

Mr. GILLIS: You will find them in the Maritimes.

Mr. CROLL: You will find them across the river.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: Not in Ontario.

Mr. GILLIS: I think you are arguing on the wrong end. You will also find small business establishments that hire a boy to deliver groceries paying him \$12 and \$14 a week. You will find all the big department stores who hire girls in the starting period at around \$11 a week and after six months they get up to \$12.

Mr. CROLL: That is not so. They can't do that in Ontario or the western provinces.

Mr. GILLIS: There are many sections of this country where that kind of wages I am describing are paid.

Mr. CROLL: Where?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Let us hear Mr. Gillis.

Mr. GILLIS: Many sections of this country—in Quebec and through the maritimes and I think to some extent in some of your western provinces in the categories I am talking about. The fact that you have a number of unemployment insurance claims in those wage brackets proves that that is correct and until such time that you can get your wages lifted I think if you are going to retain that insurance principle you will have to go along with the actuaries until, I think, you are ready to adjust wages.

Mr. DESCHATELETS: You are talking about children's wages?

Mr. GILLIS: They are not children—truck drivers are not children, waitresses are not children and the big department stores are definitely not employing children. They have a starting wage the lowest in the whole country.

Mr. CROLL: Oh, no.

Mr. GILLIS: Places like Eaton's, Simpson's and Woolworth's. You get out among the people and take a look around.

Mr. CROLL: I am amongst the people and I know what those people have to pay as a minimum wage in Ontario and they are not paying that kind of wages.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Let us hear what Mr. Gillis has to say.

Mr. GILLIS: I think Mr. Michener is arguing on the wrong end. I think and believe we have to jack up the terrible incomes of these categories; people should get their wages up, and as long as that situation prevails and you are getting wages on that scale the only thing you actually can do is retain the insurance principle and work it out as it pertains to those categories.

Mr. CROLL: I agree that there are small sweat shops in Canada which pay that kind of wage, but most of the provinces have what they call a minimum wage law and it is pretty strictly enforced. Generally, though, that kind of wage is most unusual, though it does exist nevertheless and we try to cover that situation to the best of our ability, and I believe we are doing so in the present instance. From the other angle, perhaps the provinces will do something about fixing and insisting upon a decent minimum wage, but until then this is the only thing we can do.

Mr. MURCHISON: What was the scale under the old Act which corresponds to this?

Mr. BARCLAY: If a person earned anything at all in his ordinary working hours he got nothing. To that extent this is a better deal. If a man was earning \$12.00 a week and he worked one day during that week he would receive no benefit for that one day. His benefit would be reduced.