

Oral Questions

number of people who identified with the Conservative Party was in the vicinity of 53 per cent; those with the Liberal Party, 25 per cent, and I believe those with the New Democratic Party were 21 per cent.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Oh, no.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: Make it 22.

Miss MacDonald: I could have moved it up a few notches. However, in looking at the number of appointments from across the country, and with regard to representation, taking into account all of these people who fit within political parties, I would have to inform the Hon. Member that some of them, in fact the majority of them, would have to be people who supported the Conservative Party, because that is a reflection of the country today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRUST COMPANIES**PIONEER TRUST—PLIGHT OF UNINSURED DEPOSITORS**

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is directed to the Minister of State for Finance, concerns Pioneer Trust. Can she confirm that there are ongoing negotiations between the federal Government and the Province of Saskatchewan in terms of working out a package to help the uninsured depositors of Pioneer Trust, recognizing that CDIC will not be able to help them? Are the federal Government and the provincial Government attempting to work out some package to help many widowers, retired businessmen, and others?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am in touch with the Minister of Finance in Saskatchewan.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, is the Government willing to have a public inquiry, because we understand that some commitment has been made by the Prime Minister's Office to have some form of inquiry? Can the Minister explain what type of inquiry will occur, whether it will be public, and who will head such an inquiry?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as I have already pointed out in the House, this subject is under examination. I have already attempted to put the facts on the table for Hon. Members, and I will continue to keep them informed.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH—PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. It concerns the Government's support for research in science and engineering within the Canadian academic community. Ten days ago the Minister announced several millions of dollars in additional funding for research and development in Canadian universities. When we last formed the administration, we had a five-year program for support of research and development—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question?

Mr. Tupper: Will the Minister tell the House if he will be introducing a new five-year program for research and development in the Canadian academic community?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, of course this Government and this Party have been committed to increasing the support and funding for research within our Canadian universities, for many years. Cabinet is presently reviewing the next five-year plan proposed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. We were pleased to announce a week or two ago an additional \$20 million in funding for the current fiscal year.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**WAGE LEVELS**

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, maybe when the Irish jig is up we will start to get some answers again in the House.

● (1500)

[Translation]

My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Last week, the Federal Government's figures demonstrated once and for all that Canadian workers have suffered a drop in earnings over the last three years. This means that this year, they will be receiving about 20 per cent less than the inflation rate in Canada.

[English]

Does the Minister not agree that this record of Canadian workers tightening their belts in tough times is in direct contradiction to the attitude expressed by the Prime Minister when he told Americans through *Fortune* magazine that our products are inferior, our deliveries unreliable, our expertise borrowed and our technology non-Canadian, in effect saying that the Canadian record is a disaster?