

EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, July 25, 1958.

9:00 A.M.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen we have a quorum.

The last item we have to consider is item No. 180.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

Item No. 180. To provide for the transfer of labour to and from places where employment is available and expenses incidental thereto, in accordance with regulations of the Governor in Council \$75,000

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thomson, the official in charge of this department, is here. We will follow the usual procedure and have him outline the department's operation.

Mr. W. THOMSON (*Director, Employment Branch, Unemployment Insurance Commission*): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen this item is to provide for transportation of labour to and from places where employment is available, and expenses incidental thereto.

Most of the moneys provided are used in regard to advancing the cost of transportation on behalf of employers to employees, and it is later repaid.

This item also covers the expenses involved in moving workers from labour surplus areas. There are five labour surplus areas in Canada at the present time.

Hr. HOUCK: Does the employee repay that money?

Mr. THOMSON: Not in regard to the second item. This is not a repayment system. We provide for the cost of transporting workers, their dependents and their household effects.

There are certain precautions taken in this regard. The most important precaution taken is to make sure that a worker is not in a position to pay for his own transportation. The second precaution we take is in regard to the duration of the job—it should be at least six months.

The whole idea of this arrangement is the resettlement of these workers.

At the present time there are five labour surplus areas in Canada. There are two areas in Ontario—Windsor and Tilbury, and the other areas are Springhill, New Glasgow and St. Stephen. These areas are designated labour surplus areas by the Minister of Labour in conjunction with the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Mr. CARON: Do workers have to accept transfers from one city to another?

Mr. THOMSON: No.

Mr. CARON: This is a voluntary thing?

Mr. THOMSON: That is right.

Mr. HOUCK: Are the workers assured housing accommodation when they arrive?

Mr. THOMSON: No, there is no provision for accommodation. We actually move the worker first and leave it up to him to find accommodation, and then his wife and household effects are moved when he has obtained accommodation. This usually happens after the worker himself has been moved.