

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I usually sign the letters. Ask the federation.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Whom did you send them to?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** You received an invitation and you declined.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Brant.

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#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### DEATH OF SANDY LAKE WOMAN FROM MALNUTRITION— REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO OR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister aware of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death from malnutrition last December of a Cree woman at the Sandy Lake Reserve and, specifically, has he received the report on the recommendations made last Friday by the coroner's jury?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Blackburn:** In view of the fact that some 1,500 treaty Indians at the Sandy Lake Reserve are provided with utterly inadequate health services, for instance, the nearest medical doctor is 300 miles away, would the minister contemplate making a statement at his earliest opportunity on the state of health services provided for Indians in northern Ontario, or would he agree to initiate a public inquiry into this deplorable situation?

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member for Brant that in this general area in the course of the next month we are opening three new nursing stations at a cost of approximately \$200,000 each. In the intervening period we are taking steps to improve Indian health services even further. I would indicate also that over the course of the last three years the resources, financial and personnel, that have gone into Indian health services—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East.

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#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### ALLEGED GRANT TO A. BÉLANGER LTÉE.—REQUEST THAT MINISTER CORRECT ANSWER

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, especially since he seems to be in the mood for making solemn declarations. In his departmental capacity will the minister now correct the record or the totally false and misleading answer he gave to the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton on Monday last regarding a grant paid to the firm of A. Bélanger

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

Ltée., which will result in the closing of a branch plant operation in Carleton Place, Ontario?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I was asked on Monday whether the company Bélanger-Tappan Ltée had received a grant from my department, or whether we had an application for a grant from that company pending. I gave a firm negative reply in both cases and, in truth, there has been no such thing. That company has not been given a grant, and there is no application pending in my department. What happened was that about a year ago that company made an application for a grant, which we accepted. The company accepted our offer but we then withdrew it by a letter dated February 11, 1972. We wrote to the company to tell them that their file had been closed and that they would not receive a grant.

The document referred to by the hon. member for St. John's East is not the one that was tabled in the House, but a kind of summary of government activities, and the hon. member will see in the document which will be tabled next month that such grant was never made. Therefore, no explanation is called for. I hope that the hon. member for St. John's East will have the honesty to correct the erroneous and foolish things which he has been repeating outside the House.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary may I ask the minister whether he is prepared—

**Some hon. Members:** Withdraw!

**Mr. McGrath:** I have nothing to withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McGrath:** I have nothing to withdraw. I have the record of the department which indicates that a grant was made—

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** No.

**Mr. McGrath:**—and no further declaration was made by the department to correct that statement—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. McGrath:**—and which he knows does exist—

• (1500)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. I suggest that at this point we are entering into debate between the minister and the hon. member, and we should not have a debate. If the hon. member has a supplementary question, I will recognize him. I am rather anxious to get on and live up to the commitment I made yesterday to recognize hon. members who have been anxious to ask questions for a few days, including the hon. member for Churchill. If the hon. member for St. John's East has a supplementary question to ask, he will be recognized provided it is short and the