

of which we have none but bitter memories. We must be convinced that there is no other course possible, before we consent even to suspend the safeguards of true parliamentary government.

There is no greater safeguard than a constitutional Opposition. I should like to remind you again that the Leader of the Opposition has a recognized constitutional function. It is one of the most difficult and exacting, and, at the same time, one of the most important duties which can be imposed upon any man in a period such as that through which we are passing. The Leader of the Opposition himself recognized the vital importance of his function when Parliament was in special war session last September. He recognized it again in his statement which appeared in the press on November the 2nd last, in these words: "Considering everything, the course followed by the government in keeping full control of our war programme is probably best for Canada as, under our parliamentary system, an alert and constructively critical Opposition is second only in importance to the government itself". I do not ask for a better definition of the vital importance of an Opposition than this one which Dr. Manion himself has given us.

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