

When you consider how much of this development has occurred in the last thirty years, the last fifteen years, that also brings home the suddenness with which we have been thrown into this international arena. It is therefore quite conceivable that we have not been fully prepared for the place that we were to take, though I think the really surprising feature of the development has been the way in which Canadians individually, in organized effort, and through their governments have risen to the challenge and tried to meet the new conditions. (1)

For decades a recurrent complaint in Parliament was that so little time and opportunity were allowed by the government of the day, for a discussion of foreign affairs generally and Canada's external relations. Every year this theme was repeated. Even though the majority of members may not have been interested in or familiar with foreign affairs, there were always a few who did take a lively interest and sought discussion and debate. Gradually this number increased, with wider information and often actual experience in conferences abroad. The apparent neglect of discussion irked these groups.

Mr. Massey pointed out that in 1935 fewer than 150 pages of Hansard, which recorded the deliberations of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, out of about 5,000, were related to the subject of world affairs; and even as late as 1947, out of 6,827 pages of Hansard, not more than 450 were related to this important field. (2)

Another analysis of the time devoted to the discussion of foreign affairs in the Canadian House

(1) Ibid. pp.2-3.

(2) Vincent Massey: "On Being Canadian", pp.88-89.