

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

ments: highways and public works, mines, labour (apprenticeship branch, industrial training division).

Ontario.

All temporary employees who are in possession of insurance books.

Prince Edward Island.

Insurable categories:

- (a) temporary employees who are not established civil servants under the department of industry and natural resources (cold storage plant) and the department of public works and highways;
- (b) stenographers employed by the board of commissioners public utilities;
- (c) employees of the Prince Edward Island industrial corporation (department of industry and natural resources).

Saskatchewan.

All persons who have insurance books at the time of employment or elect to be insured—

We have that phrase creeping in again, those who elect to be insured.

—and are in the following categories:

- (a) time certificate employees;
- (b) employees on a day labour basis; or
- (c) temporary employees.

Note: Employment by a corporation established under the crown corporations act, 1947, is not considered employment by the province and is insurable.

There are one or two observations I should like to make with respect to the group who are insurable by reason of co-operation between the province and the national unemployment insurance authorities. First of all we find that the province of Quebec has not concurred. So far as the others are concerned, one distinguishing factor seems to be the necessity for the individual to come from a job with an insurance book, which insurance book can be carried forward into his temporary employment. I would say that is an unfair practice because certainly a person who is working for a provincial department, even though he may not have had an insurance book prior to the time he commenced working for a provincial government, should have the same privilege of being covered if he so desires as in the case of any other individual. It is not right to accept one and not the other.

In the case of the province of Alberta I find that those who are accepted as temporary employees must have had previous insurable employment in order to be covered. In the case of the province of British Columbia temporary, casual and part-time employees whose principal source of income is derived from non-insurable employment are excepted. In the case of Manitoba they must present insurance books. In New Brunswick they must present insurance books. As far as Newfoundland is concerned, no mention is made of temporary employees. In Nova Scotia they must present insurance books. In Ontario they must also have insurance books. In Prince Edward Island those who are not

[Mr. Hahn.]

established civil servants in the department of industry and natural resources and the department of public works and highways are covered. In Saskatchewan they must have insurance books.

We have certain groups who must have insurance books before they enter the employ of a provincial government and if they have them they will become insurable but others working side by side with these individuals who are covered by insurance are denied the same privilege because they do not have the necessary insurance qualifications in that they have not been insured at a previous time.

The committee also recommended that the government consider the advisability of increasing the period of maximum benefits. I think the committee was almost unanimous, though not completely so, as to the desirability of having the period of 30 weeks changed and the former period of 51 weeks made applicable. If we are going to have a competent labour body behind us, it is necessary to give this matter more consideration. There were other suggestions, one in particular by the hon. member for Spadina which I thought certainly merited attention. He suggested that instead of 30 weeks the period should be extended to 36 weeks, and that there would be 36 weeks plus 15 weeks of supplementary benefits for which the employee is now eligible. This would bring the total period of coverage up to 51 weeks. This raises the question as to what might be done about those people who are not in the insured group. I do not intend to discuss that matter now because, from the Prime Minister's statement yesterday, it appears that the parley concerning the jobless is to begin on June 20. I do feel however that in connection with this matter of insurance for the unemployed we must consider first and foremost what is the purpose of insurance.

I understand that when the act was first proposed it was suggested that the insurance should cover only that period between jobs or that it would be a sort of transitional insurance. It would care for these people in a temporary fashion. However, our ideas of unemployment insurance have changed in a major degree so that today the workers consider that it should cover that period when they are unemployed through no fault of their own.

I believe I have very little to add, other than that the regulations concerning married women should be reviewed so as to eliminate additional contribution requirements after the first separation of employment subsequent to marriage. In this connection I would certainly go along with the hon. member for