

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971

in this area in the past would be eliminated and that we could start afresh to build some new jurisprudence in this area which is a difficult one to deal with.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question on motion No. 11?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75 (11) the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Mr. Jerome: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. As Your Honour has just deferred another division in this matter, it might be an appropriate time to indicate that discussions have taken place about the taking of these deferred votes. It has been generally agreed that it would meet with the approval of all members that Monday night at eight o'clock would be an appropriate time.

Mr. Peters: Why not five o'clock tonight?

Mr. Jerome: I might also say at this time—perhaps in a mood of optimism which I always carry with me—that since this matter is proceeding so well and since the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert), the respective spokesmen on the Judges Act, are both present today, if this debate should conclude before four o'clock this afternoon we would go on to the Judges Act.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Not the Labour (Standards) Code?

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I shall take the second statement under advisement and tell the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) about the Judges Act. With regard to the votes on the Unemployment Insurance Act, we are in agreement that they come before the House on Monday next at eight o'clock.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We also agree, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It is agreed and so ordered. Is it the wish of the House that the Chair call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

[Mr. Barnett.]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): When the House rose at one o'clock we had just completed a study of Motion No. 11 on which a vote was deferred in accordance with Standing Order 75 (11). It had been decided, also, that the House would consider Motions Nos. 12 and 13 which would be grouped for debate.

Mr. Mackasey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. You are perfectly right in what you have said but I was wondering whether, with the unanimous consent of the House, there having been discussions with representatives of the other parties, I could be permitted to introduce an amendment to section 58. I seek permission now because this is the proper time, having regard to the progress we have made.

The purpose of the amendment is strictly to rectify a drafting error. I have made this clear to representatives of opposition parties, who have copies of the amendment. I do not know whether the table has a copy. I should like to read it, anyway, and then I will give a copy to the table.

I should like to ask the unanimous consent of the House to introduce an amendment to clause 58, sub-clauses (t) and (u). This amendment is required because of an inadvertent omission in drafting and the misplacement of some words as between the two subsections. The white paper on unemployment insurance clearly specified that when the rates of unemployment produced by Statistics Canada were to be used to determine the length of extended benefits, these rates would be averaged to smooth out fluctuations from month to month and avoid the situation where the duration of benefits could swing up or down on the basis of a single month's figure. I might add that this would cause undue hardship to some of the claimants. In the case of national rates, these would be averaged over a period of three months for the purposes of Section 34.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I wonder whether it would not be more correct procedurally to put the motion at this time. The minister could then make his remarks afterward. The Chair would like to know whether the House gives unanimous consent for the minister to present a motion at this time.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour) moved:

That Bill C-229 be amended by striking out lines 41 and 44 inclusive on page 34 and lines 1 to 3 inclusive on page 35 and substituting therefor the following:

and delineating the boundaries thereof and determining residence within such regions;

(u) averaging any rates of unemployment for the purposes of paying extended benefits and prescribing the manner in which such averaging shall be carried out.

He said: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the purpose is to be a little more specific, a little clearer as to how the extended benefit period would be determined.