

Oral Questions

will get from the Official Opposition and the Hon. Member when the Government comes in with legislation setting up Indian self-government, that will be one of the inevitable results of that type of legislation. It can only be through the legislative route that that type of measure, that very beneficial measure, indeed, which the Hon. Member is talking about, can be accomplished. I hope I would have his support.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER ALLOW TRANSFERS

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is going across the country talking about Indian self-government. Two years ago the Department of Indian Affairs imposed regulations on bands across the country which would not allow them to transfer funds from one category to another. I have three bands in my riding, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Would the Hon. Member ask his question?

Mr. Shields: I have three bands in my riding, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask the Minister if he would allow them to transfer funds from category to category within their budgets, not calling on the Department of Indian Affairs for any more money, instead of forcing the bands and their councillors to go on welfare, shutting down their offices, because they cannot transfer those funds.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member is talking about one band I have in mind, it is not so much a question of being able to transfer funds. The Hon. Member, Mr. Speaker, is fully aware of what I am talking about. There may be just complete insufficiency of funds, period, for reasons I do not believe we need go into at the present moment. If it means transferring funds between parliamentary Votes, the Hon. Member has been a part of the Standing Committee and he knows I cannot legally do that.

There may be other restrictions under the Financial Administration Act which we can only overcome by passing the legislation setting up Indian self-government, and making provision in the legislation for the type of flexibility about which the Hon. Member is talking. That is why I am going across the country, along with a lot of the Indian leadership, advocating this. That is why I believe most members of the Official Opposition and the NDP supported the recommendations of the standing committee to establish a new financial relationship between the Indian people and the Government to accomplish that very thing, which can only be accomplished on a wide scale by legislation.

● (1500)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CYPRUS—LEVEL OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the situation in Cyprus. The Government has given a clear statement condemning the unilateral declaration of independence on the part of Turkish Cypriot authorities. The Government has been very firm in this. Will the Government show our concern with the ongoing situation, and show our concern and support for the legal Government of the Republic of Cyprus, by strengthening our representation in Nicosia, specifically by raising our representation there to the level of a high commission, and having a High Commissioner in the capital at Nicosia in place of the representation we have now, which is at the level of honorary consul?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have, as the Hon. Member mentions, supported the Government of Cyprus and we have opposed the unilateral declaration on the part of the Turkish Cypriots. In addition, we have been supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is presently involved in an important process to bring the two parties together in the hope that some negotiated settlement can be brought about. I do not think in the present circumstances we would materially affect the situation by changing the level of our representation in Nicosia.

COMMITMENT TO GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is no doubt aware that the situation is of concern to all Canadians, particularly to our Greek Canadian friends who have just celebrated Greek National Day and the liberation of their country from foreign occupation. The situation in Cyprus is fragile, to say the least. Will the Minister tell us what measures in addition he might be prepared to undertake to show our concern and ongoing support for the legal Government and what diplomatic measures through the United Nations, as already mentioned, which might be taken with our ally, the United States, a major backer financially of the Turkish Government? What measures might be taken by way of economic or other sanctions that would show our very strong commitment to the legal Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member asks us to give a demonstration of our commitment to the situation in Cyprus. I do not think any country has demonstrated a greater commitment than Canada. As the