

Applying this policy to aboriginal business would seriously set back aboriginal economic development. Will the government assure aboriginal people and communities today that the government remains committed to increasing aboriginal participation in the national economy and will not subject aboriginal businesses to a greater financial burden?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the hon. colleague that the police designed to ensure that the business community repays contributions and grants paid to it by the government is a policy that is flexible and one that will certainly take into account the needs of aboriginal people, the needs of poorer regions of the country, and the needs of regions that are far north or particularly in difficulty.

The terms and conditions of the policy which will be approved by Treasury Board in the coming weeks will certainly reflect that intention.

**Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq):** That was nice to hear, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is for the same minister.

The government's own aboriginal economic development strategy recognizes that aboriginal people continue to be the most disadvantaged group within Canadian society and that most aboriginal communities and individuals lack the financial resources to start up even the smallest enterprises.

Given the continuing socio-economic disparities faced by aboriginal people, will the minister agree to exempt all aboriginal economic development programs in all departments from the application of this policy? Will he make these exemptions?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I will deal with some of the issues my colleague just raised.

The policy clearly exempts all grants and contributions of less than \$100,000. There is another feature in the policy that the minister responsible for a program, be it in one department or another, can make an exception to the other rules.

From the point of view of flexibility, all the flexibility is built into the regulations, and I am sure we are going to be able to meet his concerns.

**Mr. Speaker:** A single question, the hon. member for North Island—Powell River.

### *Privilege*

• (1500)

### EXILED INUIT

**Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and it involves the high Arctic exiled Inuit who were forcibly removed from northern Quebec to Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. The Inuit make claims of wrong-doing, forcible confinement, slave labour, rape, and theft.

Will the government formally apologize to these high Arctic exiled Inuit? Will the government acknowledge their role in the protection of Canadian sovereignty in the north? Will the government compensate these Canadians for the abuse and wrong-doing inflicted upon them by the RCMP and the government of Canada?

**Mrs. Dorothy Dobbie (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the government is very sensitive to the concerns of the people from Inukjuak. In the 1980s, for example, when they mentioned that they would like to go back to their homeland, the government made \$250,000 available to move them back and also provided 10 houses to ensure that they had comfortable quarters in which to live.

We are very concerned about these people and we will continue to consider their interests and their concerns.

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### PRIVILEGE

#### COMMENTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege based on the comments made by my hon. friend the government House Leader who, being unable to react to the substantive aspects of any argument, had to resort to personal attacks on myself by saying that I was being dishonest.

**Mr. McDermid:** What did you call us?

**Mr. Riis:** For the record I want to be very careful. The accusation was that I was aware, because of my participation in the work of the Board of Internal Economy, that the regulations that prohibit individuals from making any loud noises in front of Parliament, from demonstrating alone or with other persons with or without a sign, from participating in any demonstration, from distributing any literature or documents, now can be approached by a police officer or by the minister and asked to remove themselves to an area 50 meters away from the doorway