

as native peoples living in Ontario, Quebec, the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia. They will be penalized, which is not fair. It is difficult enough for Indians and Metis to find jobs in Saskatchewan. At present, between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the population of Regina consists of Indian and native people. Many of them are unemployed, many of them are on welfare, and many of them are young, without jobs, skills or trades. This bill will discriminate against them, making it difficult for them to enter the labour force and learn a trade or skill. That shortcoming of the act could lead to all kinds of social problems and crime.

The unemployed want to work; they want to occupy their time. As it is, crime rates per capita in Regina are among the highest in this country, which shows you how serious this problem is. The people of the area want jobs. They do not want hand-outs, welfare or unemployment insurance benefits. They want jobs and opportunities, but they will not get them unless this government changes its policies and makes it possible for all people to work. I wish the minister would reconsider some regulations which discriminate against people living in rural and outlying parts. Ever since I was first elected to this House I have been concerned about people who live in rural or outlying regions and are cut off from unemployment insurance because, according to the government's computer, or in the opinion of bureaucrats, they have not been searching for a job as vigorously as they should.

Our bureaucrats apparently penalize the man who says, "I cannot drive 30 or 40 miles each way to work," and the housewife who says, "I don't drive. Anyway, we do not have a second car and I cannot go to work in the city 30 or 40 miles away." I remember one specific case. A person in Langenburg was cut off because she said she could not drive 50 miles every day to a job in Yorkton. Surely, cutting people off for such reasons is entirely unreasonable. How can you say they abuse the system and therefore should not qualify for UIC? These people want to work and will do everything reasonable in order to find a job. But because they live in some remote town or village, or on the farm, and because the nearest job may happen to be inaccessible in the city many miles away, they are cut off.

The person living in the city can hop on the bus, and search for a job much more easily. A man looking for work in Regina is looking for it in a community of about 165,000 people, and if he refuses a job perhaps there is a case for cutting him off UIC benefits. But it is not fair to apply the same standard to a person who lives in, say, in Esterhazy, Kamsack or Kenora and is told that the nearest job is in the big city many miles away. Because officials insist on applying the regulations so strictly they turn some of the unemployed into liars. People have come to me and said, "If I had told the truth I would have been cut off, so I lied." They say to me, "You are cut off UIC if you are honest. I got my UIC benefit because I lied." Such people take a chance, but they obtain UIC benefits. If they are honest and say no, they cannot do that, they are cut off. I have referred many cases of that sort to the minister's office year in and year out, where rural people have been put in the position of

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choosing between being honest and being a liar. They have to make that choice. Most people choose to be honest, tell the truth and lose UIC benefits that would rightfully be theirs if they were not living in a rural area, on a farm or in a small community.

● (1130)

This is the type of act the minister perpetuates. This is the type of act he refuses to amend in a positive sense so that rural people are not discriminated against. I have spoken to members of all parties in the House and they have expressed similar problems with people in rural areas trying to find a job. I almost dread some of my office hour tours. Two, three or four times a year I hold office hours in small towns and villages in my constituency. I go to places where there are only a few hundred people and set up an office in a town library or some other place to meet with the people. I advertise when I will be there.

I always dread it when someone comes to me with regard to an unemployment insurance problem. I know what it is. It is usually a rejection because the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the computer say that they are not available to work. They are told they are eliminating themselves in searching for a job and therefore do not qualify. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) knows what it is like to live in a place like Pelly or Churchbridge. There are not many jobs in small villages. If Joe Blow's wife is not able to go into Regina to look for a job, leaving her three or four little kids at home, she is cut off. However, if she lived in Regina, Toronto or Halifax she could qualify for a job or unemployment insurance.

Is the minister going to comment on that problem when he speaks? Is he going to move any amendments to make it more fair for the people who live in my constituency and in other parts of rural Canada? If not, he is going to perpetrate great unfairness and injustice in the Unemployment Insurance Act. It is a real problem. I have seen many people agonize over whether they should be honest with the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has expired. He may continue only with unanimous consent. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** No.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Who said no?

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** I did.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address myself to motion No. 8 which includes clauses 29 and 30 of Bill C-27. Before doing so, I would like to make some general comments relevant to those two clauses. Bill C-27