

Pioneer Trust

conduct a poll in Saskatchewan? Again, street rumour back home in Regina has it that Mr. Klein, out of Pioneer Trust or Pioneer management paid for the Tory poll in Saskatchewan conducted by Decima Polling Company.

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mr. Klein's politics change depending which way the wind is blowing, as I am given to understand. There is certainly no evidence of any benefit to the Conservative Party in Saskatchewan or Canada, Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta or any other place, as far as I am aware.

The Chairman: Shall Clause 2 carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mrs. McDougall moved that Bill C-50, an Act to provide for the continuance of payments under certain guaranteed income averaging certificates issued by the Pioneer Trust Company, be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few remarks at third reading.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With the unanimous consent of the House, we will revert to debate on third reading.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I thought it was the practice at third reading that we make a few short comments about the Bill in a general sense.

As I said during second reading, we are not opposed to the Bill. The necessity of this Bill is unfortunate. It is something that we believe could perhaps have been prevented had the former Government taken more decisive action in the earlier part of 1984 when it became apparent that Pioneer was experiencing difficulties, when it became logical to assume that other financial institutions in western Canada had so much of their capital assets based in western Canada, particularly in Alberta, which in turn was based at that time on a boom economy of rising oil prices. When that boom started to turn into a bust, it would have been reasonable to assume that some of those financial institutions would experience difficulty.

I felt that the former Government in particular should have played a leadership role at the beginning of 1984. Perhaps this could have been prevented if it had.

● (1640)

As well, one must look at the role played by the Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Minister of Finance. From press reports, we can only come to the conclusion that they might have prevented an agency agreement from occurring because of local pride. We understand that local pride. I feel that Saskatchewan does need a Saskatchewan-based financial institution. All too often in the past we have found that financial institutions that were not based in Saskatchewan did not understand our local financial needs and conditions and were not sympathetic to the needs of the people of Saskatchewan.

I think that economically, politically and socially it is desirable to have institutions like Pioneer Trust that are of a local nature and meet local needs. However, the actions of the provincial Government in providing a guarantee without taking a look at the books is indeed an indictment against it and shows that it handled this situation in an amateur way.

Because of that, the people of Saskatchewan will be paying millions of dollars at a time when public funds are scarce and when different sectors of the economy and society are asked to tighten their belts. This is occurring when the province is experiencing cut-backs to education, health and social programs, cultural programs and road construction. The Province of Saskatchewan can ill-afford to lose \$10 million.

Another aspect of this situation that needs to be raised in this public forum is the need for extensive reform. The Minister has given us her commitment, and I believe her commitment, to bring forth a package of reform. Certainly if the Superintendent of Insurance and CDIC are to carry out their important functions, they need resources. If they are not able to carry out their important function, and if trust companies and particularly local trust companies like Pioneer go under, it will shake our faith in our financial institutions. If that occurs, the country and its economy are in trouble. Therefore, the Superintendent of Insurance and CDIC have an important role to play. It would indeed seem strange that our trust in the financial institutions of this country should be shaken because some extra dozen investigators were not hired by the CDIC or the Superintendent of Insurance.

There is a need for a major shake-up within the Department of the Superintendent of Insurance and the CDIC. I think they need accountants who are aggressive and knowledgeable of the ways of the street, so to speak. The last thing they need is young, green graduates fresh from accounting school. They need old, seasoned accountants who know the ins and outs of the financial market and the financial world so that they can play the role of tough cops in order to keep financial institutions honest and in order to restore the confidence of the Canadian people in our financial institutions. As such, we will be supporting this motion and we do hope that the Minister