

According to information I have received, the Saskatchewan Minister of Finance, through his office, has been telling uninsured depositors of Pioneer Trust that they will be fully compensated, or nearly fully compensated, and that an announcement will be made soon. Will the federal Government be contributing to the uninsured depositors' compensation, over and above what CDIC has already paid out?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated in the House that I am having discussions with the Minister of Finance in Saskatchewan. I have nothing new to add.

#### UNINSURED INCOME AVERAGING CERTIFICATES

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, trust companies and other financial institutions are falling down like ten pins. Obviously CDIC has not the resources to fulfil its legislative responsibility properly. My supplementary question concerns the matter raised by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville, about the uninsured guaranteed income averaging certificates that were sold by Pioneer Trust with CDIC approval. Was CDIC aware of this practice, and what responsibility does CDIC have in compensating those people who have been misled?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's opening remarks are among the most irresponsible statements I have ever heard in the House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. McDougall:** I can tell you right now that financial institutions in this country are not falling like ten pins, and I am producing results.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

##### IMPACT OF CHANGES

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the comments made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration yesterday outside the House that neither she nor her Department had done an impact study on the proposed changes with regard to unemployment insurance, does the Minister stand behind his comment: "That is not my responsibility. It is her Department that would have an impact study done on that particular matter"? Does he stand behind that comment?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration and I had extensive discussions at the time these proposals were made back in November. During the weeks and months following that, she had extensive consultations with the industry about the impact of the measures. She proposed changes in the

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implementation of the proposals, which resulted in a phased in change, or transitional change, part of which took effect this Monday and part of which will take effect as of the first of next year. I think she has demonstrated that she is very much on top of the issue, aware of the impact that it has had, and has made the proper adjustments.

#### REQUEST FOR FREEZE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has given tax holidays and tax breaks to the multinational oil companies. Is he prepared to exercise his responsibility to the unemployed and poverty stricken by putting a freeze on these unemployment insurance changes, ordering an impact study and tabling it in Parliament, before there is any implementation of unemployment insurance changes? Is he prepared to do that?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member would step back and look at the direction of the changes we are proposing, he would see that we are saying that the unemployment insurance fund is just that, an unemployment insurance fund. Over a period of time it has been allowed to do other things besides insuring against the impact of unemployment. That is what we are trying to adjust. We are very sensitive to the impact of those changes.

However, I would ask him to address those same comments to the workers and employers, particularly small businesses, who support the unemployment insurance fund with their premiums. The premiums are getting very high and we are looking at ways of restoring unemployment insurance to its original purpose.

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#### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

##### SPRING SEEDING CASH ADVANCE PROPOSAL

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. I am sure that he is aware of the need for cash for farmers in western Canada. He has also received representations from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, UGG, the Farmers' Union, CAM and other organizations, about the possibility of a new program for spring seeding cash advances. Has the Minister had an opportunity to consider this proposal? Is he able to announce the date at which he could take appropriate action to provide a spring seeding cash advance for those farmers who need cash between now and spring seeding?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, the Member raises an important issue. Indeed there was a problem with the crop on the Prairies in the previous year, and there is need for cash to encourage producers to put their crops in the ground.

I have had representations which we have studied. The Member should know that there is considerable difficulty with