

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you would tell the members of the committee just what you are doing in respect to merchant seamen in your department right now.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, we have at the moment no direct connection with merchant seamen as such. When the Canadian ships were being placed under British registry there was a proposal submitted to the department that we work out with the Department of Transport, a rehabilitation program for displaced merchant seamen. As you have heard, that has not materialized. The decision now is that any merchant seaman who is displaced from employment because his ship is sold or placed under British registry may apply for training as an unemployed person in Canada. I will explain the operation of this provision for training.

Under the Vocational Training Coordination Act there are four federal-provincial agreements; one is known as the Vocational Training Agreement under which are operated seven different types of training. One schedule, commonly called schedule M, governs training for unemployed persons. It is under this schedule that these men may obtain training.

Unfortunately the schedule is not in operation in all provinces. Newfoundland does not operate under this schedule, nor does Prince Edward Island. In Ontario the only provision is for people who are disabled.

The CHAIRMAN: As soon as the division is over, we will return.

Mr. BENNETT: The pension bill may be called immediately afterwards.

The CHAIRMAN: If the pension bill is called afterwards we will resume after the completion of the pension bill.

. . . The committee adjourned for a division in the House.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. We will hear from Mr. Crawford now. He was just nicely started when the division bell rang.

Will you please take up more or less where you left off, Mr. Crawford. You will have to review what you had said briefly.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I was telling you that schedule M is the schedule under the vocational training agreement which now applies to merchant seamen displaced from employment because of either sale of their ship or transfer to British registry. In effect it means this: if any merchant seaman who is out of employment and registers with the Unemployment Insurance Commission for a job and there is no job available, he may be referred by the Commission for training under schedule M in any suitable occupation. I said that in the provinces of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island schedule M is not in effect. In the province of Ontario schedule M applies, at the moment, only to disabled persons. In the other provinces special classes are operated and unemployed persons are referred to any available source of training. They may be trained in private or public operated schools, or professional or technical institutes, or in apprenticeship or on the job. The length of the training under that schedule is limited to twelve months, and if the trainee is in receipt of unemployment insurance benefit that benefit continues during the period of his training. If his period of entitlement expires before the period of training is ended, he may then be placed on training allowances which vary in each province. They are not fixed by the Government of Canada. In the province of British Columbia no allowance is now being paid, but in the other provinces the allowance varies from \$9 a week up to about \$20 a week, or a little less, which is approximately the same as the U.I.C. benefit.

I think I have said all that I should at the moment. There will probably be questions.