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My Lords and Gentlemen,

The tender Concern which I feel for my Faithful Subjects makes me anxious to provide for every possible Event which may affect their future Happiness or Security.

My late Indisposition, tho' not attended with Danger, has led me to consider the Situation in which my Kingdoms, & my Family might be left, if it should please God to put a Period to my Life, whilst my Successor is of tender Years.

The High Importance of this Subject to the Public Safety, good Order, and Tranquility, the paternal Affection which I bear to my Children, & to all my People, & my earnest Desire that every Precaution should be taken, which

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may tend to preserve the Constitution
of Great Britain undisturbed, & the
Dignity, & Lustre of its Crown unimpaired,
have determin'd me to lay this weighty
Business before my Parliament; & as
my Health, by the Blessing of God is
now restor'd, I take the earliest
opportunity of meeting You here, & of
recommending to Your most serious
Deliberation the making such Provisions,
as would be necessary, in case any of my
Children should succeed to the Throne,
before They shall respectively attain the
age of 18 Years.

To this End I propose to Your
Consideration whether, under the present
Circumstances, it will not be expedient
to vest in me the Power of appointing,
from Time to Time, by Instruments
in Writing under my Sign manual,
either the Queen, or any other Person
of

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of my Royal Family, usually residing
in Great Britain, to be the Guardian
of the Person of such Successor, & the
Regent of these Kingdoms, until such
Successor shall attain the age of 18
Years, subject to the like Restrictions &
Regulations, as are specify'd & contain'd
in an act pass'd upon a similar
occasion in the 24th Year of the Reign
of the late King, my Royal Grandfather:
— The Regent so appointed to be
assist'd by a Council, compos'd of the
several Persons, who by Reason of their
Dignities & Offices are constituted
members of the Council established
by that act, together with those whom
You may think proper to leave to my
Nomination.

24 April
1965

Depth of my speech
recommended by the speaker
a Divisional speaker of
demerit before my speech
shall obtain the age of
years for the advancement
of Government.