

members have taken their turn.<sup>27</sup> Undoubtedly some members will avail themselves of this privilege just to keep up with what is happening before they face questions on the hustings. Others will not and the changes have produced some interesting configurations in party activity. To begin with, substitutions in all parties have been drastically curtailed. Liberal members attended 62 per cent of the meetings while the alternates averaged only 16 per cent. Eighty-five percent of all questions came from the members. The distinction between members and alternates was not so clearly marked among either of the opposition parties. Conservative members attended 51 per cent of the meetings with the alternates close behind at 50 per cent. Their official critics for foreign policy, defence and aid asked 56 per cent of the questions and the alternates 25 per cent. Attendance for the NDP was somewhat less. Its two members attended 43 per cent of the meetings whereas its two alternates attended 26 per cent of the meetings but asked 46 per cent of the questions. Opposition parties then are quite capable of fielding more active participants than their allotted number of members. Given the recently expanded mandate of the Department of External Affairs into immigration policy and international trade there should be no lack of important subjects to keep the committee members busy. It is too soon to determine if the automatic referral of the department's annual report to the committee will allow it to initiate more inquiries. The new department has yet to issue an annual report that would provide for such broad inquiries. The new rules do, however, ensure the committee that the Government will henceforth respond to its reports within 120 days.

Statistics on participation also show a considerable regional variation. While parliament itself is demographically representative, membership on the committee is not and participation levels vary considerably according to provincial representation. In the 1950s members from Quebec and Nova Scotia were much less active on the committee than their numbers warranted. In marked contrast were those from Newfoundland, Alberta and British Columbia. Those from New