

*Oral Questions*

Do members remember yesterday when the government promised it would carefully listen to everything the opposition had to say before it made a final decision on the Bosnia mission? Well, the debate went on until nine last night, which is three in the morning in Brussels, where the Minister of Foreign Affairs is. The fact that he was able to stay up watching the debate that late is great. Then he worked the rest of the night away to fully incorporate the opposition's ideas into the final Canadian plan he agreed to this morning.

It is simply amazing. After staying up all night, this hard-working minister was able to put the final stamp of approval on the Bosnia mission first thing this morning, and all this with the comforting knowledge that he had taken fully into account all the views expressed here yesterday. I never would have believed it could be done. But since the government always tells the truth, it must have been what happened. Right, Mr. Speaker?

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**ROYAL ARMS OF CANADA**

**Mr. Patrick Gagnon (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lib):** Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure I draw the attention of the House of Commons to the recent improvements to the Canadian Coat of Arms. These improvements highlight the motto of the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour. Interestingly, they were proposed by a member of the press gallery, Bruce Hicks, over a decade ago. The motto, "To build a better country", is something every member of the House should be trying to do.

In 1987 the Queen approved this change for limited use in Canada. Everyone who has been to Rideau Hall will have seen this new coat of arms in the stained glass window near the entrance. Last year the Queen authorized its general use and slowly it is being introduced so as to not cost the taxpayers any money.

Last year I sent a copy of these arms in electronic format to every MP and encouraged them to start using them on their letterhead and publications when they reorder. The Minister of Canadian Heritage drew attention to it last month when he unveiled the latest edition of symbols of Canada.

As Canadians, we do not wave our flag, but I am proud of my country and its symbols. I applaud the governor general for this change.

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[Translation]

**MANPOWER TRAINING**

**Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this morning, the daily *La Presse* mentions that the Quebec government is prepared to initiate formal discussions with Ottawa on the transfer of federal funds earmarked for manpower training.

This is good news, particularly since the Quebec employment minister herself, Louise Harel, asked that a meeting be held as quickly as possible to discuss the issue.

This development seems very encouraging. I do hope that it reflects the will of the PQ government to finally recognize the choice made by Quebecers in the referendum, as well as its willingness to turn the page and co-operate with the federal government to promote Quebec's well-being and prosperity.

• (1415)

Provided these discussion are conducted in good faith and in a spirit of goodwill, I am convinced that good things will result, both for the workers and the unemployed.

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**BLOC QUEBECOIS**

**Mr. Raymond Bonin (Nickel Belt, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Quebec daily newspapers were reporting this morning that the next leader of the Bloc Quebecois will be an acting leader and that only the party's general council members will be voting in the election.

How do you like that, a leader who will be there only on a temporary basis, a leader selected by members of the party's establishment, themselves appointed by the retiring leader before he accedes to the throne in Quebec? As a result, party members who militated in good faith find themselves excluded from a process as fundamental as the selection of a new leader, with a leader who is leaving but at the same time wants to keep on controlling what happens in his Ottawa branch.

The Bloc Quebecois has not stood the test of time, and this prearranged exercise in democracy does not bode well for Quebec when the new king finally accedes to the throne.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[Translation]

**MANPOWER TRAINING**

**Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Quebec National Assembly unanimously reaffirmed the consensus to the effect that Quebec must have sole responsibility for policies pertaining to manpower and occupational training. To do so, the Government of Quebec must regain control over the management of employment and manpower services, with fair financial compensation and no strings attached.

Given that the National Assembly has instructed the Quebec government to undertake formal discussions with Ottawa to ensure the respect of this consensus, does the Minister of Human Resources Development intend to fall into step and discuss with his Quebec counterpart the unconditional transfer of responsi-