

[Translation]

**Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, as regards the automobile agreement, we are now reviewing all measures taken in that sector, including our research policy, and I will draw my colleague's question to the attention of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### REASON FOR FAILURE TO INCREASE BASIC DISABILITY PENSION—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the widespread concern expressed and the disappointment and discouragement of veterans' organizations across the country, as a result of the reluctance of the government to fulfil the commitment to equate the basic rate of pension with the five lowest categories in the public service, I wonder if the minister has had an opportunity to discuss again with cabinet the reason for its refusal and if this matter will be reviewed in the immediate future?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I answered the question in the House a few weeks ago. The situation is still the same. The basic rate was not to be increased in the way requested. I want to remind the House that veterans will be receiving the cost of living index. When the financial constraints on the country become a little better, we will look at this again.

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact it is recognized that in January there will be a 7.2 per cent indexing to the basic rate of pension, I wonder if the minister will indicate whether he has heard concern expressed by the National Council of Veterans' Organizations which expressed their disappointment and discouragement. Is he going to meet with them? Will he refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs in order for the problem to be dealt with and to express what veterans think is fair and just?

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, in relation to this question, I indicated previously that I see no problem in referring it to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs when it is called. As far as receiving anything authentic from the veterans' organizations as such, I have not received anything; but I have received considerable mail on the same issue.

#### Oral Questions

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES TO AWARDING OF MEDAL TO PREMIER LÉVESQUE BY FRANCE

**Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell the House if the medal awarded to Premier Lévesque by the government of France, which I understand is the second highest award that can be given by the French government, fell within the 1968 guidelines issued by the government of Canada governing the receipt of medals and honours by Canadian nationals?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the guidelines referred to by the hon. member are precisely that. They are not binding in the sense of any legal requirement.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** Obviously we would have preferred that the guidelines be followed and respected by the donor country or indeed, for that matter, by the recipient. As I understand it, since the medal is rather widely distributed and it does not carry all that much distinction, it is not something I will get up tight about.

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

**Mr. Paproski:** How come Pierre has not got one?

**Mr. Schumacher:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister if he can tell us whether that medal or award fell within the guidelines issued by the government? I am not clear as to whether in fact it fell within the guidelines issued by the government.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked me if it falls between the guidelines—

**Mr. Hees:** Within, within. He did not say between.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Certainly, it fell between protocol, if you want to put it that way. Quite honestly, it has not concerned me enough to even look at the guidelines to see whether it fits or not.

**Mr. Hees:** Have you checked lately with the Prime Minister?

\* \* \*

#### HARBOURS

##### HALIFAX—PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT IN CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND CONTAINER FACILITY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. After the lapse of quite a bit of time, I should like to ask him once again whether the time for the second container pier in Halifax has yet come? Is the minister now prepared to make a firm commit-