

affairs of the chiefs and the band councils, and in view of the fact that the deputy minister of the department has declared that he will stand by the band councils and their resolutions, is the minister in a position to confirm the position of his deputy and clear up this serious misunderstanding?

● (1125)

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, first, on the general point that the hon. member made of departmental interference, I would appreciate it if he could be more specific and if he could give me, either now or later, specific examples so that I could look into those.

In terms of the general policy, the point is quite clear that the government is committed to transferring responsibility for the day to day affairs to the chief and the council because legally they are the legislated bodies in charge of the Indian people. That is a policy that has been stated quite clearly by myself. It is a policy that the department holds in hand, and the departmental changes are to be based on the fact that the department is to become a facilitator and a co-operator with the Indian leadership, rather than the top down management as has been the case heretofore.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, may I say to the minister that I would be glad to give him the particulars that have been furnished to me, and I express the hope that he might today arrange to see some of the Indians who are in the city and are concerned about these matters.

My supplementary question is a very simple and direct one. Will he do his best to get this misunderstanding resolved before Tuesday, when some of the chiefs and other representatives expect to attend a meeting of the standing committee?

Mr. Epp: I look forward to getting the specifics from the hon. member, and we will see how best we can clear up the matter.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GRANTS TO ESTABLISH MOVIE COMPLEX AT PORT OF MONTREAL

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. First of all, I would like to say that I am happy to ask him a question because he seems more experienced than his colleagues. Indeed, he has served in cabinet for a longer period. Since as early as May 23, the Minister of Supply and Services has been making representations to him on behalf of his riding of Joliette.

My question is as follows: Since it is urgent that we supply facilities to the Montreal movie industry which, following the fiscal policy of the previous government, is attracting pro-

ducers from all over the world, is the minister prepared to support, through substantial subsidies, the project of a movie complex in the old port of Montreal where unused sheds and warehouses would apparently make excellent studios?

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in principle that is a very worthwhile suggestion and it interests me. Either through Regional Economic Expansion or through CMHC it is possible that we might be able to divert some funds for that purpose.

I want to tell my colleague that I have had the opportunity to visit the old port of Montreal on several occasions. I have spoken with the mayor of Montreal and I have spoken also with the officials in both DREE and CMHC who are interested, and if we could come to some proper understanding and intergovernmental co-operation in helping to develop that area, I will take that as a representation.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER MEETINGS WILL BE HELD WITH QUEBEC ON DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH SHORE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Over the last weekend an economic summit meeting of businessmen was held in the South Shore area which includes over 60 municipalities. Over 400 people attended the meeting. Their aim was to set up a plan to develop that region of the South Shore to allow residents to make a better living and to participate further in the development of the resources which can be found in that area. Could the minister tell the House whether he had, or intends to have, talks with his counterpart in Quebec in order to come to an agreement which would enable both levels of government to support the efforts of those people and the recommendations made following that summit?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I regret not to be in a position to give my colleague a positive answer right now.

[English]

I will inquire and let him know.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister.

I may have caught the minister unprepared, but this is a problem he will have to look into. I wonder whether he would consider contacting his Quebec counterpart for the purpose of setting up a financial program to help the people who are striving to improve the situation in this region.

● (1130)

[English]

Mr. MacKay: I will certainly follow that suggestion, Mr. Speaker, and report to my colleague.