

under this Act, or is subject to restrictions on the amount or period of benefit imposed by such regulations; or

(d) that the fourth statutory condition is not fulfilled.

(2) Notwithstanding the proviso to subsection one of this section, the insurance officer may, pursuant to regulations made by the Commission, declare the claimant to be disqualified from receiving benefit for a period not exceeding six weeks, on any of the grounds set out in paragraph (a) and (b) of the said proviso or disallow a claim on any of the grounds set out in paragraphs (c) and (d) of the said proviso."

In the new section fifty-five it is proposed to clarify and simplify the functions of the insurance officer when adjudicating upon claims where not all of the benefit provisions of the Act are satisfied. For example, the claimant may not have the required number of contributions in the preceding two years (a statutory condition); he may not be sixteen years of age; he may have left his employment voluntarily without just cause, or he may not be capable of work. There has been some confusion in determining in which cases a benefit year should be established and the claimant disqualified, whether disallowance referred only to non-fulfilment of the statutory conditions, etc.

The new section fifty-five, while not altering in any way the powers of the insurance officer, sets out the circumstances in which a claim is allowed, disallowed, or a period of disqualification imposed, and should eliminate doubts resulting from the terminology of the old section fifty-six.

6. *New Section 56.*

The present section fifty-seven reads as follows:

"57. Where a claim is disallowed by the insurance officer the claimant may at any time within twenty-one days of the date on which the decision of the officer is communicated to him, or within such further time as the Commission may in any particular case for special reasons allow, appeal in the prescribed manner to the court of referees."

There is no change in the appeal right given in the present section fifty-seven but changes in the wording are made necessary by the new section fifty-five.

7. The only changes in these sections, which are the old fifty-eight to sixty-one re-numbered, are the changes in reference resulting from the re-numbering.