

Interim Supply

I cannot understand the attitude of the unemployment insurance commission when the father of a family, a man 24 years old and with two children, although employed by his father who operates a lumber camp, is deprived of unemployment insurance benefits for the only reason that he is living with his father. This man I have in mind, as I said, is 24 years old, married, with two children, and he has put aside his savings for the last two years to buy lumber to build himself a house. But when he applied for unemployment insurance benefits he was told, "No, you cannot qualify because you are living with your father. If you want to qualify, all you have to do is to go and live elsewhere". Such decisions are not warranted and should not be allowed in this country.

I know of another case of a man who was refused unemployment insurance benefits because he was driving his father's truck. I know that there have been abuses by certain applicants for unemployment insurance benefits, but it is the duty of the officials of the commission to see to it that these abuses are prevented. This does not mean that in clear-cut cases a man should be refused the benefit of unemployment insurance, to which he has the right, just because he is living in the same house as his father. Officials of the commission should not be allowed to tell these people, "If you want to qualify, go and get yourselves a room elsewhere".

I could quote case after case, Mr. Chairman, where unemployment insurance benefits have been refused under similar circumstances, and I hope that the Minister of Labour will see to it that these cases receive not only due consideration but the consideration which they deserve and that these cases will be rectified without delay.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the Minister of Fisheries is not in his seat because the few remarks I intend to make deal with a problem which comes under his department and which is related to vote 127 in the estimates of the Department of Fisheries.

The problem I wish to bring to the attention of the minister and to hon. members of the house concerns the application of certain regulations for the conservation of salmon as these regulations are applied in certain parts of my riding. I should like to make it quite clear at once that I am not criticizing the department or the departmental officials, because I understand that the purpose of these regulations is to conserve the salmon fishery and that is a worthy object. I also want to make it plain that I realize that the

officials have been very lenient in the way they have tried to apply these regulations. However, I should like to point out that, despite all their efforts in this regard, the effect of these regulations is to cause a great deal of hardship to certain salmon fishermen in my riding.

The way in which these regulations are applied is as follows. As hon. members know, the coastline of Newfoundland has numerous bays, and a line is drawn across each bay at a point where the bay is five miles in width. Outside this line fishermen are permitted to put out their nets and fish without interruption, but inside this line the fishermen are required every Saturday night to go out, tie up their nets and keep them tied up until Monday morning. Now, Mr. Chairman, that is unfair to fishermen in adjacent communities, because those who may be just a few yards outside this dividing line can fish during the week end while those inside of the line are not permitted to do so. That is one aspect of the regulations which causes a great deal of discrimination between fishermen in the various settlements within the same general area.

There are other and more serious aspects to it than that. It is very often impossible to get out on a Saturday evening to tie up these nets because weather conditions will not permit. When the fishermen do get out and tie them up, and leave them tied up in long bundles over the week end, whether there is a storm or not they are subject to the action of the tides. As a result the twine in these nets rub and chafe against each other, which causes a great deal of damage to the net itself and involves a great deal of expense by way of repairs and maintenance. Also, should a storm occur over the week end while these nets are in this bundled up condition, they accumulate a great deal of kelp and driftwood which makes it impossible for the fishermen to use their nets on Monday even if they can get out to attend to them. Therefore on the Monday they must take their nets in and spend two or three days cleaning them out, which means that their whole week's fishing is lost.

Mr. Aiken: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Carter: Yes.

Mr. Aiken: Did I understand the hon. member to say in introducing his remarks that he has no criticism of the minister?

Mr. Carter: No, I am not criticizing the minister.

An hon. Member: Then why are you talking?