

### 5. New Section 31.

The new section thirty-one contains the provisions formerly appearing in paragraphs one and two of the Third Schedule to the Act. It is considered that these are substantive provisions which should appear in the body of the Act rather than in a Schedule.

Paragraphs one and two of the Third Schedule read as follows:

"(1) The weekly rate of benefit for the benefit year shall be thirty-four times the average weekly contribution paid by an employed person while in employment during the two years immediately preceding the claim for benefit:

Except that where the employed person is either—

- (i) a man whose wife is being maintained wholly or mainly by him; or
- (ii) a married woman who has a husband dependent on her; or
- (iii) a married person, widow or widower, who maintains wholly or mainly one or more children under the age of 16 years;

the weekly benefit rate shall be forty times the average weekly contribution paid by an employed person during the two years immediately preceding the claim for benefit and the expression 'child' includes any child of the employed person, a stepchild, adopted child, or illegitimate child.

(2) The daily rate of benefit for the benefit year shall be computed in the same manner as the weekly rate of benefit as provided by section one of this Schedule using the prescribed average daily contribution instead of the average weekly contribution."

All through the amended subsection one references are made to the daily rate of benefit rather than to the weekly rate as previously. In actual practice it is necessary to compute the daily rate and then to extend this by multiplying to the weekly rate as indicated in the new subsection four.

In addition to bringing the Third Schedule into the body of the Act, a new subparagraph (*c*) is substituted, and a new subparagraph (*d*) is added.

The only change in what was previously subparagraph (iii) is to refer to "a person" rather than to "a married person, widow or widower". In other words, benefit at the dependency rate is payable to any person who maintains a child (as defined).

Subparagraph (*d*) is entirely new. It is felt that the payment of the dependency rate is justified quite as much in the case where a person maintains a self-contained domestic establishment and supports a wholly dependent relative as in the case of maintenance of a child. There seems little difference in principle and the need would appear to be as great, or greater.

Subsection three is new and has the effect of setting the daily benefit rate at the nearest five cents which will cut down to a very considerable extent the mathematical calculations involved in determining the rate of benefit. This should expedite the payment of benefit and cannot affect the amount of benefit paid by more than a few cents.