

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### SECURITY

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast)** moved:

That an humble Address be presented to Her Excellency praying that she will cause to be laid before this House copies of the government's files on the nature of the relationship between Herbert Norman and any of the state security organizations of the Soviet Union or any other Warsaw Pact member.

He said: Mr. Speaker, my motion, Sir, is with respect to certain papers involving the late Herbert Norman which was to be debated during the next hour. There have been discussions, Mr. Speaker, of which the other parties have been made aware, and I am extremely pleased that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has appointed the academic and former diplomat Peyton Lyon and contracted with him to look into this matter and to attempt to put to rest any lingering doubts about the late Mr. Norman, and I very much hope he succeeds.

The only concern I have, Sir, is that Mr. Lyon must be permitted to have access to the RCMP, now CSIS, documents in making his inquiry which is to be completed by March 15. I hope the parliamentary secretary will rise in a moment on this point of order, and I am hoping that there is unanimous consent that, subject to the remarks that he makes, the motion might be withdrawn.

**Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, following on the suggestion by the hon. member for Edmonton Southeast that the motion now before the House be withdrawn, I would like to simply assist members of the House with some information confirming what the hon. member has stated, and that is with respect to the action which the Secretary of State for External Affairs has initiated in response to the questions which the hon. member previously raised in the House relating to the seemingly never settled question about Herbert Norman, a one-time foreign service officer of this country.

### *Private Members' Business*

I would confirm to members of the House and particularly the member for Edmonton Southeast that, under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Peyton Lyon has been retained by the department on a three-month contract to review all the files which the Government of Canada has relative to this matter in order that the situation can be put to rest and finalized.

The terms of reference established for Professor Lyon are such that they directly address the questions of last May 5 posed by the hon. member in that, for example, he is to examine the nature of Mr. Norman's relations with spies, the significance of testimony of E. Bentley and the nature of Norman's relations with security organizations of the Soviet Union and other states.

Professor Lyon has a three-month assignment to do this work. He has completed one month of the task so far, having already looked at the files at External Affairs and the National Archives and will complete that process by looking at all other files which the Government of Canada has, which would include CSIS files. This will enable a report to be made by March 15, so I would believe that by the end of March, a report can be laid before members of this House, in Parliament, on this matter.

For that reason, I think it is appropriate that the hon. member has suggested that we not debate the matter further at this time, but consent to his request that his motion be withdrawn so that toward the end of March, we can hear fully the results of this methodical review that is being carried out by Professor Peyton Lyon, whom I fondly remember as having been one of my professors when I was at Carleton University.

On this side, we have complete consent to the suggestion by the hon. member.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, we have been approached by the member for Edmonton Southeast, relating to this disposition of motion P-8, which is a Notice of Motion for Production of Papers.

We agree that since the government has taken the route of having Professor Peyton Lyon look into this question, it would possibly be redundant for us to discuss it at this time. We would unanimously agree to have the motion withdrawn from the Order Paper.