

Unemployment Insurance Act

Request for extension of periods of eligibility;
 Request for antedating a claim;
 Amendment of social insurance registers;
 Amendment to social insurance registers;
 Questionnaire for farmers;
 Request for insurance booklet;
 Application for family support rates;
 Family dependent certificate;
 Notice to farmers.

Moreover, something else has been devised. It is a new card, about 3½ by 5½ inches. The other day, I found out for myself that there were 56 punched holes in those cards. Forms are made smaller; there are fewer written items perhaps but holes are punched in the forms. There are a series of holes and in many places, people find it difficult to write what they want.

If positions in the public service relating to unemployment insurance are added, as well as certain titles of officials, I submit that this is not likely to clarify things in this complex act. For instance, I have here the titles of officials in the board of referees. The "Supervisor of the decisions section of the claims operations division, Unemployment Insurance Commission," Assistant's assistant to the chief registrar, national registration branch, Department of Labour. It is easy to imagine that when a poor unemployed writes to this official, he needs a large enough envelope to write all that.

I remember something else—and this is a very important point that I had the opportunity of raising in this house and which I emphasize once again today—because I have before me an article written by myself in 1962 and which was published in the newspaper *La Souche*. It concerns a problem which is still with us, the possibility for Canadian citizens working in American territory to take advantage of a given social legislation. This question has been with us for a long time. I know that some officials of the Canadian government endeavoured to have contacts, or at least, we were assured more than once that contacts had been established. However, I am surprised that no solution can be found, and the conclusion I had come to in 1962, when I was at the head of local 2817, as chairman of that labour organization, and I wrote the following which is still true today and appropriate to the present circumstances. I quote:

● (4:30 p.m.)

Much satisfaction seems to be felt when neighbourliness is cited as an example; this is quite well, as long as the comprehensive outlook of the

authorities does not make them forget the thousands of residents near the Canadian and American borders who cannot take advantage of a welfare legislation due to lack of understanding.

It must be noted that an agreement is in force since March 6 and 12, 1952, between Canada and all the southern neighbouring states, except Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire and Alabama. The failure of those states to be party to those agreements is especially disturbing, since a great number of Canadian workers, especially in Maine and New Hampshire are thus deprived of the substantial benefits of a welfare legislation, which should normally apply to all workers.

If the Canadian lumbermen have no further interest in seasonal jobs which they can obtain in the United States, they will remain in Canada and increase the number of those out of jobs.

Of course, a serious effort is necessary in this respect.

Now, I shall return for a while to the question of implementation methods. I have in hand a copy of a letter dating back to 1962 which will give you further information in this regard. At that time, I was greatly concerned about this—just as I am now—because we have thousands of working people who live in the parishes along the border of Maine and New Hampshire, and so I had written to a member of this house in this regard. I shall quote from his reply:

I believe the only development is the report which has been prepared following a survey conducted among Canadian employees and Canadian lumbermen employers by the Maine authorities. The main feature of the report is the disclosure that the insurance fund of Maine, which is now \$26,698,000 will be totally used up within a few years, as benefits paid to Canadian lumbermen are estimated at \$1,567,932.

Thus within 12 to 15 years, the unemployment insurance fund of Maine is expected to run dry. That is the problem. They are afraid to touch to the fund for fear it will run dry.

The fund presents a problem; it is always so when money and dollars are involved. The hon. member concluded:

I do not know to what conclusion we must come, and whether it will eventually be possible to reach an agreement, as happened with the other American states.

If the fund were not involved, I think this would work; even if this problem exists, it would probably be possible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Department of Labour to try and find a formula which would enable the employee, at any time after he has completed his period of employment, to indicate how many weeks he has worked. He is ready to pay his contributions and it should be possible, I think, to