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The personal and political friendship between Ernest Lapointe and myself was so close, over so many years, that I cannot express what it means to me not to have him at my side today. I prefer to think of what I have gained from the years of our long intimate association in the public life of Canada to what of loss I shall continue to experience.

In these critical times - more critical than any through which the world has ever passed - if there is one thing more than another for which I shall always be profoundly grateful, it is that, as, Leader of the Government, I have had at my side, over so many years, the man of high integrity and noble character, the man of moderation and tolerance of view and outlook, the man of wide experience and mature judgment: Ernest Lapointe.

We are still too close to the events themselves, and the confusion of our times is too great, for us to see, in its true perspective, his outstanding service to his fellow-men. More and more will the extent of this service become known as the years go by, when all our own people will be able to appreciate the influences and forces which have kept our country together. I pray that Canada may never forget Lapointe's many eloquent appeals to all parts of the country at the commencement of the present war.