

*Oral Questions*

isters' Conference concluded last week with the view that we need to move toward preventive health care systems as quickly as possible, and to develop alternatives to the present physician dominated curative health care model. This is a view that has long been advanced by the NDP and other groups such as the Canadian Nurses' Association.

When we finally see the long awaited Canada Health Act, could the Minister tell the House if we will also see anything in that Act that will address the need for the development of alternative health care models, and will we see anything which will provide for federal Government leadership in developing those health care models? Can we look forward to anything in that vein?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, unfortunately it will not be done through the Canada Health Act because of the division of powers as defined by the Constitution. I have often discussed this with groups such as the nurses, who are very good supporters of Medicare. All those health workers and Canadians generally who have adopted the now internationally famous "New Perspectives on Health for Canadians", which was published by this Government in 1975 by my predecessor, the present Minister of Finance, accept the fact that we must move toward that goal. However, the Constitution only permits us the basic conditions attached to the spending power. Therefore, we have taken some leadership which I am interested in seeing grow through seminars, panels, health promotion programs, as well as funding for demonstrations and pilot projects all over the country. Any other such suggestions are welcomed.

## HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Madam Speaker, the Minister will know that one course of action she does have the opportunity to take, and I have urged her to do so a number of times, is to reopen the question of the adequacy of federal funding for Medicare.

While reopening the question of federal funding, if she finally did so, the Minister could also consider ways in which the federal Government, through direct cost-sharing of new approaches to health care, might show some leadership? That is within the constitutional purview of the Government. It has the ability to do that. Indeed, that is how Medicare was originally established. Does the Minister intend to take action in this area?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member is a strong supporter of Medicare. We on this side are as well. However, I feel like asking him to make up his mind. In his first question the Hon. Member told me the conclusion of the Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting was to redistribute existing resources, that we must go preventive and improve the health status of Canadians, and that no new money is needed. That is what we have always said. Several experts in Canada

have established that funding for health care is adequate but there is still room for lots of improvement within it to yield better results.

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● (1440)

[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

## GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, GASPÉ AND BONAVENTURE DEEP SEA FISHERMEN—POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING JOB-CREATION PROGRAM REGULATIONS

**Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration. Deep sea fishermen in the Gulf, especially from the ridings of Gaspé and Bonaventure, are having financial problems now that the cod quotas are full and the fishing grounds have been closed down. Furthermore, these fishermen are not eligible for NEED projects because they are self-employed. Could the Hon. Minister inform the House whether he could let the benefit period start on October 10 instead of November 1, and could he amend the regulations of the job creation program so that fishermen could be employed right away under NEED projects.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for drawing my attention to this problem. I shall certainly look into it, but I am not sure how a change could be made in the date on which benefits are to begin. However, I will give it some thought and find out whether something could be done under the NEED program. I shall give the Hon. Member a reply as soon as possible.

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[English]

## AIR CANADA

## PURCHASE OF MONTREAL HEADQUARTERS—RCMP INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Last December in a response to a request from the then Minister of Transport, the RCMP launched an investigation into the purchase by Air Canada of a new headquarters site in Montreal. Can the Minister tell us the status of that investigation? Has it been completed? Has he received the report? Can he tell us what action, if any, he is going to take as a result of that investigation?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, the investigation is not entirely complete in all respects. In any event, I think it would be the role of the Attorney General of the Province in question to take any