

on".²³ In the next session the Conservative opposition pushed for an investigation by a sub-committee. After twice voting it down, the Government members relented and a sub-committee composed of 7 Liberals, 5 Conservatives and one NDP member came into operation in July 1975.²⁴ Its members were generally quite keen and attendance remained high throughout its almost 67 hours of meetings. Most members believed that it was time well spent and had a beneficial, if indirect, influence on policy and administrative changes.

The CSCE sub-committee which met 35 times in 1980 was slightly less well attended except by the lone NDP member. Its sessions were longer, however, averaging more than two hours compared with less than an hour and a half for those on international development assistance.

The most ambitious sub-committee activity involved the 106 meetings devoted to the Caribbean, Central and South America in 1981-82. While attendance at the 15 member sub-committee's meetings sometimes waned when witnesses were present, there was no lack of interest in ensuring that members turned out for drafting its two main reports to the House. At the outset, no one had anticipated such a lively development. Although the mandate given by the House was to enquire into "all aspects", this was generally expected to be another boring study of how Canada ought to export more to Latin and Central America. The chairman, being urged on by some other members, however interpreted the mandate to mean that studies of controversial political and human rights activities should also be included. As the hearings advanced several members who had initially been on the fringe as "voting fodder" took a greater interest in the proceedings while others fought to get onto the sub-committee. What might have otherwise been considered as a junket to a warmer climate became demanding. Members split into two teams to tour the area in order to obtain first hand evidence and to break out of what some members considered to be an all too pervading United States view of the region. Working sessions were scheduled close together and became long and tedious. In the end, 2,131