

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I would expect the hon. member to associate the remarks he is now making with the bill now before the house.

**Mr. Nasserden:** I thought I was doing that. All these things have something to do with the question of unemployment insurance benefits. The subject of seasonal labour has been discussed at length during this debate by some hon. members, anyway. I happen to be interested in seasonal labour because there are a number of people in my area who are involved in it and I should like to lay the basis of my views before the house in that regard.

● (5:30 p.m.)

What I was developing a minute ago is that I do not believe as many abuses have taken place as some people think. I believe fewer people would be on unemployment insurance on a seasonal basis if the government of the day had taken actions that could have been taken to provide a little longer employment for them. A month or so longer employment would make a great difference to many of these people. Very few people, if they can work, go on unemployment insurance.

The other matter which I bring to the attention of the minister is the application of the rule regarding the eligibility of people for unemployment insurance when they are going to school. I understand that if the department sends people to vocational training those people can get benefits. I have in mind the particular case of a young man who was unemployed, who was seeking to get his grade 9, who was going to school, who was always ready to take employment if he could get it, but who was refused unemployment insurance benefit. I hope the minister will give consideration to this case.

I realize there has to be a border line some place. However, the information I have about this particular young man shows that he has not been trying to abuse anything. All he wants to do is improve his education during a time when he is unemployed. Without saying anything more, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the minister for the worth-while objective of this bill.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I was most interested in the concluding remarks of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto), when, in his most useful presentation, he said he thought the Liberals should get their heads together and come up with some policy of co-ordinated security.

With this I most certainly agree; but instead of saying "get their heads together" I say "knock their heads together", so that they may come up with a co-ordinated policy.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, we now have a peculiar and complicated welfare set-up in Canada. It is almost impossible for a member of parliament to keep up with all the regulations for eligibility procedures, as they change federally, provincially and municipally. I am certain, sir, that you must get many inquiries, the same as the rest of us.

Under this mix up we have unemployment insurance, we have old age pensions and old age allowances, we have federal pensions and war veterans allowances, we have disability pensions and blind pensions, we have workmen's compensation, widows pensions and children's aid pensions. We have employed and unemployed on welfare. It is an extraordinary situation.

That is the reason I hope I live long enough to see what the hon. member mentioned, a co-ordinated security plan for Canada that will cover all those in need, whether it be because they are unemployed, ill, disabled, aged, or for any other reason. It must come eventually, and I hope the time is not in the too far distant future. However, we are not at that stage yet, so we have before us certain amendments relative to unemployment insurance, and I wish to speak briefly on a couple of aspects.

The constituency of Vancouver East is basically a working class, residential riding. Therefore unemployment hits that riding heavily. It therefore follows that there is a keen interest in the matter of unemployment insurance. I regret very much that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) has not seen fit, or found himself in a position, to introduce recommendations at this time of such a nature that we would have unemployment insurance. By that I mean insurance for everyone who is able to work and willing to work, but who because of conditions is unable to find or be supplied with work. We will not have the full meaning of unemployment insurance until by law there is a guarantee of a decent living standard and security to everyone able and willing to work, but who is denied that opportunity. This is something we should have had long ago, and I am sorry our hesitant steps year by year, parliament by parliament, still leave us a long way from the achievement of that objective.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the regulations, and I am afraid at times the attitudes