

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, Pioneer Trust was one of the first trust companies which was brought to my attention. We had been working very closely with provincial officials—my officials—and with the company for some time. As far as I am informed, there are no other western trust companies on the verge of collapse. Our concern is always for the depositors first.

#### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the Minister or her officials aware of any activities undertaken on behalf of Pioneer Trust by the senior management of that company which in any way violated the charter of incorporation or the Trust Company Act? Will she consent to an open and full public inquiry?

• (1200)

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is premature to discuss a public inquiry at this point. As I indicated in my first answer, our first concern is for the depositors. My officials, and those of the CDIC, will be working actively to see that the insured depositors are the priority. We will then be examining the company and will take very appropriate step.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

##### RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS—REQUEST FOR REVIEW

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I would like to raise with her again the case of the 350 Canadians who are required by the Unemployment Insurance Commission to repay benefits received in the honest belief that they were employees within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act. A board of referees constituted under the Act has ruled that repayments cannot be required to be made. Will the Minister review the situation and determine what legal advice she is getting? It seem to make common and legal sense that the Unemployment Insurance Commission desist from making this claim.

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have asked officials and the legal advisers in my Department to look at this very serious matter. I have already indicated that those people who are being asked to make repayments and who are in a position of being only in receipt of unemployment insurance or welfare will certainly not be pressed for repayment at this time. However, with regard to the over-all question, that is being reviewed to see what discretion I may have as Minister, or the Government may have.

#### Privilege—Mr. Caccia

#### CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORT

##### EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Witer) on Thursday, February 7, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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#### PRIVILEGE

##### ALLEGED BREACH OF STANDING ORDERS

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. At approximately 11:17 today you in your discretion allowed a Conservative Member to make a statement pursuant to Standing Order 21. That was clearly in breach of the rules which require that oral questions commence at 11:15. The Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) was entitled to a supplementary and was denied that supplementary. I would ask the Speaker whether there is—

**An Hon. Member:** Give him the boot.

**Mr. Speaker:** No. The Hon. Member is obviously concerned. I will simply say that is not a question of privilege.

##### DENIAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

**Hon. Charles L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I feel that I have a question of privilege in having been denied a supplementary following an answer that was a non-answer by a Minister who does not know his file, who denied that he had any responsibility for it and shifted the responsibility to another Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Hon. Member raising a question of privilege with regard to the denial of a supplementary?

**Mr. Caccia:** If you would permit me to complete, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** May I ask that he quickly come to his basis of how he finds this to be a question of privilege under Beauchesne or the rules of this House.

**Mr. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that my privilege has been violated because, as the environment critic for the Official Opposition, I speak on these matters on behalf of Canadians who are concerned. By denying me the right to put a supplementary, you have denied my pursuit of a matter that is in the public interest, is urgent and is the responsibility of that particular Minister of State to deal with.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member is fully aware of the citation in Beauchesne, and I need not read it, which indicates that the Speaker sees whom the Speaker sees, and, second, that supplementaries are entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.