

Unemployment Insurance Act

One of my colleagues who spoke before me suggested in terms of this approach with regard to the Atlantic provinces that we are seeing a "scorched earth" policy in which the government is quite prepared to sacrifice the situation, the future, the hopes and the dreams of the people in the Atlantic provinces. Whether that is true or not, there is one thing that is very clear. The great commitment made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) a decade ago, as one of his two top priorities, to alleviate regional disparity has now been thrown to the wind.

If ever there was a commitment for the alleviation of regional disparity, it has died a total and dramatic death in the introduction of Bill C-14. If any member from the Atlantic provinces, on the other side, or this side of the House, were to support this bill, it would defy the imagination in terms of the obvious impact it will have on the people he or she represents.

I am not surprised that those government members from the Atlantic area who spoke in the debate this week have criticized the government and can in no way join in the support of this measure. I only hope they follow through on that either by their votes this evening on these amendments or when we come to the final and third reading debate tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being 9.45, pursuant to order made yesterday, Wednesday, December 20, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the report stage of Bill C-14, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

I might perhaps indicate my intended method of dealing with these questions. I propose to call all of the motions and take a voice vote. I will, of course, indicate the result that I have from the voice vote. Upon each result, the House ought to indicate whether it desires a recorded division in the usual way by the appropriate number of members standing in their places. We can then either record the result or defer the motion for a recorded division and, at the end of all of the motions, call in the members and take all of the recorded divisions.

The question is on motion No. 1 in the name of the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

Mr. Speaker: We will record that motion No. 1 will be dealt with by a recorded division.

The question is upon motion No. 2 in the name of the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Rae):

Motion No. 2

That Bill C-14, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, be amended by deleting clause 2.

Those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion negated on division.

Motion No. 2 (Mr. Rae) negated.

Mr. Speaker: The question is on motion No. 3 in the name of the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Rae):

Motion No. 3

That Bill C-14, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, be amended in clause 2 by striking out lines 19 to 28 at page 1 and substituting the following therefor:

"end of paragraph (f) thereof and by adding thereto the following paragraphs:

(h) any employment with an employer in which persons are employed for less than twenty hours in a week or in which the earnings of persons are less than thirty per cent of the maximum weekly insurable earnings; and

(i) unless otherwise prescribed, paragraph (h) does not apply to an employee where the national unemployment rate that applies to him is greater than four per cent."

All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Motion No. 3 will be decided by a recorded division.

The question is upon motion No. 4 in the name of the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Rae):

Motion No. 4

That Bill C-14, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, be amended in clause 2 by striking out lines 24 to 28 at page 1 and substituting the following therefor:

"in which the earnings of persons are less than the lesser of 20 times the provincial hourly minimum wage or one-fifth of the maximum insurable earnings."

Those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those opposed will please say nay.