

you took St. John's and drew a line around that, which has been done, the unemployment rate there is going to be much lower than 11.5 per cent. Under the new legislation, if it is 11.5 per cent people require 14 weeks. So, it is a sure bet that if you live in St. John's or around there, you are going to require much more than 14 weeks because the unemployment rate has to be less than 11.5 per cent. Therefore, his argument does not hold.

The entire Avalon Peninsula, by the hon. member's admission, was dipping below 11.5 per cent and that is why the requirement was 16 weeks this past year in certain months because the average is for 3 months in a row. Then the next month came along and it was up a little bit above 11.5 per cent. All of a sudden, that was averaged out for three months and his district was back to requiring 10 weeks. According to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, it was around 11.5 per cent and that is why he has had the problem in the entire Avalon Peninsula. With this new map a line is drawn around the city of St. John's. Do you really believe that the unemployment rate in St. John's is going to be higher than the unemployment rate in the Avalon Peninsula? That is ridiculous.

When you look at unemployment rates, you cannot take the Statistics Canada rates. The unemployment rate in the city of St. John's last month was 12.9 per cent, but that is not the adjusted rate used by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

What is the government now doing with the rest of the province? Well, it has drawn a line that goes between Sunnyside and Swift Current. Come-by-Chance is in the middle. If you come from Come-by-Chance you don't know where you are. You could be either in 10 weeks or 13 weeks. The line is drawn somewhere down the middle. Then it goes up through Newfoundland and passes between Philips Head and Northern Arm. If you live in Philips Head, 10 weeks for sure. If you live in Northern Arm, I'll bet you they are going to need 13. What if you live along the road? There are seven houses on that road. You know yourself, Madam Speaker, that they are all going to change their postal address to Philips Head.

**Mr. Reid:** What an aspersion to make.

**Mr. Baker:** Why not?

**Mr. Reid:** People don't do that.

### *Supply*

**Mr. Baker:** Now, here's where we have a problem. The hon. member now is going to learn something. This new bill would not be so bad if people lived where they worked. If you work where you live, you can draw some lines. But in Newfoundland if you work in the woods, you do not live in the woods. If you work on the CN boats, you do not live on the CN boats. Your mail does not come to the CN boat. If you work on a lake boat, your mail does not come to the lake boat. If you work in the woods in Labrador, your mail does not come to the woods in Labrador.

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A standard work crew working this past year in Millertown, central Newfoundland, with the contractors got 13 weeks work. Suppose one man goes home to Flat Rock, another man goes home to Bonavista. The man in Flat Rock cannot collect his unemployment insurance, but the man in Bonavista can. If he is from Philips Head, as I just pointed out, or on the road between Philips Head and Northern Arm, what do you think he is going to do? He has worked in the woods next to a man who lives down the road. He does not qualify for unemployment insurance to feed his family, but the other man does. He would have to be crazy not to change his postal address. Of course he is going to change his postal address.

If you continue on along the line, Madam Speaker, you will see what the problems are that are being created. In a province like Newfoundland people do not normally live where they work. I do not know many people who live on the Funk Islands. I do not know many people who live 200 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Mr. Simmons:** But they work out there.

**Mr. Baker:** They work out there. And when they come home they do not all live in the same place. They live in various places. This year in this part of the country when the lake boats were hiring and laying off, all of those 400 Newfoundlanders went home, and they went home to various places around Newfoundland and Labrador. That is why this bill cannot work in a province like Newfoundland.

When we had the present legislation of 11.5 per cent, if the unemployment rate dropped below that, you required more than 10 weeks. It never dropped below that in the high unemployment areas. But now we are into 15 per cent and there are all kinds of areas carved out by the government in which the unemployment rate