

Oral Questions

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, the only person who believes that flimflam is the Minister and his Conservative colleagues, no other Canadians.

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister whether he will now come clean with Canadians, and rather than trying to make a case about who pushed hardest for changes in this policy, the previous Government or this Government, will he just stand in his place and tell Canadians he is prepared to stand up for Canadians and withdraw the legislation?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, standing up for Canadians is precisely what we are doing in the face of hysterical, false accusations as to the impact on the consumer, in the face of misrepresentations by the New Democratic Party, and in the face of so-called financial analyses, the authors of which deny they put together. In the face of all of that, we are standing up for Canadians because this Bill is good for Canada, and reasonable Canadians know that.

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● (1440)

APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns communication with the South African Government. The Prime Minister visited several front line States a few weeks ago. Yesterday I read a report that the Prime Minister may meet with a senior African National Congress spokesman here in Ottawa. In our earnest efforts to help bring about an end to apartheid can the Secretary of State assure us that constructive dialogue is still taking place with President Botha and the South African Government? Will he, or the Prime Minister, be visiting South Africa this year or next?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, neither the Prime Minister nor I have any present intention to visit South Africa. However, if it would serve a constructive purpose toward bringing an end to apartheid, I would certainly be prepared to undertake a visit of that nature. The Prime Minister and I will both be meeting with Mr. Oliver Tambo, the President of the African National Congress, when he is here sometime over the next several weeks.

With regard to relations with South Africa, embassies are open in both countries. Despite my natural modesty, I draw to the attention of the Hon. Member remarks in a speech I made in Montreal the other day when I said:

—we must all seek means to keep lines open to all parts of South Africa—black and Botha, Buthelezi and Tambo, Mandela and Afrikaner. The worst result would be for us to cause the Botha Government to change its view, and then not have the channels to effect that change.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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IMMIGRATION

PORTUGUESE REFUGEES—ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CONSULTANTS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the revelations that Canadian immigration officers in Portugal are linked with unscrupulous consultants in an extensive immigration scam. We have an immigration policy that is misguided, a program paralyzed by confusion, and now allegations of visa officers peddling visas for \$4,000.

Given that I urged the Minister of State for Immigration last May to conduct a full investigation and to take action on the ring of unscrupulous consultants behind the movement of Portuguese refugees, I want to ask the Minister why the Government failed to take this affair seriously. Why has there been no action or charges laid by the RCMP after a full year of investigation? Why did the Government appoint this morning a second RCMP investigation when we already have one which is ongoing? Canadians want action, not whitewashing.

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for York West may very well ask me why the RCMP did not take action, but he should direct his question to them. What I can tell him for now is that indeed I was told Monday night about the case he is referring to. I did ask the RCMP to make a full investigation in this matter, and I would suggest we would be ill-advised to comment any further since the police are investigating.

[English]

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, a once proud immigration record in the department has become a national disgrace, something which Canadians regret. I ask the Minister again why his Government failed to act on the network of phoney consultants when, as a Party and as Members of Parliament, we brought them to his attention fully one year ago. These consultants are now turning their eyes on other countries such as Brazil. Will the Minister agree to a full and public review of the entire Department of Immigration so that we can clean up this mess once and for all and regain the confidence of Canadians?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!