

situation with more than one claim for unemployment insurance benefits, one of which was not under appeal and the other of which was, a claimant would receive benefits if his appeal were granted not only for the period of time it was under appeal but for the entire period dating back to the day the initial claim for the benefit was made. I do not really believe that that is what the Hon. Member intended when he put forward this Bill. I am sure he did not want to see someone getting a benefit to which he was not entitled. He wanted to make sure that people who should be receiving benefits would get them. With that in mind, it seems to me that the Bill does need a little polishing up before it is enshrined as part of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Hopefully, the Government will bring forward very shortly a proposal incorporating the Hon. Member's proposal but one which would solve that small technical difficulty included in Bill C-221. At the same time, I hope the Government will put forward a number of other proposals that will improve the Unemployment Insurance Act while at the same time continuing to enshrine those general benefits all of us wish to see continue.

While I am one who believes that considerable changes should be made to the Unemployment Insurance Act, I hope at the same time that before we make those changes, we can produce a great many more jobs than exist right now. Any changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act, apart from the

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one put forward by the Hon. Member, may very well reduce the benefits to potential claimants rather than enhance them. If that is the case, it would certainly work a hardship on people if it were to be done at a time when there were one and a half million Canadians unemployed. I know the Hon. Member would not want to see anything like that occur in his own riding.

While I applaud the Hon. Member's proposal and would like to see it incorporated in the Act and while I applaud many of the other proposals that have been made from time to time by small business and by individual Canadians across the country, I would really like to make sure that we put all Canadians who want to work back to work again before we run the risk of disintitling any of them from these benefits. Having said all that, I would like to applaud the Hon. Member for doing an outstanding job. I am sure that as time goes by, the concept he has outlined here will be enshrined in the Unemployment Insurance Act of Canada. I am sure such an amendment would be a glowing tribute to the Hon. Member and one of which he could be proud in the future.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Private Members' Hour has now expired.

It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at eleven o'clock a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 5 p.m.