

Smiths hot on trail of odometer fraud

WELLINGTON — When are Labour's New Plymouth and New Lynn MPs not Harry Duynhoven and Phil Goff?

When they are Dave and John Smith, Parliament heard yesterday.

MPs doubled up in laughter when National backbencher Annabel Young asked the Minister of Justice, Doug Graham, whether Mr Duynhoven, Labour's transport spokesman, and Mr Goff, the justice spokesman, had identified themselves when they met a Serious Fraud Office staff member in January about odometer tampering.

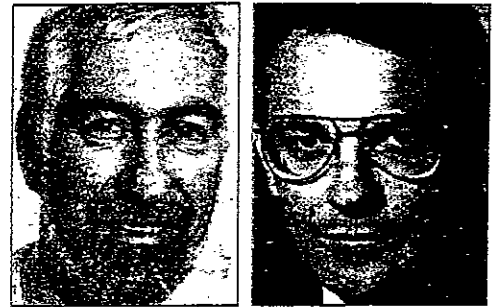
The implication that the pair had either attended incognito, or had profiles so low that they would not be recognised, provoked such hilarity that the Speaker, Doug Kidd, said above the noise: "Everybody seems to know the answer in advance but I would like to hear from Mr Graham, if you don't mind."

Mr Graham said they had not identified themselves.

"I am advised that the Hon Phil Goff and Mr Duynhoven were introduced as John and Dave Smith, and neither corrected the misrepresentation when it was made."

Mr Goff asked if Mr Graham was particularly sensitive about odometers "because while the SFO has acknowledged 250,000 people were ripped off to the extent of \$768 million, his office has allocated one officer to work part-time and has succeeded in bringing three prosecutions."

Mr Graham said he was sure the re-



Harry Duynhoven and Phil Goff, or are they Dave and John Smith?

sources and efforts being put in by the fraud office had been explained.

Mr Goff later said that he and Mr Duynhoven had been introduced to a fraud office member by a third party who had said in jest: "You know Dave and John Smith, of course."

The SFO officer had immediately referred to them as Harry and Phil.

Mr Goff said he had sat at the meeting, asking many questions and taking notes on a pad with parliamentary letterhead.

"There was absolutely no attempt at deceit."

He found it "absolutely bizarre" that something that had been said in jest was getting attention from the Government.

"One might have thought there might have been a little more attention to a \$768 million fraud."

—NZPA