

been a substantial increase in interest by the Japanese automobile manufacturers in purchasing Canadian parts.

ACCESS BY CANADIAN FIRMS TO NECESSARY SPECIFICATIONS

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, assuming the minister shares our concern, as I believe he does, for these Canadian auto part manufacturers, and more particularly their tens of thousands of workers who are unemployed, I would like to ask him about another aspect of what appears to be an unfair trade practice, that is, the after-market or replacement parts for Japanese cars already in Canada, as compared to new parts.

What steps, if any, is the government prepared to take to permit Canadian manufacturers access to the prints and specifications necessary to manufacture replacement parts; second, what steps does the government propose to take to break down the absolute barrier whereby a Canadian parts manufacturer is not allowed to sell to Japanese car dealers here in Canada?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, when he first raised his question several weeks ago in the House, which was the first time I heard of the complaint, I asked our officials to undertake an investigation and I also talked to the auto parts association. They are in the process of trying to obtain a contract in order to validate the allegation made by the hon. member. At this point in time, although we have had some verbal confirmation, there is no written indication that this process in fact does exist.

* * *

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

PAYMENT OF MANITOBA PAYROLL TAX

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance as a follow-up to the answer he gave to the hon. member for Provencher, because the minister was not especially clear in his answer. Is he saying that even though the federal government has paid a similar payroll tax in the Province of Quebec for some years now, it will not now pay the new Manitoba tax?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, my answers were in reply to the hon. member for Provencher. Those answers still stand.

Tabling of Documents

PETITION

MR. GREENAWAY—RECONSIDERATION OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the two hundred and sixty-eighth report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Cariboo-Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway) and finds that it meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

* * *

● (1200)

POINT OF ORDER

MR. EPP—REQUEST MR. MACEachEN TABLE DOCUMENT

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order about which I shall be brief. It arises out of the question period today and a question of mine to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). This question which I asked earlier on May 19 concerned a ruling about the view of the federal government on the constitutionality of one level of government being able to tax another level of government. The minister, and I believe I am correct about this, read from a document. I do not know whether that document was a letter, a legal opinion, or indeed what it was, but I believe the rules of the House indicate that if a minister reads from a document, the document is then tabled. If that was the case, should that document not be tabled at this stage?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I was not reading from any official document. I was reading from my own notes.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Rosemont): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[Editor's Note: For above report see today's Votes and Proceedings.]