

*Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971*

ment. I have reference to the one standing in the name of the hon. member for Brant, on which the Chair is prepared to put the motion, the one standing in the name of the hon. member for Moose Jaw and a third one in the name of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway. Although there are some reservations, the Chair is quite prepared to give the benefit of the doubt in these three instances and to put the motions.

In the case of the other seven bills presented for introduction by hon. members I would think there are possible difficulties and I would be prepared to hear arguments on each one of them as it is proposed. I would suggest that in order to save time, because this might be a protracted procedure, I will reserve my ruling and perhaps give it to the House later today or on Monday. For the moment the Chair will put the first motion in the name of the hon. member for Brant.

## AMENDMENT TO EXCLUDE SICK LEAVE PAY FROM EARNINGS

**Mr. Howard, Skeena (for Mr. Blackburn)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-177, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce this bill?

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** This is a simple bill. It seeks to correct one of the chaotic abuses that have resulted from the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Commission since the introduction of the new legislation on the first of this year. It provides that sick leave pay shall not be classified as earnings for the purpose of receiving benefits.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

## AMENDMENT RESPECTING INVOLVEMENT IN LABOUR DISPUTES

**Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre (for Mr. Skoberg)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-178, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act (labour disputes).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, when the new unemployment insurance measure was before the committee last year it was the feeling of many of us that the provisions regarding involvement in a labour dispute went too far. It included people who were really not directly involved. The purpose of this bill is to correct that mistake.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

[Mr. Speaker.]

## AMENDMENT RESPECTING BENEFIT PERIOD DURING PREGNANCY

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-179, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act (maternity benefits).

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to rectify a provision in the Unemployment Insurance Act which gives a woman a certain definite number of weeks before and after her confinement when she is covered by unemployment insurance. This amendment would permit elasticity in choosing the number of weeks before and after confinement.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

## AMENDMENT RESPECTING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

On the order: Introduction of Bills.

**Mr. Gilbert—Bill intitled:** "An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971".

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Howard, for Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Knowles, move for leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971".

As I have indicated, and I repeat, there may be some question from a procedural standpoint relating to the possible infringement upon the financial initiative of the government in reference to this and subsequent bills. I would be pleased to hear argument if hon. members would care to express their views on this particular point.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, if I may comment, I think the fact there are a number of bills on the order paper relating to the Unemployment Insurance Act reflects what almost everybody in the country knows has been a confused and chaotic situation this last winter with interminable delays in the payment of benefits to claimants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows that he cannot argue the bill itself. I would hope we would limit the discussion to the strictly procedural aspect.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I am just saying that in that context this bill attempts to correct those abuses and that the argument relating to this bill procedurally probably has some application to the others as well because they seek to correct the same situation.

When the Unemployment Insurance Act was amended and the new act came into existence one of its provisions also sought to amend the Income Tax Act so as to declare that workmen's compensation payments to injured workmen would be liable to tax. Previous to that time such payments had never been liable to tax. The purpose of the bill is to change the existing situation.