Awe, respect, admiration are words to express the feelings almost all reporters hold toward her. Only parallel would be the high opinion held for Governor-General Vincent Massey. Both are individuals doing different jobs with grace, tact and a fine sense of responsibility.

In conclusion, this correspondent will never forget the sight of hard-bitten U.S. women reporters, jaded and cynical with their trade, abruptly reverting to school-girl excitement as they boarded the Britannia to meet the Queen.

New Building Will Be Site of Ceremonies

The Island tour of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, following the arrival ceremonies at the Railway Wharf, opens with a visit to H.M.C.S. Queen Charlotte. Here an address of welcome will be delivered by Premier A.W. Matheson.

On arrival of the Royal Party, the premier will present the Commanding Officer of HMCS Queen Charlotte, Lieut.-Commander Kenney, CD. The party will be conducted into the new building where introductions will take place.

Premier Matheson will present members of the legislature and their wives, and senior active service officers of the province and their wives. At the afternoon tea

on Government House laws further presentations will be made. The handing over ceremonies of the new home of HMCS Queen Charlotte took place last January 15. This was done to coincide with the 35th anniversary of the founding of a naval division in Charlottetown. The modern reserve training establishment is a

90 room structure situated on the former Paoli Wharf. The new barracks, a two-story building of brick and steel construction, is 165 feet long and 91½ feet wide. The drill deck located on the ground floor is 165 feet by 54 feet. In addition, the ground floor has accommodation for stores, lock-

ers, offices, etc. The recruiting division was quartered in the Simms Building located on the corner of Kent and Hillsborough Streets. For a period of a few months just prior to the opening of the new barracks, HMCS Queen Charlotte occupied temporary quarters in the Hyndman building on Queen Street.

FEWER CONVICTIONS

LONDON (Reuters) — There were fewer drunkenness convictions in England and Wales last year, the government announced, but the number of young offenders rose. One thousand persons under 18 were convicted of drunkenness compared with 97 in 1957.



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