

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): The Minister said that the funds would be distributed at the provincial level, then she said it would be done on a regional basis. How will she make sure that there is fair and equitable use of the funds in our ridings? What does she mean by region. How will she make sure?

● (1450)

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as I informed the Hon. Member yesterday, as well as other Hon. Members of the House, the distribution of the funds will be allocated based on unemployment figures in regions and in provinces. The funds will, therefore, go to those who need the help most, to the place where there is the highest concentration of unemployment amongst student groups. I believe the Hon. Member would agree with me that that is fair.

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TRUST COMPANIES

PIONEER TRUST COMPANY

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. In view of the fact that published reports have indicated that Pioneer Trust Company of Regina is in a financial situation serious enough to warrant the Government of Saskatchewan guaranteeing the purchase of some \$30 million worth of preferred shares, will the Minister first confirm that an investigation by the Department of Insurance is under way? Second, will the Minister tell us if that report will be made public?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation about which the Hon. Member has asked. I appreciate his concern. My officials have been monitoring this situation and, if there are any further developments, I will be happy to inform the Hon. Member.

PROTECTION OF INVESTORS AND DEPOSITORS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, there is a tremendous concern in Regina as well among my constituents. The city is rife with rumours. Would the Minister guarantee that, whatever the findings are, those findings will be made public so that both the investors and the depositors in Pioneer Trust will be fully protected?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am sympathetic to the Hon. Member's question. I have already informed him that I will let him know of any further developments.

INCOME TAX ACT

RHOSP PROVISIONS

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question, through you, to the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister consider reviewing the legislation governing the use of funds saved under RHOSP, specifically the articles outlined in Part I of the Income Tax Act which define "owner occupied homes"? I have had a number of inquiries from elderly constituents who have been offered accommodation in a co-operative on a long-term lease basis. The terms of the lease would run 21 years and the complete term rental is payable in advance. This represents an immediate capital outlay of \$55,000. These constituents have learned that their RHOSPs cannot be applied to this lease-purchase nor can they be converted into RRSPs, thanks to the legislation put in place by the Liberal Government.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I believe that is the question. I have already heard at least one question.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): He has already heard the answer, too.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. He poses a very complex question, one which I would be pleased to discuss with him at some length. I think the Hon. Member should realize, though, that this is a matter which is the subject of a Budget. If any changes were to be made in the RHOSPs, they would be brought down in a Budget.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

YOUTH—MUNICIPALITIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As we know, this Government's password seems to be "consultation", but we saw yesterday that those who are most concerned with summer employment, the students, the Canadian Federation of Students, had not been consulted by the Minister.

There is now another very important aspect to the program. This year municipalities will have for the first time to assume 25 per cent of the cost of students' salaries, plus 15 per cent for social benefits.

Before announcing the program, did the Minister consult, as she is committed to do, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think it is recognized that I