

contentious issue which the House leaders happily referred to the committee. Political and humanitarian interests ran so high on this issue that over 12 meetings the committee attained an 86 per cent average attendance, a record never equalled. (See Table 6) Also on its agenda was the NATO-NORAD review with its attractive travel opportunities and clearly defined party differences which together produced a keen competition for membership on the committee and an average attendance of 76 per cent over 22 meetings.

Other less contentious issues drew far less support. Although Canada-United States economic relations was a lively issue at the time, only 59 per cent of the members attended the 17 meetings devoted to this issue.¹⁷ When it came to drafting recommendations, the committee could muster only 53 per cent of its members for the final 13 meetings. Government intervention probably had a lot to do with the declining participation rate. In caucus the Prime Minister let it be known that he was displeased with the extent of the review, the attitude taken by certain members including the committee's very assertive chairman, and the projected recommendations. Moreover, he did not want the committee's recommendations to upstage the Government's own internal review of foreign investment. In general, members did not pay much attention to any of the Government's policy papers. Twenty-two meetings on Foreign Policy for Canadians attracted only 48 per cent of the members of which few asked many questions. An even worse fate awaited Defence in the Seventies which attracted only 43 per cent attendance. Most members saw in such deliberations little opportunity for changing the basic tenets of these vague policy guidelines. At best the committee offered a forum for those members of the informed public who wished to offer their comments. Few members, however, considered this reason compelling enough to demand their attendance.

Party attitudes have been another factor in explaining this fluctuation in attendance. (See Table 7) Between 1963 and 1972 the Liberals had sixty-eight members eligible to attend five or more