

Unemployment Insurance; extension to cover periods of illness

51. The Minister of Labour, referring to discussion at the meeting of March 10th, said further consideration had now been given to the plan to extend unemployment insurance to provide benefits for persons who became unable to work owing to illness or other physical incapacity. It had been decided that the plan raised too many problems for it to be considered with a view to action during the present session of Parliament. It would be desirable to have the interdepartmental committee continue to examine the question and the reduced plan for periods of illness occurring during unemployment. It might also consider related matters that would arise out of the submission by the National Welfare Council.

52. The Cabinet:

(a) noted the report of the Minister of Labour that it would not be practicable to consider action by Parliament, during the present session, on the proposal to extend unemployment insurance to cover cases where unemployment resulted from illness or other incapacity; and,

(b) agreed that questions relating to such extension and also to matters that might arise out of the submission by the National Welfare Council continue to be considered by the Minister in conjunction with a committee consisting of the Deputy Minister of Labour and representatives of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Privy Council Office and the Departments of Finance, National Health and Welfare and Justice.

J.W. Pickersgill,
Secretary to the Cabinet.

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