

of at least one department with respect to the discussion of estimates.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—TORONTO, ONT.— DENIAL OF BENEFITS TO STRIKING NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, the issue I want to raise tonight is whether or not the members of the international typographical union presently on strike in Toronto against the three Toronto dailies are entitled to unemployment insurance benefits. This matter has already been raised by members of this party on four or five occasions but to date no satisfactory answer has been obtained. The minister has indicated that benefits are payable when a substantial resumption of production has taken place. In a later answer he replied that what he meant by a substantial resumption of work was a production figure equal to 85 per cent of that prevailing before the work stoppage occurred. However, beyond that point we have been unable to obtain any accurate information as to the type of investigation being made, when it was started, when it is likely to be completed and what factors the unemployment insurance commission is taking into consideration in reaching its decision. This morning the answer received was again unsatisfactory, and therefore I should like to pose a series of questions to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour.

1. Is it confirmed that once production reaches 85 per cent of that prevailing before the strike the workers will be eligible for unemployment insurance?

2. Will the eligibility be retroactive and, if so, to what date?

3. When was the investigation in this regard started and at whose request?

4. What interviews have been conducted and with whom?

5. What factors are used by the commission, such as size of the paper, its circulation, amount of advertising, etc., in reaching its decision?

6. Has the commission experienced any difficulty in obtaining this information and, if so, what are the nature of such difficulties and what steps is the government taking to overcome them?

7. Is the rate of strike pay taken into

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

account in any way in assessing the level of benefits to which the men will be entitled?

In short, Mr. Speaker, what I want is the fullest possible explanation from the minister as to what is going on, how the investigation is proceeding and when we can expect an answer. These men have made their contributions to the fund and if they are properly entitled to benefits the government should see that there are no roadblocks placed in their way.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that three minutes would hardly permit me to answer all these questions in the order in which they were put, but first I must apologize for saying this afternoon that the hon. member's feelings were not to be considered. I am sure he meant the feelings of those who are on strike, and should be given fullest consideration. I apologize for that inadvertence.

Normally a claimant must make representations to prove that there is not a stoppage of work. The commission, following representations made by telephone, undertook to send a man from head office in Ottawa to make those investigations. There were preliminary investigations made, I understand, by the office in Toronto, but nothing in writing had been put before the commission in so far as the employees or the strikers were concerned.

I have the statement that:

On September 9, 1964, local 91 of the international typographical union made representations to the commission, which were confirmed in writing on September 10, that a substantial resumption of work to near normal conditions has been established at the three Toronto daily newspapers, the *Daily Star*, the *Telegram* and the *Globe and Mail*.

These representations are based on the fact that the newspapers are producing their usual number of editions per day, that they are of normal size and that the circulation of the papers is back to normal. These facts, with certain reservations have been verified by the newspapers.

However, the three newspapers claim that the work in their composing rooms is only being accomplished under emergency conditions, that the complement of staff required for operating the composing room is still substantially short of requirements for normal operations and that the present work is being carried on by executives and salaried personnel assisted by a number of new employees.

This information is now being assessed by the insurance officer. If he is satisfied that a