

disparities, and now we are asked to consult before accepting Bill C-21? The redefinition of economic regions was requested by members of this House, both in our party and in the one opposite, as we often say. We need both reforms, two complementary reforms, and we can continue to go ahead with Bill C-21, knowing very well that even without Bill C-21, the economic regions would have been redefined. And I must congratulate us for being forward-looking and taking account of the differences among client groups and labour markets. That reality had to be recognized, and again, I call on members of the Senate to respect the timetable. I ask them to respect the working people of Canada so that as of January 1, 1990, we can implement together these two reforms which recognize and respect the outlying regions, from which I come.

Mr. Arsenault: A question!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am sorry, the time for questions and comments is up. Resuming debate. The hon. member for South West Nova.

• (1520)

[English]

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, I would point out to the minister, just on the last point she made about economic regions, that the southern end of Nova Scotia always had a sub-area up until last November when this government took away that sub-economic region. So let us not throw stones at each other.

This piece of legislation is about the worst piece of legislation—

Mr. Reid: Let's not throw stones? Do you see any boulders falling from the ceiling?

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): The member over there says: "Let's not throw stones". The minister just spoke and said that they were responsible for the great changes in the economic regions. They may have been responsible for the great changes in the economic regions, but they left an area that had had an economic region change up until last November without that stability of a new sub-economic region in Nova Scotia,

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and they made the people pay by putting in extra work weeks in order to claim.

Today we have a special motion before us. The member who just interrupted me comes from Newfoundland, so he would not understand the variable entrance requirement because the unemployment rate in Newfoundland is well above 15 per cent and is protected by this bill as it has been in the past.

The motion before the House is a motion to pass what has been passed every year since 1977 by both Liberal and Conservative governments. It has been passed in order to retain the variable entrance requirement and not go to a straight 14 weeks.

If this motion is not accepted today by the House and if it is not passed before January 6, two things will happen. This government can smile in self-satisfaction, but one of two things will happen. The bill will either pass without the proper consultation that it needs and should have in the Senate, or the variable entrance requirement will be done away with. In other words, everybody will need 14 weeks of insurable earnings in order to qualify starting January 6.

I made some inquiries at one of the local manpower offices in my riding and I found that last year, from January 3 to January 6, there were almost 500 applications from only one area, and I share that office with the member for South Shore. In that one area, those people would have to go from 11 weeks under the variable entrance requirements to 14 weeks, and because of the repeater provisions in the bill, they would need 20 weeks of insurable earnings in order to qualify in South West Nova.

This bill is such a callous way of taking funds from a given region and saying to that region that we are not any longer going to give you the funds that were normally there as income for Canadians, the income which was spent in those communities. As businesses are well aware, if you remove funds from a given area you are hurting not just the people and the families who are relying on receiving the benefits. You are hurting basic businesses in every village, in every town, across a given region.

The spin-off effect has to hurt, and it does not take long to realize it. You will soon find people, the young in particular, having to move away from areas that have always had a seasonal employment base and the greater part of Canada, whether in the north, the east, the west, central Canada or Quebec, has a seasonal employment