

during its aggression against Abyssinia in November, 1935, was dealt with by the government (led by Mr. Lapointe as Acting Prime Minister in Mr. King's absence, and also/^{Acting} Secretary of State for External Affairs), when the proposal to extend the sanctions to include petroleum, informally made by Dr. W.R. Riddell while awaiting instructions from Ottawa, was repudiated or at least disavowed. The affair was debated in Parliament only after the negative decision had been made by the government. (1)

These are a few of the more outstanding cases of the disregard of Parliament in the government's decisions respecting external policy. To some extent this was inevitable, since Parliamentary members were not sufficiently trained to deal with matters of this kind, and also since some of the issues came up with sudden urgency and called for prompt decisions, sometimes while Parliament was not in session.

"It is a familiar fact", observed Professor P.E. Corbett in 1931, "that the popular control of government policy began later and has made less progress in foreign affairs than in any other department. Nothing else was to be expected, for international politics have been too remote from the knowledge and interest of the general public." (2)

(1) H. of C. Debates, 1936. 92 ff. Riddell: World Security Conference.

(2) P.E. Corbett: "Public Opinion and Canada's External Affairs". Queen's Quarterly, Winter, 1931, p.6.