

*By Mr. Jaques:*

Q. Can Mr. Wrong tell the committee who actually formulate foreign policy?—A. The government of Canada. That is, I think, the only answer I can give.

Q. And who is the government of Canada in that respect?—A. I think that is a question which should not be addressed to me, Mr. Chairman.

Q. I do not know. I have sat in parliament for ten years, and I do not know the answer. We never discuss it in the House, and apparently we do not want to discuss it in this committee. Somebody must be responsible, if we have a foreign policy,—I do not even know that—for formulating it. I do not mean carrying the policy out; I mean actually formulating the foreign policy. I should like to know that.—A. That is the normal function of the minister responsible for the department, who is the Prime Minister, acting on advice, after consultation with his colleagues in the cabinet when he feels the matter is one which requires collective consideration; and otherwise acting in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. His position and authority are defined in the statute by which the Department of External Affairs was established.

Mr. JACKMAN: I remember some time ago there was a rule in connection with the American State Department that none of their representatives abroad could make statements without first sending a copy of their address to the State Department and having those remarks examined to see whether or not they were all right. I do not know whether that is in force. Have we any such rule?

The WITNESS: No we have not a hard and fast rule. We trust to the good sense of our representatives abroad not to say things that are embarrassing, and if they do we reserve the right to criticize, which we exercise without stint in the case of a lapse. It is an almost impossible rule to enforce. I doubt that the State Department rule is strictly enforced.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe that Mr. Jaques will find his answer in an alert public opinion here in Canada, and through the general discussion we have from time to time.

Mr. JAUQUES: We do not seem to have any. The External Affairs estimates come up right at the very end of the session when everybody is anxious to go home.

Mr. MARQUIS: You are not supposed to be anxious to go home; you are supposed to discuss.

Mr. LEGER: The Department of External Affairs, along with the government in power, would be the body.

The CHAIRMAN: Public opinion and parliament.

Mr. JAUQUES: Is there not a committee in the United States—I think it is the Foreign Relations Committee—which has a great deal to say in these matters?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course the committee in the United States have more power than we have.

Mr. JAUQUES: Can we say that so far we have anything to say about the policy of the external affairs of Canada? Parliament has not.

Mr. COTE: I think the answer given a moment ago is clear. For instance, when the U.N.O. matter was discussed in the House last year we discussed Dumbarton Oaks. Whenever we have to make a decision in parliament or in the country with regard to our relations with any foreign country, whether money is involved or not, the matter is taken into consideration in the House of Commons, and all parties and all members of all parties are free to discuss such matters, and the majority rules, of course. If the government comes out with a proposal which can be defeated, if it is defeated the government policy