

will, in the very near future, bring forth appropriate legislation.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia)—Environmental Affairs—Toxic chemical control program. (b) Request that program be renewed; the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson)—National Defence—North warning system—Participation of northern contractors; and the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson)—Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation—Committee study. (b) Ceiling for insurance deposit.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PIONEER TRUST PAYMENTS CONTINUATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the Motion of Mrs. McDougall 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 third time and passed.

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset when we dealt with second reading of this Bill, we on this side of the House are in favour of the Bill. We are in favour of providing relief to those depositors who in some cases lost their life savings, but we are uneasy about the entire process and the circumstances which led to this particular failure. We think it is extremely important that the basic problems be addressed so that this kind of thing does not happen again.

Apparently this particular trust company was operating in some ways that were beyond the guidelines and requirements of the Department of Insurance, as it was in the case of the Denver real estate project. There has been another recent failure which also involved imprudent investments outside of the country. It is difficult for Canadian taxpayers to be required to bear the brunt of unwise investments made in other countries. To be sure, these are value judgments. These invest-

Pioneer Trust

ments may have looked like wise investments at the time, but in the event they proved not to be.

The whole question of the Saskatchewan Government's involvement in this matter is worrisome. First it produced a letter of comfort and agreed to back a preferred share issue; then it looked at the facts and figures and decided that this would not be wise, so it backed off. All of this had the effect of delaying a resolution of the problem for a couple of months. It could be that a different kind of resolution might have been arrived at if there had been different kinds of negotiations.

The issue of the lack of disclosure to the depositors is serious. People who had guaranteed income averaging certificates with a life of six or seven years were not made aware of the fact that CDIC insurance only covers five-year transactions. The Minister has said that she is addressing these problems, and I am quite sure that she is. However, this is an additional indication of the fact that we need to see the Minister's discussion paper and to look in a broad way at all of the problems with CDIC. The private-sector group that was appointed by the Minister was appointed in January, and it really should be possible to have seen its report by now and to have taken some action on it.

The Minister has criticized the inaction of the previous Minister of State for Finance, but I should point out that that previous Minister was prepared to move on new legislation regarding financial institutions if we had been returned as a Government last fall. The new Government has chosen to proceed by way of a discussion paper on financial institutions. This paper has just been made public. I trust we will in fact see legislation next fall. I mention this merely to show that delays caused by one Minister or another are not unique to one Party. I am sure that such delays are always justified by the person concerned as being needed in order that there may be more consultation and a more careful evaluation of the options.

● (1650)

In short, Mr. Speaker, we support this particular Bill because it has become necessary. But so that we are not overtaken by events and that we do not have to deal with another rescue operation like this, I trust we will proceed quickly to the reform of the legislation on financial institutions and to the reform of the legislation on the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I also want to say a few words about this important Bill with which we have dealt today. First, I want to say to the Minister that her responses today were most encouraging in terms of her plans to enact the green paper recommendations as soon as possible. I think we have cleared up a number of questions we had and perhaps some misunderstandings which others have had about the process pursued by the Minister and her officials to provide relief to the people who were under the impression that they were insured when in fact they were not. Indeed, it would have otherwise resulted in destitution and extremely hard times for the many people caught unawares.