

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, in terms of the negotiations I have had, no, I do not think that it is a good practice for me to show my hand before the time comes, but I will be meeting face to face with Mr. Russell in Alberta tomorrow.

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## CANADIAN HERITAGE

## RELOCATION OF HMCS "BRAS D'OR"

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. While I have not had time to give him the courtesy of notice, the Minister is aware that I am concerned about the final resting place of HMCS *Bras d'Or*. May I ask the Minister of Supply and Services whether or not, when making the decision to move the *Bras d'Or* from Halifax, or from a logical site at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum on Bras d'Or Lake, the federal Government undertook to expend any federal money for the transport of that vessel, for its relocation, and for its maintenance?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, we have recently made an announcement to the effect that the *Bras d'Or* will be brought to an exposition centre at L'Islet-sur-mer which is down the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City. Had I received notice of the question, I would have been able to provide the hon. gentleman with more details in terms of the expenditure of funds in order to transport the *Bras d'Or*. I will have to take his question as notice and provide him with more details at a subsequent time.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOVING VESSEL

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, it had been a very clear undertaking on the part of the federal Government that it would provide no funds to any interested group with respect to a final resting place for the *Bras d'Or*. In checking as to whether or not there were any federal funds involved in this, because if there had been, the Minister would be aware that many other places, including the Bell Museum on Bras d'Or Lake where in fact it should be, would have wanted it, would the Minister undertake very clearly to expose to the House, to the Canadian people, and particularly to those members of the Canadian Armed Forces who had the privilege of serving on H.M.C.S. *Bras d'Or*, just what arrangements were entered into with respect to the *Bras d'Or*, and tell us just exactly how many other areas were explicitly or implicitly interested in receiving the *Bras d'Or* as a museum piece?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I might say that my Department has been asked to provide help in moving the ship to its final destination, which is the museum already referred to by my colleague. No decision

has been made yet, but I understand that there are precedents to that effect where the Coast Guard has helped such ventures.

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## EMPLOYMENT

## EXTENSION OF WORK SHARING PROGRAM—EFFECT ON TRAINING

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, at one o'clock the Minister of Employment and Immigration sent me a statement on work sharing and said that it was embargoed until he was to meet the press at three o'clock. Obviously the embargo only applies to Conservative Members of the House. Now that we know just exactly what the Minister's word is worth, I want to ask him questions that I was unable to ask before because I gave my word.

Now that the Minister intends to extend the Work Sharing Program, what are the extent of the changes in the Program with regard to training, and how will these changes and the extension of the Program affect those who are already in the Program under contract?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, let me explain first that there was no intention to have any embargo on the statement. I indicated that we would be presenting further elaboration on the concept at the committee at three o'clock, and we intend to do that, but certainly there was no intention to restrict the Hon. Member's to ask questions to which I would be very glad to reply. I hope he will not take any serious umbrage at that. That was not the intention. I think that we were simply giving him advance notice of statements that we would be making at committee this afternoon.

As far as the question on training is concerned, as indicated we want to undertake a number of controlled pilot projects in relation to using the Work Sharing Program to provide for a training alternative in firms which see themselves facing a possible change in technology and equipment. Rather than having workers simply take the extra day away from work, they would use that day to be retrained over a period of time. We would have the Manpower Consulting Services work out the terms and conditions under which that training would take place as an alternative, with each company and its employees. This is a matter which the Hon. Member has raised several times. He has asked how we intend to deal with the problems of industrial change. I point out to him that this is one potentially very effective answer, but we do want to test it out first to see if it can be fully applied.

**Mr. McGrath:** Madam Speaker, I want to tell the Minister that I phoned his office and I was told by one of his senior aides that the statement was embargoed until three o'clock, and that I was not to ask questions in the House. That is all I can say, Madam Speaker, but I am glad that the Minister is at least prepared to answer questions in the House.