

the Premier of Newfoundland. I think it is the custom of this House that upon request that letter will be tabled.

I am sorry that the Minister of Finance has left the House but the Prime Minister is here and undoubtedly he is familiar with the letter I referred to. I request that the letter from which the Minister of Finance read extracts earlier today be tabled.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, unfortunately I was not here when that exchange occurred; I was meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia. I have no objection to making that letter public but I think it would be discourteous to do so unless the Premier of Newfoundland agreed. I can ascertain—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I was not here and do not know the circumstances in which it was read. If hon. members object to reading from it, then that is all the more reason not to ask for production of it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: They will have to make up their minds. Madam Speaker, let us try and get this straight. I said that I am prepared to table it.

An hon. Member: Sit down!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: With this crowd, Madam Speaker, you have to explain everything twice—

Mr. Clark: And change your stride in mid-stream.

Mr. Trudeau: —and three times for the leader, Madam Speaker. I said I am prepared to table it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I said I am prepared to table it if the Premier of Newfoundland—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I know he is a laughing matter, and if this is the view of the hon. member he can express it himself.

Is the opposition satisfied, Madam Speaker?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: No? Let us have a supplementary. I would like to hear that.

Madam Speaker: The Minister of Finance is not in the House at the present time but the Right Hon. Prime Minister has just said that he is prepared to table this letter under certain conditions. I think we should wait until tomorrow to see what kind of consultations can take place and whether the

Order Paper Questions

question is posed tomorrow. I might deal with it tomorrow if a decision is made by the minister not to table it.

● (1650)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—ALLEGED CIA INTERVENTION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I have the duty to present a petition on behalf of John Meier of Delta, British Columbia. Mr. Meier makes certain requests of this Parliament. He asks that the House cause a committee of the House to conduct hearings into matters and facts concerning the intervention of the CIA in Canadian elections, as well as penetration by the CIA into Canadian security services. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) ordered an inquiry into these matters, I urge that this petition be taken very seriously and that a committee investigate these very serious allegations.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,887, 2,889, 2,895, 2,896, 2,897, 2,939, 2,955, 2,983, 4,173 and 4,280.

[Text]

DPW—TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Question No. 2,887—**Mr. Clarke:**

With reference to the professional and special services recorded by the Department of Public Works under the Accommodation Program—Operations and Maintenance at page 32.28, volume II of the 1979-80 Public Accounts of Canada, with particular reference to training and educational services (a) how does the department explain the 100 per cent increase in expenditure for the item over that for 1978-79 (b) what was the name of each type of service (c) what was the amount paid for each service and, for contracts over \$2,000, to whom was it paid?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Accommodation operating—vote 10, standard object 04, training and educational services.

Expenditures	1978-79	\$166,120
	1979-80	86,929
Decrease		\$ 79,191

(a) Training and educational services did not increase by 100 per cent but actually decreased by 48 per cent.