

exodus of executives for medical checkups in a clinic outside Canada is an example of a practice which is not at all unusual among Canadian executives, and among those who can afford it.

They are attracted to foreign medical centres for a variety of reasons, the principal one being convenience as far as the efficient use of time and the availability of sufficient sophisticated equipment to carry out a variety of tests in one location are concerned. The disadvantages of such investigative and diagnostic management in a foreign country is the lack of available data of the previous state of health, and the absence of physicians who are familiar with the health status of the patient.

In most of the Canadian settings all of these tests and examinations are available and are carried out with great expertise, but they have one principal drawback, that is, the inconvenience that so many experience under our health care system such that it is impossible for the most part to plan these tests in a rapid sequence without periods of waiting and returning to one or more institutes, thereby disturbing the routine of the individual involved.

Nevertheless, it is a concern to me that there is considerable revenue lost from this category of people to the health care services of this country because it is difficult to organize such a fast paced high cost diagnostic service. In Canada these services are presently integrated into the operations of very busy and overloaded hospitals, and each patient must wait his or her turn in different departments, in one or more buildings, and frequently has to wait for long periods of time.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DENIAL OF SICKNESS BENEFITS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, last evening I talked with one more constituent who is a victim of the unfair unemployment insurance regulations the Liberal Government refuses to change.

For some strange reason sickness benefits are only paid during the first 25 weeks of a benefit period. My constituent was laid off in November, 1982. On April 12, 1983, he had an operation on his knee. Because his leg is in a cast he cannot work. The Manpower Office could not find him a job before the operation, and it still cannot. But there is one thing it can do. It has taken him off benefits because he is not available for work.

When will the Liberal Government come to its senses and make the unemployment regulations fair for all Canadians? Surely a person who cannot find a job because of the Liberal recession is entitled to full sickness benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act so long as that sickness occurs during the benefit period. We urge the Government to revise the unemployment insurance regulations so that they are more fair and realistic for all Canadians.

S.O. 21

BANKS AND BANKING

BANK OF MONTREAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION OFFER

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, the Bank of Montreal has offered a 1983 compensation program that is nothing less than an insult to its employees.

These are the same employees, who, over the past five years, have helped the Bank amass profits of nearly \$1.3 billion. Last year alone the Bank made \$257 million, or nearly \$8,600 per employee. That is over half of the average income of employees represented by the Commercial Workers Union and the Canadian Labour Congress Union of Bank Employees.

Under the new compensation program there will be no general wage increase whatsoever for all bank employees. The distribution of any increases is to be based solely on managerial discretion. The Bank's intention to pick and choose winners and losers amongst its employees unilaterally is not only repugnant and divisive in terms of staff morale, it also ignores completely the fact that everyone continues to face increases in the cost of living. Furthermore, the fact that a high proportion of those affected are women earning an average of \$15,000 annually means that the compensation program would reinforce pay discrimination in the work force.

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All the employees are asking for is a fair deal, which takes into account the financial health of the Bank and the general economic environment. The Bank's proposal overlooks both factors totally. Bank workers are not unreasonable people. They simply want some indication of fair play and honest negotiations on the part of their employer. This is another example of the Bank's lack of conscience and its insensitivity toward its employees.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

COMPANY'S GROWTH—ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, in 1881 the people of Canada, through the Canadian Government, entered into an agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company under which the CPR agreed to "perpetual and efficient operation of a railway" in this country, and the Canadian Government gave the CPR operating rights, plus \$25 million, and 25 million acres of land, including mineral rights. From this start CPR has expanded into a giant corporation with assets in 1982 amounting to more than \$17 billion.

In our lifetime the CPR reneged on passenger service, has reneged on branch line and mainline maintenance, and has reneged on even buying its own hopper cars for hauling grain, all without any penalty by the federal Government. The mineral rights alone in the 25 million acres of land have