

In the second place, the conduct of foreign relations must often be done in secrecy and on a confidential basis in which Parliament could have little intimate knowledge or which Parliament could not or should not publicly discuss until negotiations were completed.

In his comments on "The Planning of Foreign Policy in Canada", R.B. Farrell emphasized "the obvious difficulties of secrecy. Apart from fiscal policy there are few areas where secrecy restrictions are so stringent. In the name of Canada - policies may be developed and carried to a stage where it is difficult to turn back before they can be revealed to the public."⁽¹⁾

Thirdly, until the mid-twenties, a great part of Canada's external relations had been conducted, not by Ottawa but by London, a relic of the colonial status and a constitutional procedure in the period of imperial centralization and British responsibility. So long as the Home Government exercised this authority, there was little occasion for the Canadian Parliament to intervene. The colonialistic tradition was still paramount, despite the restless murmurings of the autonomists and nationalists; and the Canadian public had been, on the whole, reasonably content to leave matters of foreign policy to the more experienced Motherland, its Colonial Office, Foreign Office, and diplomatic machinery, so long as Canadian interests were not

(1) Loc. cit. p. 370.