

are provided for his consideration. At the same time, in the course of Parliamentary and committee work, legislators are exposed to large quantities of information and discussion and those who are interested may thereby obtain better intellectual means of judging government policies. Thirdly, the Parliamentary bodies, as forums for debate, may provide the Cabinet and the Department of External Affairs with very useful ideas in developing foreign policy. Quite often legislators make suggestions which are the positive value to the analysis of particular problems. Finally, and perhaps most important, Members of the House of Commons, and in a secondary manner Senators, provide negative limits on the planning and execution of government policies. They force the government to justify its actions and the official to act in such a way that his action can be justified. They remind the planners of policy that they are the servants of the country and not its masters. The legislators make known what they think are the broad configurations of public opinion and point out the controversial areas where the policy-makers must walk warily. (1)

Parliamentary Control: Illustrations.

Some illustrations of the role and influence

(1) This summary is paraphrased from R. Barry Farrell: "The Planning of Foreign Policy in Canada". World Politics, Vol.1, No.3, April, 1949.