

Unemployment Insurance Act

report until June 9, and this directive went out some time during the first week of June. I suggest that it contained detailed information regarding the cost of stamps, the amount of benefits and so on for the use of employers, officials of the commission and others, information which could not have been provided and which should not have been prepared before consideration of this question had been completed by the committee.

I agree that we do not want to blame some official for letting this get into the mail bag, but the bulletin itself should never have been prepared because, really, the facts are not available yet and will not be available until this bill has received third reading. Nobody has the right to predict in advance what this house is going to decide. Would the minister not agree with me that this directive should not have been published at all?

Mr. Starr: This matter lies entirely within the purview of the unemployment insurance commission, and it was only after these preparations had been made that I was aware they had been completed. But this is a practice which has been followed in the past. The commission tells me that nothing different has been done from what has been done on former occasions. If any changes had been made then naturally whatever material had been prepared would have had to be corrected.

However, there is a great deal of information which must go out to every employer in this country, and in order to save time the commission did what it had done in the past. It made preparations and had all this material ready to go out. The commission had, of course, hoped that it would have been able to put into effect by July 1 whatever amendments were made by parliament. It became apparent, however, that this would not be possible, so they have set another date—September 28, I am informed—because of the delay which has been experienced in the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Because of the failure of the government to introduce this bill earlier.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): I agree that it might be wise and expedient to prepare these things as far ahead as possible, but surely the minister and his officials must have realized that they were not dealing here with non-controversial legislation. That has been demonstrated not only by what has happened in this committee, but also by virtually every submission which was made in the standing committee and the views expressed by practically every organization from coast to coast.

The minister said that some copies of this bulletin had been sent out. Does this word "some" mean 50, or 100, or 3? In view of the fact that a certain number, at least, have been sent out would the minister be prepared to table one of these directives in the house so that hon. members might know what is contained in this document which has been prepared and dispatched to certain places in this country?

Mr. Benidickson: I know that every day we have a new edition of *Hansard* and I know, of course, that the remarks of the hon. member for Cape Breton South were replied to very effectively by others, with the exception, possibly of his statement that the bill was brought forward at the earliest possible moment, a subject which has been repeatedly referred to in this debate.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to avoid repetition, but on this particular point there has been no discussion today relative to the fact that on January 15 this government indicated, at a time of crisis, that they had amendments of consequence to make to the Unemployment Insurance Act. The hon. member for Cape Breton South chose to introduce this question again today, and I simply want to have in the same issue of *Hansard* a repetition—probably not desirable, but one which certainly is necessary—making it clear, as everybody knows, that this government put its chest forward and stated on January 15, through the mouth of the Governor General of this country, that it had plans for labour and that in particular it had plans for amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

No time was lost by the Leader of the Opposition, having regard to the crisis that existed in respect to unemployment in this country. He said on January 19, as reported at page 37 of *Hansard*—and I want everybody to note that although we go through thousands of pages, this suggestion was reported on page 37 on the second day of the session; there is no possibility of a suggestion of this kind being made on the first day because formalities and etiquette prohibit that being done—but on page 37 of *Hansard* for this session the Leader of the Opposition, as reported, suggested, having regard to the serious crisis which existed in this country with respect to unemployment, that the government proposals to deal with this serious problem should be debated without delay. A debate such as that on the speech from the throne might perhaps have been more important to the small opposition than to the government of the day. Notwithstanding this, the Leader of the Opposition went on to suggest that the debate