[*English*]

IMMIGRATION

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, this morning the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Kwong Hung Chan's fear of forced sterilization in his native China was not sufficient grounds for a refugee claim in Canada.

• (1455)

In light of the supreme court's decision, does the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration consider this decision to be a general precedent, that China's one–child policy is not a basis for refugee claim in Canada?

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I too was informed that the decision of the supreme court was handed down.

If we want to do the issue justice, because it was a very important issue and the court deliberated for an extended period of time, I think we should do it the proper way and at least look at the decision, read the judgment, and then craft policy accordingly, before making speculative statements before one has had a chance to not only read the decision but also evaluate it and analyse it in the greater context.

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am a little concerned that the minister does not take the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada with the seriousness with which it deliberated over it.

I would like to ask the minister if it is his intention to proceed with the deportation process against Mr. Chan and other refugee claimants who are using the one–child policy in China as their claim of refugee status in Canada.

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I take any decision of any court very seriously. That is why I have tried to tell the hon. member that I think we should be cautious before speculating before a minister of the crown has had a chance to read the decision in its entirety.

With respect to the individual claim, if the individual's appeal has been turned down and the individual has gone through the complete system and there is no H and C claim, of course that individual will be subject to removal. As she knows, refugee determination is done on an individual case basis.

[*Translation*]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The American Secretary of State has made a statement on the significance the U.S. attaches to its special relationship with Canada. What are we to understand from Mr. Christopher's words when he says that we "should not take it for granted that a different kind of organization would just obviously have exactly the same kind of ties"?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the words of the American Secretary of State are clear evidence of how important the very close and very profitable ties between our two countries are to the United States. The arrival of a third player in the game might complicate things considerably. An eternal triangle is certainly not something the U.S. would wish for, if I read the American Secretary of State correctly.

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[*English*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mrs. Elsie Wayne (Saint John, PC): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

There is a proposal before the minister's department to change the tendering system for moving companies that move employees of national defence. Will the minister assure the House that his department will not move toward a one bidder take all system, which would create a monopoly in the moving business and destroy an industry of over 800 companies across this nation and put many thousands of people out of work?

Mr. Fred Mifflin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for her question. She is aware that this has been the subject of debate in the House for the last two years. It is still being debated and the discussion continues to go on.

The department has met with the Bureau of Competition Policy and with all the main players involved. I will have to tell her that a decision will be coming in the very near future on this matter.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie, NDP): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of public works. During this sum-