

was consequently little demand for discussion in the House."(1)

Failure of Parliamentary Control: Illustrations.

A few other particular cases in which the government failed to take Parliament into its confidence on questions of foreign relations may be referred to as illustrating the deficiencies in parliamentary control.

(a) In 1920, while Mr. Mackenzie King was Leader of the Opposition, he objected to the withholding from parliament the details of the Meighen Government's preliminary discussions with London over the proposal for separate Canadian diplomatic representation at Washington. The announcement of the agreement concluded was made simultaneously in London on May 10, 1920, and in the House of Commons in Ottawa by the Acting Prime Minister, Sir George Foster.(2)

Mr. King declared:

My purpose in rising now is not to refer at the moment particularly to the far-reaching and important step the government has taken but rather to express surprise that Parliament has not been acquainted with the correspondence in reference to this matter before the whole matter was finally concluded. If I understand the announcement which my right hon. friend has just made, it is to the effect that the whole transaction is finally settled between the Government of Great Britain, the Canadian Government and the United States Government, and parliament has had no opportunity whatever

(1) W. MacGregor Dawson: W.L. Mackenzie King, Vol.1. cit. in Ottawa Citizen, November 26, 1958, p.36.

(2) See reference next page.