

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

power in the act to say, We shall take care of that. It is a borderline case. I know you cannot cure them all, but when we are passing legislation we should at least have some confidence in the people who are administering the act, so that in cases of that kind they will have sufficient power to correct any difficulty that may arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. May I call the attention of hon. members to the fact that we have before us a money resolution preceding a bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act. The question before the house is a motion—I want to emphasize these words—to go into committee of the whole to consider this resolution. The hon. member will remember that it has been decided by the House of Commons that a money resolution cannot be amended. I would ask hon. members to confine their remarks to the merits of the question and not go into details, but to wait until the resolution has reached the next stage of committee of the whole. After the committee of the whole has dealt with the resolution, it will be reported. Then the minister will introduce the bill which will be given first and second readings, and then the house will go into committee of the whole on it. At that time the committee will have an opportunity of discussing the several clauses of the bill.

On a resolution this afternoon I made the mistake of permitting the minister to answer questions, which he is not allowed to do. I am not calling the hon. member who has the floor out of order at the present time, but I make these remarks so that we shall not discuss the same matter two or three times, but only once and thereby save the time of the house.

Mr. GILLIS: I had nearly finished anyway, Mr. Speaker. Under ordinary circumstances I would wait for the bill so as to have a look at it, but in my opinion this resolution opens up a broad discussion. The intention is to enlarge the scope of the act, to clarify certain provisions of it and so on. I rose at this time in anticipation of the minister looking into the bill once more before he brings it into the house, because the spots on which I have put my finger are sore spots, and he may have a chance to amend the measure he is bringing in, so as to take care of the problems I have been discussing with him. These are real problems in my part of the country.

There are many other aspects of the matter to which I should like to refer, but I wish to have a look at the bill and I shall have more to say on the second reading.

[Mr. Gillis.]

Mr. L. W. SKEY (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I am another member who is pleased with this excellent piece of legislation which is brought down for the purpose of enlarging the scope of the act and clarifying its provisions. My remarks this evening will be quite brief, but I did wish to second what the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) said this afternoon with regard to sickness benefits. I am of the opinion that people who are unemployed as a result of sickness should be entitled to draw some benefits, because that is the time they need this help most.

The hon. member also spoke of the lack of public information so far as this legislation is concerned, and in this connection I should like to refer the minister to a recent public-opinion poll which found that only 40 per cent of the people insured under this act knew anything about the benefits to which they are entitled. This information was published in the *Literary Review*. Perhaps the minister's attention was drawn to it.

There is an almost scandalous lack of information on the part of those who are making contributions; and I suggest that the minister's department would serve the public very well if, in sending out the new books as these unemployment insurance books come due, they would also send an information card with them to those who are contributing, so that these people would know exactly what should be paid in case of unemployment, what their benefits are, and how they can realize those benefits.

There are two classes of people who come under the Unemployment Insurance Act and for whom particularly I should like to speak. In the first class we find young women and, in the second, the men and women in the older age group.

As regards the first, the young women, a great many of these girls come into employment in industry or office work and, after five or six years, they pass, we hope permanently, out of the labour market through marriage. During their time of employment they have perhaps been working continuously and contributing continuously to the unemployment insurance fund, and they have never drawn any benefits from it and never will. The contributions they make are lost to them entirely.

I would suggest to the minister, if he has time to reconsider the legislation before it is brought down in the form of a bill, to take into account the position in which these young girls find themselves; and perhaps he might find some way, through the Unemployment Insurance Act, to make them a nice wedding present of their own contributions.