

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 6, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PIONEER TRUST PAYMENT CONTINUATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)) moved that Bill C-50, an Act to provide for the continuance of payments under certain guaranteed income averaging certificates issued by the Pioneer Trust Company, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

She said: Mr. Speaker, before I begin, could I indicate that discussions have taken place among all Parties and I would like to move that this Bill be discussed at next reading in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: Am I to take it that there was consent that the motion be changed to reference to Committee of the Whole?

Mr. Gauthier: No.

Mr. de Jong: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. Speaker: I see no such agreement. It would take the consent of the House to make the change, I believe.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned, as you recall, in the course of the statement on business that my initial impression from all Parties was that they would be prepared to let this matter go through all stages of the House today, including Committee of the Whole. There was at that time no indication to the contrary. If the Official Opposition or the NDP want to delay this matter, then perhaps I will have an opportunity of learning that in further discussion. But I had raised it specifically during the question on House business to make sure it was clearly understood that it was our intention to proceed with all stages of this Bill today so that the Senate could deal with it. I think it is in the interests of not only the people of Saskatchewan but a good number of people who have investments in this company to have the matter resolved quickly and I would hope we could get the approval of all Parties.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader made two comments. He said it was his impression that there was an agreement that this Bill would go through this day; we

do not deny that impression. I understand that there have been negotiations between the leaders of all Parties, but they concerned the need to have the Bill passed this day. What the Minister just did was to bypass second reading of the Bill and go into Committee of the Whole now. I am saying to the Minister we did not agree to that.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is not what the Minister asked.

Mr. Gauthier: I understood the Minister to want to move to Committee of the Whole now.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can try and help. The normal proposal which is put to the House at this point is that the Bill be read a second time and referred to the normal standing committee. What I understood to be proposed was that the Bill be now read a second time and referred to Committee of the Whole House as opposed to the normal committee. That was the motion on which I was told there had been some discussions. That would still leave second reading before the House, and on completion of second reading the Bill would remain here for reference to Committee of the Whole House. I took it there was some agreement on that.

Mr. Gauthier: There is agreement that there will be no delay, that the Bill will proceed through second reading and Committee of the Whole in this House today, and then third reading this day. What I understood was that the Minister told us that she wanted second reading approval now.

Mr. Speaker: Having therefore sensed that it probably was the way the Chair read the motion which caused the confusion, may I have the consent of the House to withdraw the earlier motion and replace it with the following? I take it this is what is preferred.

Mrs. McDougall, seconded by Mr. Hnatyshyn, moves that Bill C-50, an Act to provide for the continuance of payments under certain guaranteed income averaging certificates issued by the Pioneer Trust Company, be now read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, I am rising to indicate that we in the NDP are concerned that the Bill be passed today and we concur with that agreement. However, we are as well concerned that in Committee of the Whole we have an opportunity of asking some questions of the Minister and her officials, because it is our belief that certain things surrounding this Bill have not been made public. Hopefully we will be able to do all of that today and we will be able to pass this Bill later on today.