

Oral Questions

their jurisdiction, would follow the lead that we are taking, I believe that would answer his question. They would see that very few cases of this nature would occur if they would follow the guidelines that we will set by example at the federal government level.

Let me add that financial institutions are custodial as far as I am concerned. They have other people's money, deposits, and policies. Therefore, the Government's role is to be very careful in a custodial relationship toward those institutions. I hope all provinces will do their best through their consumer protection to follow the lead that this Government is trying to establish not only with the legislation currently before the House but with the rest of its policy of December 18.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, again the Minister chose his words with care. He said that if the provinces put in place the kind of legislation that the federal Government is proposing all will be well. However, the problem is that they may not do so.

Canadians in the provinces which are covered by provincial jurisdictional concern do not want wishful thinking from the federal Government, they want concrete action that will protect them.

Therefore, just as when the federal Government took initiative on the question of medicare to get all provinces to come together to agree on a national program of medicare, will the federal Government take some initiative and request a meeting with its provincial counterparts and try to develop the kind of legislation on a national basis that is relevant in provincial jurisdictional areas that the Minister himself has talked about? Why not show some leadership at the federal level?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, we had this meeting on December 5, 1986. We had another meeting in the spring, and we will be having another meeting in the fall.

The federal Government has been holding very important meetings with the provinces on these very questions.

Second, if the Hon. Member is suggesting that the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation should be in charge of all provincially-regulated institutions—

Mr. Broadbent: That is not what I said.

Mr. Hockin: If you are suggesting that, you are making an effacable change in terms of party policy and this Government's policy.

CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION'S ANALYSIS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. The Minister has chosen his words very carefully and will know

that the Principal Group Limited owns First Investors, 100 per cent of Principal Savings and Trust, the Associated Investors. In turn, all were owned by Collective Securities Limited and 80.5 per cent of those shares are owned by one individual.

Will the Minister confirm that in the last 12 months CDIC did an analysis and a financial administration study of Principal Savings and Trust? Will he confirm that this audit has been done, and produce the record for the House?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Inspector General of Banks do an ongoing analysis of financial institutions, especially those that are having difficulties. I would expect that a close and regular analysis has been done every year, not just in the past year.

Mr. Dingwall: I hope the Minister will table that report by CDIC because the linkages to First Investors, Associated Investors with Principal Savings and Trust are obvious and clear.

ROLE OF DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister. Was the CDIC so blind in its investigation of Principal Savings and Trust that it did not bother to look at First Investors who stamped on the bank accounts of various investors: "Member of Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation"? Is this not gross negligence by his department and CDIC with regard to this investigation?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, nothing is more fundamental for the Hon. Member to understand. As far as we know, each of these investment contracts made by those investment companies was stamped and indicated that they were not insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Company. We have not had an example otherwise. These are not deposit-taking institutions. These are investor institutions and they were so stamped.

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DISASTERS

EDMONTON TORNADO—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In his statement to the House earlier this afternoon he said that federal financial assistance will be provided under the disaster financial assistance arrangements and through the Ministry of Science and Technology to help businesses re-establish and rebuild. Will the Minister indicate how much money the federal Government is prepared to make available to the people of Edmonton to rebuild their homes and communities?