Grandfather

(Editor's Note: In the last five years, Vincent Price has offered awards in creative writing to students at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico. One winner, Grandfather, by Shirley Crawford, seems particularly appropriate this week, in view of the introduction of the land claims bill to Congress and its possible threat to a traditional way of life. We reprint it here.)

by Shirley Crawford

Grandfather sings, I dance. Grandfather speaks, I listen. Now I sing, who will dance? I speak, who will listen?

Grandfather hunts, I learn. Grandfather fishes, I clean. Now I hunt, who will learn? I fish, who will clean?

Grandfather dies, I weep. Grandfather buried, I am left alone.

When I am dead, who will cry? When I am buried, who will be alone?