distributed among hon. members. This amendment, which was explained by the minister this morning, is to add as subsection 2 the following:

(2) Where it appears to the commission that, by reason of any law of a foreign country, a duplication of unemployment insurance contributions by employers or employed persons or both and of unemployment insurance benefits will result, the commission may, from time to time, notwithstanding anything in this act, by regulation, conditionally or unconditionally, wholly or in part, provide for including any employed person or class or group of employed persons among the excepted employments in part II of the first schedule to this act.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to point out to the committee that the bill, as it came to this committee, already includes this amendment, which was adopted by the special committee; but inasmuch as the bill has not been reprinted, a mimeographed leaflet has been distributed among all hon. members, containing all the amendments, for their convenience. The bill that I have before me, which has been laid on the table of the house and which we are now considering, contains all the amendments which were adopted by the special committee, and which are contained in this leaflet.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Hon. members have not these amendments before them unless they are read.

Mr. MacNICOL: Just what is the basis of this new subsection?

The CHAIRMAN: If any hon. members have not copies of these amendments, they are available at the table. I had been led to believe that these copies were distributed.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the minister just explain this amendment?

Mr. McLARTY: This is the amendment to which I referred this morning. It was requested by the Railway Association of Canada, to meet the situation arising from the duplication of the railway unemployment insurance act of the United States.

Section agreed to.

Section 15 agreed to.

On section 16—Exempted persons.

Mr. GREEN: I should like to ask the minister whether a savings plan in an industry, to which employers and employees contribute, now goes by the board?

Mr. McLARTY: It is not affected in any way by this bill; they can proceed with it. They are, however, voluntary plans, and they would not be affected in any way.

[Mr. Ian Mackenzie.]

Mr. GREEN: But the firms which have voluntary plans cannot get exemption under the act, even though employer and employees wish to be exempted?

Mr. McLARTY: No, they cannot.

Mr. GREEN: And no type of firm scheme would entitle the firm to exemption from the provisions of this bill?

Mr. McLARTY: That is correct.

Mr. FURNISS: I had a letter this morning from a firm in my riding. The first paragraph reads:

Why should persons working for small salaries, day in and day out, fifty-two weeks a year, pay in any part of their salary to a fund from which they have only a remote chance of ever getting anything out?

This letter is from a coal dealer, I think, who keeps his men employed year in and year out. My inquiry is this: Is there any chance of firms like that being considered in connection with the exemptions?

Mr. McLARTY: The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario is making the same plea as some of the banks and financial institutions made. We could not release them, so I am afraid we cannot release the firms to which the hon. member has referred.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The answer is no.

Section agreed to.

On section 17—Fund established by contributions by employed persons and employers.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I draw the attention of the committee to the amendment to section 17, which appears on the mimeographed list. It is in the form of an additional subsection, to be numbered subsection 5.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What is the effect of this amendment?

Mr. McLARTY: This is another amendment asked by the Railway Association of Canada, to which I referred this morning, and it provides for payment on the basis which they have been following. Its justification is a saving in expense.

Section agreed to.

On section 18—Employer liable to pay both employer and employee contributions.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): This section provides:

Except where regulations under this act otherwise prescribe, the employer shall in the first instance be liable to pay both the contribution payable by himself (in this act referred