

Unemployment Insurance

Mr. Starr: I have not the details here, but I shall be glad to get them for the hon. member.

Mr. Winch: It will not be in operation for 14 months.

Mr. Starr: That is fine; that may be so. It is for the future. But surely the hon. member would not discount that.

Mr. Winch: No, I accept it willingly, but you are talking about the subamendment and the abnormal unemployment situation which now exists.

Mr. Starr: I am talking about the abnormal unemployment situation as it may exist at the moment. These things will help to alleviate that situation.

Mr. Argue: You mean that unemployment will still be here 14 months from now?

Mr. Starr: Other things will also help the situation now. This news story also refers to more than \$200 million in long term contracts for British Columbia mining products. This, too, will have beneficial results in so far as abnormal unemployment is concerned.

Let me say that the shipping employment provided under the tremendous wheat sale to China will help to eat into the "abnormal unemployment" mentioned in the subamendment. I am still dealing with the matter of abnormal unemployment referred to in the C.C.F. subamendment.

From last night's *Citizen*, another purveyor of the bright side of the news, we have this item, which will have an effect on abnormal unemployment.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rose on a point of order a few moments ago to point out that the minister had the undoubted right to speak as long as he wishes. I think Your Honour recognizes that he has this right under standing order 31.

Therefore even my intervention now is not taking away from his time. But since hon. members on this side of the house would like an opportunity to reply to the minister's arguments, I wonder whether the reading of newspaper clippings or stories which really have no relation to the motion is quite relevant. So long as Your Honour is willing to give the same indulgence to other hon. members, as I have indicated two or three times before, we on this side of the house are quite happy.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I am not reading newspaper clippings; I am referring to news stories which have recently appeared in newspapers and which I submit will have an effect

upon the charge made in the C.C.F. subamendment when they speak about abnormal unemployment. Those words are in the subamendment.

This is the charge being made against the government, and I want to say that all is not doom and gloom; there is a brighter side. It is not something that we, the government, are putting forward and trying to ram down their throats, but rather it is a disinterested viewpoint of what is being done in Canada and what is happening to help this situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I cannot accept the view that because the subamendment contains the words "recent abnormal unemployment" it is permissible to discuss unemployment.

I may say that in my view relevancy may sometimes be more a method of speaking than the choosing of the subject for a speech. I think the hon. minister was not always relating his remarks to either the amendment or the subamendment.

The subamendment, in fact, deals with the suggestion that the government should have considered the reimbursement of the fund from the public treasury because of its excessive depletion.

Abnormal unemployment would be only a cause of the depletion of the fund, and really the subject matter of the subamendment is restricted to the reimbursement of the fund from the public treasury because of its excessive depletion.

Therefore if I think in some ways unemployment could be related to the subject matter of the amendment or the subamendment, I do not think it would be related in the way the minister has proceeded up to this time. In fact, I would say unemployment has also very little to do with the main amendment, because the main amendment concerns only the matter of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Maybe, it excludes unemployment.

Mr. Starr: I will abide by your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I had many other things to mention which are happening in this country and will take care of abnormal unemployment. Therefore there is no necessity for us to be steeped in doom and gloom; rather, I think there are indications of a brighter side in our economy for the future.

There has been an indication of this from even the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson). The leader of the Liberal party changed his outlook a few weeks ago. He now feels that an upsurge in the economy is just around the corner. But he is guarded in this respect, because he says, "Of course, it will not be because of anything this government has done".

Mr. Pickersgill: That is certainly right.