

Of all of advantage that we have derived through British connection, the greatest inheritance has been what we have accepted of British parliamentary institutions. The Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was a member of this House for forty-four years, the honored Leader of the Liberal Party for three decades, and Prime Minister of Canada for fifteen years, never ceased, throughout the whole of his long and illustrious public career, to uphold the fundamental principles of the British constitution as the great bulwark of our freedom. He saw the British constitution has been the product of centuries of evolution in the long struggle of the British people for constitutional government; the one great safeguard of the will of the people against arbitrary authority, the noblest instrument of self-government human genius had devised. Well may we revere its ancient origins, but even more the spirit of freedom that it breathes, and any departure from that spirit in our constitution and constitutional procedure, we should view as something of the gravest concern.

He is no longer with us, but since we would cherish his memory in our midst, the House will perhaps permit me to say at this time, and on this occasion, that the reverence which the younger generations of Canadians feel for British