

Naturally it is advisable to schedule as many meetings as possible when the House is not sitting. This, of course, is not always possible within the traditional Tuesday to Thursday meeting framework. Nevertheless, debates in the House seldom interfere with the committee's proceedings and only on a dozen occasions in the last ten years has the committee been required to adjourn to the House.³¹ Of late the committee has also found time to receive visiting dignitaries in joint sessions with its Senate counterpart.

The main reason for a member's participation remains one of personal interest and a desire to serve the broader interests of the Canadian public through this vehicle. Those who want to ask a question very quickly devise the appropriate tactics for getting on the chairman's list. The one common element running through the core group of participants is a strong humanitarian streak. For the good of mankind they labour so hard on what they expect will bring them only faint praise from their constituents. It is this dedication that sustains the committee stalwarts throughout the periods when partisan interest in the committee's activities begins to wane. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that the committee's level of activity is a direct reflection of that of the House. A sympathetic and helpful minister can foster it, a good chairman can promote it, but it must be seen to pay political dividends before it engages the committee in sustained activity.³²