

things which are produced only in Quebec. That is not the way this country operates. Quebec could have not selected, but it is clear that the intention was to select those areas which would help Quebec in particular.

Mr. Broadbent: It helps Ontario more.

Mr. Trudeau: I am admitting that they could not select those goods which are produced only in Quebec any more than, obviously, the maritimes could select goods which are produced only in the maritimes, because there are very few goods manufactured in the maritimes. However, it should be obvious even to hon. members opposite—and I refer to the letter I was quoting and, indeed, to Mr. Parizeau's own arguments—that they tried to select those industries which would help Quebecers rather than the Canadian common market.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the absurdity of the Prime Minister's arguments is revealing. For example, of all the cars purchased in Ontario, only one-fifth are produced in that province. I ask the Prime Minister to check with his colleague the Minister of Finance and get him to produce for his benefit, and then to table for all members of the House, an assessment which has been done by the federal Department of Finance on Mr. Parizeau's proposals. When he does that, will he make a statement on the fact that that assessment done by the federal Department of Finance reaches the conclusion, both in terms of equity and of job creation on a national basis, that Mr. Parizeau's proposal was better than that presented by the Government of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with the premises of the question and, obviously, neither could the treasurer of Ontario. When he cut the tax on automobiles in the province of Ontario a year or two ago, he was obviously trying to help the auto industry in Ontario. The hon. member should know a little bit about that. He was not saying, "I am not going to cut the tax on automobiles because we also import"—

● (1432)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Listen to the answer and maybe you will understand it. He was not saying, "I am not going to cut the tax on automobiles because we import automobiles in Ontario". He was saying, "This is my way of helping the automobile industry in Ontario". He was not trying to help the Japanese or the Swedes; he was trying to help the Ontario automobile producers. I think the hon. member should make a study of that, and he might understand it.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN WHARVES ALONG ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance indicated yesterday in his very elaborate speech that his administrative decisions always take into account the fact that Quebec is still part of Confederation, and I fully agree with that, could the Minister of Transport advise the House whether the negotiations between Ottawa and Quebec City concerning the transfer of certain wharves along the St. Lawrence River have progressed over the last months, or whether they have bogged down because of the discussions on the notorious sales tax issue? If negotiations are still going on, could the minister indicate what stage they have reached and whether we can at last expect to find a solution to this problem?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can say that very little progress is being made, but this is certainly not related to any recent event: it has been the state of affairs for some time. In the meantime, however, we have spent money on the improvement of a variety of wharves within our jurisdiction for the benefit of the areas concerned.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I would like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the minister for his answer. I know that some communication wharves have been improved. My supplementary question is this: considering that residents of Île aux Grues, which is located in the riding of Bellechasse, the most beautiful in Canada, are faced with a difficult situation because of a lack of communications with the main land and that there seems to be problems in negotiating an agreement on the improvements to be made to the wharf of Île aux Grues, would the minister tell the House whether or not his officials are really working hard to resolve this problem as quickly as possible? I suggest that in doing so he would help eliminate problems elsewhere in the province of Quebec because, all told, the entire province is conscious of this situation.

[English]

Mr. Lang: I will certainly ask my officials for a report on that particular case.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Department of Public Works—I see that the minister has left the House. I will wait to ask him my question on some other occasion.