

In so far as the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is concerned: 2. No steps are currently being taken to construct a carageen extraction plant in Prince Edward Island.

*DERAILMENT OF MAIL CAR

Question No. 1,888—**Mr. Dinsdale:**

1. In connection with the derailment at Thunder Bay recently, were empty mail bags found in the vicinity?

2. Was mail stolen and, if so, what action has been taken to recover the stolen mail and apprehend and prosecute the offenders?

Mr. Raynald Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes. As for the second part, the answer is that the derailment of train 214 on 9 February 1975 near Caramat, Ontario involved a car containing mail which broke open. The incident occurred in a remote area and it was only possible to provide some degree of protection from the local looters on the following day. Mail bags were cut open and mail scattered by the looters who wanted the bags to cart large amounts of meat, etc. While operating under most difficult and at times violent circumstances, railway and police officials endeavoured to protect the mail and it is believed that most of the mail (including register despatches) was recovered although some of it was badly water damaged. Normal procedure applies where anyone will be liable to prosecution if sufficient evidence is obtained to indicate the theft of mail or possession of stolen mail.

SUPPLY AND SERVICES—PRACTICES AND POLICIES
RESPECTING BUYING

Question No. 2,017—**Mr. Reynolds:**

1. What degree of standardization has taken place in the area of purchasing over the past five years within the Department of Supply and Services?

2. What are the practices and policies now in force respecting the buying, delegation of authority and tendering procedure for contracts?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. The number of customer departments and agencies has increased from 125 in 1970 to 141 in 1975. Approximately 15,000 items have been catalogued by the Supply Administration, of which some 7,000 are common items in use by several departments and agencies.

2. The steps in the procurement process which include the tendering procedure have been tabled in response to Question 2,008. Equality of opportunity to compete for government contracts, fair value for the taxpayer's dollar and optimum service to customer departments and agencies are the key policies followed by the Supply Administration. Delegation of authority to Supply Administration Officials is compatible with the level of responsibility. For example, the level for Directors' General approval of entry into competitive contracts is \$250,000, Directors' \$150,000, Division Chiefs' \$100,000 and contracting officers' \$15,000.

Order Paper Questions

TRAINING AT NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY, FORT
LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Question No. 2,034—**Mr. Rodriguez:**

1. Have any Canadians trained at the National Intelligence Academy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida and, if so, are any Canadians presently training?

2. Where are the Canadians who trained at the NIA presently located?

3. Who paid the costs of those Canadians who have trained at the NIA?

4. Have any Canadian governments or police departments purchased goods from Audio Intelligence Devices, whose headquarters are in Fort Lauderdale and, if so, where are they being used?

5. Were any Canadian dignitaries escorted to the school by Secret Service agents?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of National Defence and the Solicitor General (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) as follows: 1. No.

2. Not applicable.

3. Not applicable.

4. No. (National Defence) Yes, for evaluation purposes only at Headquarters, Ottawa (Royal Canadian Mounted Police).

5. No.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—COST OF OPERATION OF
PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,052—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Labour?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office as such in the Canada Department of Labour. The Department is a small one with correspondingly small requirements for responses to Parliamentary inquiries. For this reason Parliamentary returns are handled on a part-time basis by several members of the Deputy Minister's Secretariat.

GRANTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT COURSES

Question No. 2,073—**Mr. Rodriguez:**

With reference to the answer to Question No. 414 (a) what methods of evaluation were used by the department to determine the effectiveness of such gifts (b) if evaluations were done, who did them and will the government Table them (c) are trade and/or labour unions eligible for such grants or contributions and, if not, for what reason?

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): (a) Evaluation of particular contributions is made accordingly to the following criteria: 1. There must be an identifiable need, not currently being met, for enhancement of the management capabilities of the applicant association's membership.

2. The management course for which assistance is sought must be capable of making a significant contribution to improving the management competence of a large proportion of the association's membership.