

Apart from these expressions of interest in Canadian representation, which was concerned as much with questions of constitutional status as with actual diplomatic and commercial necessity, Parliament took relatively little interest in the Department of External Affairs and its Civil Servants. The introduction of Parliamentary Under-Secretaries apparently had little importance at least in External Affairs; and for a long interlude was discontinued. On matters of detail - either on broad foreign policy or in the more intriguing matters concerning Legations abroad - the Select Standing Committees on External Affairs, composed of members of Parliament of all parties and representing a cross-section of Parliament in both the House of Commons and the Senate, permitted a closer parliamentary interest and scrutiny, and served an increasingly useful purpose in notice of the Department's activities year by year, especially after 1940.

The Department of External Affairs, like most other government departments, was, and is, a Civil Service organ to assist the executive government; It possesses no direct relations with Parliament. The only bridge is the Minister of External Affairs, who is both Departmental head and a member of Parliament; and in certain instances, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Informational services emanating in the