

*Employment and Immigration*

fighting like the hon. member for Nickel Belt. Let me give the House another example.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Tell them about Vancouver.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Yes, perhaps I should. I do not see any Vancouverites in the Conservative party in the House; they do not seem to be very concerned about this act. Vancouver has an unemployment rate of 8.5 per cent. If someone worked for eight weeks, he would be able to receive benefits for 26 weeks. However, under Bill C-27 he would receive no benefits at all. Even the hon. member for Nickel Belt could not persuade the minister to give such people any benefits. Probably no members of the Conservative party from Vancouver give a damn about the unemployed in Vancouver, because he had no support at all from government members from the maritimes. They just did not care about this bill; they left the fight to the hon. member for Nickel Belt on behalf of our party.

A worker in the city of Vancouver who is laid off after ten weeks of work will qualify for 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits under the present act. Under Bill C-27, or under the act as amended, that person would not get any benefits. Where does the Conservative party stand on this? They stand four square behind their friends in the Liberal party.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** They are taking the credit for this bill.

**Mr. Nystrom:** They are part of a little club. As the hon. member for Nickel Belt says, they are probably taking credit for this type of amendment, as they do when they knock on some doors that I know of in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** The expert on Conservatives and Liberals.

**Mr. Nystrom:** I have become an expert on the Liberals and the Conservatives because I have fought them for years in my riding. If the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar does not know what I mean, I invite him to think back to a few weeks ago when the two of us campaigned in the Pelly by-election. That was a by-election where the Conservative and Liberal parties threw in everything they had—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member get back to the motion under discussion.

**Mr. Nystrom:** I would love to, Mr. Speaker, but I was just responding to the very intelligent question asked by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar who had forgotten that we received 50 per cent of the vote in the Pelly by-election. In any event, as a result of that by-election there are now probably some unemployed Liberal and Conservative party organizers, and if they move out to Vancouver they are going to have some problems. As I was saying, a person who works for 20 weeks in Vancouver and then becomes unemployed would receive benefits for 35 weeks under the act. When Bill C-27 goes through, he will receive benefits for 38 weeks. That is a minor improvement, but again it is probably due to the hard work of the members of our party at committee stage. It is certainly not due to the work of members of the Liberal party.

[Mr. Nystrom.]

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Just take a look at the amendments which have been presented by the government.

**Mr. Nystrom:** I am informed, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi was only at one meeting. I find that unbelievable, but if it is true it is an absolute disgrace when he has 30 per cent of the people in his riding unemployed. Since I have been in the House the last few hours talking on this bill, he has been heckling our party, contending that the act is a darned good one as amended by the minister. He has been running interference for the minister in the House, suggesting that the unemployed should have their knuckles rapped, that they are abusing the system. It is a disgusting thing for a member who comes from an area where 30 per cent of the people are unemployed.

You can tell when the popularity of the Liberal party goes up in the public opinion polls; all of a sudden they become very smug and arrogant and start doing things to ordinary people. There are words I can use, but which I cannot use in parliament, to describe what they do to ordinary people when their party support rises in the public opinion polls. They have lost their sensitivity and are forgetting that the unemployed are people who need help and benefits. They do not care. I hear the hon. member from Toronto interjecting. He may not have any unemployed in his riding. He would not understand what an unemployed person looked like if he ran into one in a back alley. I am referring to the hon. member for—York Centre, is it?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Yes, York Centre.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** He is over at the Rideau Club at all the time. There are no unemployed people over there.

**Mr. Nystrom:** He is back from the Rideau Club now. I understand that members of the Liberal party from eastern Quebec and the Atlantic provinces have received submissions and complaints from their constituents about how this bill which amends the Unemployment Insurance Act is hurting them. But they have not responded at all to the wishes of their constituents. If the Liberal party members had any sensitivity at all, they would be withdrawing the amendments they have made to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. He may continue with unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to participate in this debate today, but the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) and the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) have been talking so fast and loose that a few facts have to be put on the record. It would serve them well to sit down and listen for a few minutes so