

Business of the House

Does that mean our workers, labourers and day-labourers are not protected under the Unemployment Insurance Act. I know, for example, that even a few years ago, at my office, I used to hire a worker for half a day and I would give him a 1-week stamp. It was an advantage for him. I never heard a worker complaining about such a situation. Why would the agricultural worker, the labourer or the day-labourer working part-time on the land complain about it? At the present time, a worker in eastern Quebec can, when he is free and unemployed, go and work three weeks to grow or harvest sugar-beets at Saint-Hilaire. He can then spend two or three weeks, for example, at Saint-Jean to harvest tomatoes and then, another three weeks somewhere in Ontario to gather the tobacco crop. During the winter, he can again be lucky enough to work a few weeks and be in a position to draw unemployment insurance instead of being simply on social welfare, as so often happens.

We know that the first condition to draw unemployment insurance benefits is to have paid 30 contributions and collected stamps for 30 weeks, within the two years prior to the claim. Therefore, we must have made 30 contributions and have worked during 24 weeks out of the last 52; eight contributions must have been paid in the course of the previous year. These are, I believe, the details. That is the spirit of the law. It must be looked at, according to the spirit of the motion. And so, a farm worker could not benefit from the law, according to the example I have just given.

Last week, I met a Quebec farmer; I would say that he is one of the most dynamic and most intelligent. We discussed this matter and I took note of some of his views; I have come to the conclusion that as the motion stands, it is not advantageous for the small farmer who, once again, will be victimized by the application of that law should it be amended as provided for by the motion.

I also agree with the previous speaker; as I understand it, he said that it was a most complex business to face the situation on three fronts at once: social security, the Canada pension plan and income tax deductions.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hour provided for the consideration of private members business has now expired.

• (6:00 p.m.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Aiken: Before the house adjourns, I wonder if the house leader would outline the business for tomorrow?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Cash advances.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Tomorrow we will continue with the cash advance legislation, after having passed the post office and farm credit bills.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.