

*Privilege—Mr. Manly*

best technology and time of delivery. I can assure the Hon. Member that these factors will prevail in the decision.

**Mr. Gauthier:** And the best number of votes!

CHOICE OF SOLE SOURCE NEGOTIATOR—STATEMENT  
ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same Minister. A few days ago the Minister for Forestry in New Brunswick said on television that the Saint John shipyard had been chosen as the sole source negotiator. What does that mean?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, a number of proposals are now being assessed and considered by Cabinet. When a decision is reached, as to the contractor and sub-contractor, as the case may be, such decision will be announced.

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[English]

## AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

SALE OF BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA—ROLE OF DEPARTMENT  
OF FINANCE

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. It concerns his tax deal given to the Hongkong Bank. In light of Mr. Stanley Hartt's testimony of yesterday, can the Minister tell the House why it is that the Deputy Minister of Finance took an active part in organizing a meeting between the officials of the Hongkong Bank and the Revenue Department whose sole purpose had to be known to everyone, namely, tax avoidance?

Why did the Finance Department take on that role if it was not to give a tax break of \$200 million, courtesy of the taxpayers of Canada? I would like clarification, not circumlocution, this time.

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the only circumlocution this House has heard on this issue is the accusation of tax avoidance. Any Canadian, I repeat, unless the Hon. Member wants to change this, any Canadian can go to Revenue Canada for a ruling. The Deputy Minister of Finance gave the phone number, he did not attend the meeting and, as a result we saved 1,500 jobs and kept a regional financial institution.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to advise that the time for Question Period has expired. The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Island on a question of privilege.

## PRIVILEGE

AVAILABILITY TO ALL MEMBERS OF STUDY ON FISHING VESSEL  
SAFETY

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I want to bring an issue before you which affects my privileges as a Member of this House and my ability to serve my constituents.

Coming from a coastal community, I have a great deal of concern for the safety of fishermen and their families as do other Members of my Party, including the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly), the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) and the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), all of whom have raised the issue of fishing vessel safety in this House and have urged action.

On Monday, November 2, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) wrote to Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament with ridings affected by marine transportation policy. He indicated in the letter that the main thrust of a coastguard study into fishing vessel safety would be released yesterday, November 3. The letter signed by the Minister was inadvertently sent to the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River and was attached to an information kit for Members of Parliament set up by the coastguard. It has not been received by other Members of coastal communities, including the Hon. Member for Skeena and myself who are on the same floor of the same building as the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River.

This letter formed the basis for the question that was asked of the Minister of Transport yesterday by the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Belsher). I find that the Minister of Transport is playing cheap partisan politics with the safety of fishermen.

I ask you to look into this matter, Mr. Speaker, to inspect the letter, and if there is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege, I am prepared to move the necessary motion for referral to the proper committee.

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member in all good conscience should withdraw the charge that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) would play cheap politics with the safety of fishermen.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Thacker:** He should withdraw that comment. It is a totally inappropriate comment and it is most undeserved.

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, concerning the insinuation left by the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) that I have received material ahead of time, I can assure the Hon. Member that the material arrived in my office in this