

shipping wheat through port of Churchill; the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen)—Environmental Affairs—Request for funds for Fraser Valley flood control program.

[Translation]

Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, I seek the unanimous consent of the House to revert to routine proceedings so I can present a report.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

And the House having reverted to motions:

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Tenth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in both official languages—Mr. Comtois.

[English]

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Seventh report of Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments—Mr. McCleave.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

MEASURE TO ADD NEW CLASS OF INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT

The House resumed, from Monday, December 15, 1975, consideration of Bill C-69, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been some discussions, although not extensive, on the basis of which I wonder if the House would not be interested in taking some of the votes tonight. I refer to the recorded votes which have been deferred. I think there are three or four already which have been deferred, and there might be others. My suggestion would be that at 9.15 tonight we interrupt our proceedings, have a 15-minute bell and then take the

Unemployment Insurance Act

recorded votes on all motions the divisions on which have been deferred up to that time.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I agree with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and I believe the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) has much the same view.

Mr. Alexander: Speaking on the suggestion made by both hon. gentlemen, we on this side of the House certainly go along with it. I think it is necessary to get on with the business of the House. It appears that a 15-minute bell will be satisfactory.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): It is so ordered.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned the debate on this bill yesterday I was discussing the clause to repeal section 28 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Since that time I have had some discussion with a number of people regarding the effects of retaining or removing this section. I should like to clarify a point which I made last night regarding the difference between the operation of UIC in an urban area and its operation in a rural area. The indication is that the time it takes to process claims from an urban area, and the time it takes to process them in a rural area, differs considerably, to the detriment of those in the rural area.

I also mentioned that this section in the act had not been implemented in my area to any great extent, a fact which I confirmed in discussions with the district officers in my area. The reason that they give is simply that if it were applied and a claimant was given this three-week advance payment, there might be considerable delay in making regular payments at a later time. The minister was kind enough to send me a note stating some of the reasons it was desirable to remove this section from the act.

In my opinion, it is unfortunate for members of the House, and is probably a matter which should be brought to the attention of the chairmen of the committees of the House, that this matter received very little discussion in the committees, as is apparent when one looks over the proceedings of the committees. In discussing the matter with one of the members of the committee—to be specific, with the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander)—I found that at the time this bill was discussed, the committee members had a number of documents indicating how many people had drawn benefits under this section and indicating the effects of that. The documents indicated also—this has been brought to my attention by the minister—that the results appear to be detrimental rather than advantageous.

● (1700)

One of the reasons this has happened is that jobs are not very plentiful, particularly in areas where there is a large amount of unemployment of a temporary nature and