

such as treaties and conventions, before their ratification, or administrative proposals such as departmental matters at home or representation abroad. It listens to periodical reviews of international affairs by the Prime Minister or Secretary of State for External Affairs. It openly discusses those matters, both in general terms and in more immediate application to Canada's national affairs and status. It approves, or challenges, or withholds consent to, proposed expenditures for departmental or external purposes. It can, and on rare occasions it does, reject an external policy of the Government and force the Government's resignation. In these respects, Parliament, as an entity, may exercise its sovereignty over the executive branch.

The major functions of the House in relation to Canadian foreign policy appear to be fourfold. First, it passes on proposed legislation and government finances. Secondly, it educates the country and its own members on matters of foreign affairs. Walter Bagehot referred to the English Parliament as the political schoolmaster of the nation. His comment is equally applicable to the Canadian Parliament. The debates of its member bodies are reported throughout the country by means of the press and radio and through the efforts of Members of Parliament themselves. Foreign policy is thus brought before the attention of the common man and information and arguments.