

## EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, March 28, 1957.  
3.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Lady and gentlemen, we have a quorum so we will proceed with the committee's work.

I believe the minister has a statement he would like to make.

Hon. MILTON F. GREGG (*Minister of Labour*): Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, when this committee met before in respect of unemployment insurance for fishermen, the members expressed themselves as anxious to have another look at the plans as they proceeded, particularly when the plans reached a point where the commission, after much hard work, had crystallized its ideas in the regulations. I have seen the crystallization of those ideas in the regulations, and I hope you will never be called upon to read through them in detail. I asked the commission if they would take the notes we had at the first of the year and bring them up to date, in a readable manuscript form. There was a particular interest in respect to the important features of the new crystallized regulations.

I think the committee expressed itself with the hope that it might have a meeting in regard to this topic some time around the middle of March. This is not the middle of March, and in that connection I would like to say that I assume complete responsibility for the slight delay, because I did ask the commission to undertake certain missions which were not in sight at that time.

When I say that, it must be recognized that there are great difficulties involved in this plan in regard to most places where it is to be applied. There are very special difficulties in certain sections, including sections of Nova Scotia, sections of Newfoundland, and perhaps sections of inland fishing, and perhaps elsewhere.

It did seem important to the commission and myself that those people who knew most about the provisions of the plan should go out and make investigations on the spot, and to confer with the new kinds of employers, who were a little bit suspicious as to what they were going to be called upon to do, with a view to clearing the ground, as well as possible, so that this experiment—because that is what it is, it is an experiment in a new field—might move on to its commencement with as few monkey wrenches in the machinery as possible. The commission has, I think, pretty well completed this phase of its work, and the memorandum that has been passed around reflects pretty well in detail the things that have been put forward for confirmation, in respect to the regulations.

With that, I leave myself and the members of the commission in your hands, Mr. Chairman, as to how we should proceed. If you would like Mr. Murchison or one of his officials, to go through this step by step and I am sure they would be prepared to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Gregg.

Members of the committee, each one of you has a copy of this plan that has been compiled by the commission, and which will now be presented by Mr. Murchison. I wonder if it would be best if we allowed Mr. Murchison to read through this brief, and then when he is finished a question period could follow. Is that agreeable?

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.