

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member would know, under the new Competition Act it really is not up to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The Director of Investigation and Research has a mandate from Parliament to conduct those investigations and make those conclusions. If he feels that the matter is detrimental to the interests of consumers, then he can refer it to the Competition Tribunal. It is totally within his hands and it would be most inappropriate, indeed, illegal under the law for me to intervene personally.

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**APARTHEID****SOUTH AFRICA—WITHDRAWAL OF CANADIAN VISA SERVICES**

**Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The withdrawal of Canadian visa services in South Africa is causing unintended confusion and possible hardship to people of all races, some of them coloured, who want to visit their relatives in Canada. Without injury to our campaign against apartheid, what action can the Minister take to assist people of all races who want to have a chance to visit their families here?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that action taken by Canada was a direct and considered consequence of discussions within the Commonwealth. We know that it creates some hardships for South Africans, but we believe that that is one way in which the absolute disapproval of the people of Canada for the regime of apartheid can be made manifest in South Africa. Obviously what we are trying to do is to demonstrate to anyone with influence upon the policies of the Pretoria Government how repugnant those policies are to other countries of the world. This is a measure which makes a small contribution to that end.

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**ABORIGINAL RIGHTS****LOGGING OPERATIONS ON DEER ISLAND**

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. There is a situation on Deer Island in which native people are trying to prevent logging of a very sacred area. Would the Prime Minister ask the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to intervene immediately in the dispute to see if the Government of Canada will apply what resources are necessary to see that that island is returned to the native people?

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Kwakiutl Band presently has a comprehensive claim before the Government. The Minister will shortly be making a decision on that claim. The matter is presently before the courts which will be making a decision, hopefully in the near future.

● (1200)

**RISK OF IMPRISONMENT FOR INDIAN PEOPLE**

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. He will know there is presently a confrontation taking place in that area. The land the natives are attempting to defend is clearly theirs. It contains aboriginal burial grounds and is very sacred to those people. Will the Prime Minister have the Minister intervene immediately so they do not wind up in jail defending land which properly belongs to them?

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is very concerned about that situation. Injunctions are being sought by both the logging interests and the native people themselves to see whether a decision can be reached through the courts. We would rather that it be reached through a proper land claims study. That proposal is being actively considered by the Minister.

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**REFUGEES****SITUATION OF IRANIAN IN UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR ADMISSION TO CANADA**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Immigration. It concerns the ongoing struggle of the 25-year old Iranian student who probably faces death when he is deported to Iran. I spoke with that person's lawyer in Washington. He has introduced a new and important element into the case by way of a letter dated December 3 from the UN High Commission on Refugees. It says: "Because of Mr. Moatamedi's long stay in the United States he will be regarded with suspicion by Iranian officials. Moreover and more importantly, he may well be exposed to both harassment and persecution".

How much more evidence do the Minister and his Government require before they act compassionately and allows Canadians in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to sponsor this man as a refugee? Why is the Government so against saving one human being's life?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague has been told on several occasions that before a person can be sponsored as a