

Mr. GREEN: The department recommends where these men should go, and the appointments are subject to cabinet approval.

Mr. HERRIDGE: You say the department. That is a rather ambiguous term.

Mr. GREEN: The Department of External Affairs.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Without being personal, who in the department?

Mr. GREEN: In the first place it is the responsibility of the assistant under secretary in charge of administration, who is Mr. Gill. There are four assistant under secretaries and then, above those four, there is the deputy under secretary Mr. Cadieux, and then the under secretary, Mr. Robertson. Then it comes to the minister and I have to get clearance from the cabinet.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I wonder if I may turn to another area—our relations with our closest neighbour, the United States. We are often inclined to take this relationship for granted. We have set up two very excellent bodies—Canadian-United States relations and the parliamentary committee which is composed of members of parliament and members of the United States congress. Those of us who have served on that parliamentary committee get a very fast, but comprehensive, briefing prior to our discussions with our American colleagues. For my part I have felt there are times when we might have started our training or briefing a little earlier, in that many of the American congressmen are specialists in their particular fields. Now, while I insist our training is excellent over the period which it takes, I would hope it could start earlier so that, in their briefing the Canadian representatives could acquire a little broader knowledge of the variety of fields in government. If possible, I should like to see the agenda for these meetings advanced so that we could have more understanding of the topics which will come up for discussion.

Secondly, though I recognize the different constitutions of the two governments, I have often wondered could the results of these discussions be given more value. In the United States the reports of these discussions are tabled; sometimes they raise a great deal of discussion and later a summary is issued. Is there any way in which we can improve the efficiency of the parliamentary committee in so far as the Canadian side is concerned?

Mr. GREEN: The work of that committee comes under the Speakers. It does not come under the Department of External Affairs at all. We are very glad to help out, but we are not responsible for organizing these meetings. I might add that I was a little bit surprised to learn there was supposed to be another meeting this month.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): In June.

Mr. GREEN: I was surprised at that, since you had the last meeting in February. I think there is such a thing as having these too frequently and too closely together. If you do not look out, you will spoil the whole idea because it is not supposed to be a committee for continuous consulting. I understood it was to meet every six months but, apparently, you are all going down to Washington again.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): And Florida.

Mr. GREEN: Florida?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): We are going to see important military installations.

Mr. GREEN: I merely suggest that if these meetings are run too closely together they may finally lose their value.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): They have to be more important than just gabfests. The fields they cover are very broad and comprehensive.