

before the House? I urge him to place it before the House early so that we can have a look at it.

• (1140)

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Madam Speaker, I have already indicated on several occasions that I want to make amendments to the competition legislation. The relevant bill is now on the drafting board, and when it is placed before the House, I hope it will have the support not only of the hon. member who has just asked the question, but also of all our hon. colleagues, and thus quickly become law.

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[English]

### CROWN CORPORATIONS

#### ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED—SERVICES OF AUDITOR GENERAL

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The president of Eldorado Nuclear Limited told the Public Accounts Committee recently that his company intends to dispense with the services of the Auditor General as auditor of that Crown corporation. Knowing what a blow this will be to the principle of comprehensive auditing and to the principle that more, not fewer, Crown corporations should be audited by the Auditor General, will the minister tell the House if he has any intention to use his position to prevent the Crown corporation from firing the Auditor General?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, those decisions are made by the Crown corporations themselves and their boards of directors. Many Crown corporations have auditors other than the Auditor General, who come from the private sector. I am aware that Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. made such a decision, but to have both an auditor from the private sector and the Auditor General for this year. However, in due course it would like to have someone from the private sector as auditor like a large number of other Crown corporations. I fail to see anything wrong with having an auditor from the private sector. The question surprises me all the more as it comes from the party of the hon. member which is always so concerned about expanding the public sector, especially in the oil industry.

[English]

**Mr. Clarke:** Madam Speaker, the minister knows that the Crown corporation cannot take this action on its own and is not capable of making that kind of decision. I am asking the minister specifically about order in council PC-1980-3127 which replaces the Auditor General as the auditor of Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. and makes no mention of any outside auditor. Is the minister saying that this order in council is revoked and, if so, what is the replacement for it?

### Oral Questions

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, I should appreciate the hon. member sending me a copy of the order in council in question. I know one has been passed. The decision of the government merely confirmed that of Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. to the effect that, in 1981, the Auditor General of Canada and an auditor from the private sector would work together, or side by side, in auditing Eldorado's books.

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[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### MOZAMBIQUE—INCARCERATION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS—ACTION TAKEN BY UNITED STATES EMBASSY

**Mr. John Gamble (York North):** Madam Speaker, my question should be directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his absence I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister, who will know that last week Canadians, including a renowned Canadian author and columnist, Barbara Amiel, were incarcerated in the Mashava prison in Mozambique during which time Miss Amiel almost expired as a consequence of contracting tropical diseases. Having regard to the fact that both Canadians were incarcerated without just cause by the government of that country, has the Government of Canada sent a stern note of protest to the government of Mozambique for the harsh and uncivilized treatment accorded Canadian citizens?

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, seeing the Secretary of State for External Affairs is absent, I shall take notice of the question of the hon. member and convey his views and suggestions to the secretary. I shall make sure that the hon. member gets a reply as soon as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Gamble:** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. We know that the two Canadians to whom I made reference were released as a consequence of efforts made by officers of the United States embassy in Mozambique. We also know that when Canadian embassy officials assisted the government of the United States in securing the release of some members of its embassy in Tehran, the United States was very rapid in responding with a note of considerable thanks to the government of this country. Has Canada followed that same practice, and has it in fact thanked the government of the United States for the efforts of its officials?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, in light of my answer to the previous question, it is obvious that I cannot say more, and there can be no question of a speed contest in that field if the United States were fast in thanking us for our action in Iran.