

Routine Proceedings

consequences of their actions. We cannot expect government to solve this problem alone.

Over 4,600 people from my constituency felt that Tammy and Jennifer—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): The hon. member for Winnipeg St. James.

Mr. Harvard: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe there is a certain protocol and procedure followed in presenting petitions. I would submit that this hon. member is not doing that.

What we have heard for two minutes is a pure, unadulterated political speech and I would ask him to follow the rules of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I assume that the hon. member has terminated his intervention. Would the hon. member please present the petition without further comments.

Mr. Schmidt: Over 4,600 people from my constituency felt that what Tammy and Jennifer were doing deserved their support and I am happy to say today that I have helped Jennifer and Tammy show to the country, through the House, their intent and feeling.

RIGHTS OF GRANDPARENTS

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Madam Speaker, I also rise under Standing Order 36 to present a petition to the House from a number of citizens in the riding of Haldimand—Norfolk, in fact a number of grandparents in the riding of Haldimand—Norfolk, who would call upon the government to do something with the laws regarding grandparent access to grandchildren when there is difficulty between the grandparents and their own children.

They say that in no case may a father or mother without serious cause place obstacles between the child and the grandparents. I think that is something that all members of the House would probably support.

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STARRED QUESTIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, would you be so kind as to call Starred Question No. 16.

Due to the length of the answer I ask that the answer be printed in *Hansard* as though read.

[Text]

Question No. 16—**Mrs. Guay:**

For the periods from December 1, 1992 to December 1, 1993, and from December 2, 1993, to the present, (a) what is the distribution by province, expressed as a percentage, of all contracts awarded by the Department of Government Services (formerly the Department of Supply and Services) (b) what is the total number of these contracts, the amount of each contract and their distribution by province (c) to whom were the contracts awarded and what was the province of residence of the contractors?

Hon. David Dingwall (Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): This document provides a general overview of the contracting carried out by the former Supply and Services Canada (SSC) over a five-year period ending February 28, 1994. It can only be used authoritatively to show the number of contracts awarded, negotiated and signed in any given fiscal year.

The statistics provided cannot properly be used to identify the effects of federal contracting in generating economic activity within Canada for the following reasons:

The statistics in this report do not cover all goods and services purchased by the Government of Canada. SSC procures an estimated 55 per cent of the total goods and services bought by the federal government.

The threshold of purchasing authority for individual departments was increased to \$2,500 during FY 1991–92. The report for fiscal year 1991–92 and 1992–93 indicates less contracting activity than previous years as contracting information is retained by each department.

SSC contracting documents list the total value of any given contract. Large multi-year contracts will appear within the statistics for the fiscal year when the contract was signed.

SSC statistics reflect the organizational structures for payment used by Canadian suppliers. This is particularly true in those categories of goods and services which are regular, ongoing requirements for government. For example, for the purpose of billing, all federal purchases of ESSO products are processed through an address in Nepean, Ontario. Within SSC's data, all ESSO sales, regardless of where they occur in Canada, will be registered as having occurred in Nepean, Ontario, because that is ESSO's point of mailing. The reality is that fuel is neither refined in Nepean, nor does the oil originate from Ontario, nor are all ESSO products purchased in Ontario.

Because SSC's statistical base is purely designed to reflect levels of contracting activity—the signing and recording of contract documents—extreme caution should be used in attempting to ascribe precision or authority to this data for any other purpose.