

arrive. To suggest that jobs are not being created is not correct.

The area of apprenticeship is one in which there could be improvement. Although this is an area of education which primarily comes under the jurisdiction of the provinces, the programs could be improved by additional funding.

The facts are that hundreds of millions of dollars are available for the creation of new jobs and that young people are being trained for the work force. This is more than tokenism.

I welcome the minister's initiative in bringing the bill forward at this time and. I am particularly pleased with the changes to the regulations. I commend to his attention the views I have expressed about the difficulties of balancing service with control, and I say, with respect, that something should be done about vacation pay.

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak for a few moments about the very important extension of the principle of the variable entrance requirements to the province of New Brunswick. There are some areas where this important principle could be improved and, after a few brief remarks, I shall make some recommendations to the minister on how to bring about this improvement.

The variable entrance requirements extended to June, 1982, by this bill confer a benefit on the province of New Brunswick. The benefit is measured with respect to the areas where the ten-week rule applies. Our experience has shown that the increase in demand for social service benefits in these areas has been less dramatic than in areas where the 14-week rule applies. This has resulted in a smaller drain on the funds that are available for social service benefits in the province of New Brunswick.

● (1710)

People who live in the areas where the ten-week rule applies receive the benefit of having greater assistance available to them sooner for the sustenance of their families and the provision of necessities. When people find themselves in the unfortunate position of having to rely on unemployment insurance benefits, I think it is important that those benefits should be conferred upon them as efficiently and as promptly as possible.

New Brunswick has a resource-based economy which is punctuated by seasonal employment and by industrialization that has advanced in recent years quite dramatically, but still does not fully challenge the capability of the labour force. Federal government policies enacted in the national interest have an immediate impact on New Brunswick because of its resource-based economy. Policies related to restraint, while necessary, as well as policies that restrict credit and policies that impose tight money, have negative effects on the economy of New Brunswick, and that economy is very slow to recover from them. Consequently, the variable entrance requirements

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are very necessary and an important measure for that province.

Many people who do not receive this benefit are treated unjustly in New Brunswick, because the method of identifying areas to receive the benefits of the variable entrance requirements fracture and divide the areas of high unemployment along administrative rather than economic lines. As an example, in the county of Madawaska, a work force composed of women travels to the county of Restigouche to assist in harvesting crops, in particular picking potatoes in the hot sun. This is done for very little pay. These women do not receive the benefit of the ten-week entrance requirement, while their co-workers who come from Restigouche county do receive that benefit. These people are very hard working. They travel not only to Restigouche county, but also to Ontario where they have engaged in picking tomatoes. Because they happen to live in Madawaska county, they have to meet the 14-week rule while their co-workers who live in Restigouche county have only the ten-week rule to meet. This is a division that is based upon administrative difficulties in the department, the location of unemployment insurance offices and districts, and not upon an economic basis.

In the Doaktown area in central New Brunswick we have great activity in lumber mills, lumber yards, and in woods work. Workers in these plants and places working side by side whose kids go to the same schools, who worship in the same churches and buy their groceries in the same country store, are treated differently. The workers who live in Northumberland county have to meet the ten-week rule. But those who live in the same general community with the same economic conditions, but who are on the York county side of the line, have the 14-week rule to meet. This is a basic unfairness.

Again, in terms of time, fishermen in our fishing villages along the coast may enter the program under the ten-week rule. But because that fishing village might be located in the same district as one of our principal cities, in a month's time an increase in employment in the city may change the statistics with no real change in the village or the economy of the village. This can find the son of the fisherman having to meet the 14-week rule. So we have a division in the same family in the same house.

This is the type of hardship which is created by this artificial type of zoning within the province. I am speaking about the need for more flexibility in drawing the guidelines, and relating them to economic factors rather than administrative ones.

My recommendation to the minister, and I make it most sincerely, is that he ask his senior staff to address the question of a better method of identifying the economic areas to which the variable entrance requirements will apply. I am certainly prepared to give him any assistance I can and I believe the minister of social services for the province of New Brunswick will only be too glad to share his records also.

My first recommendation, therefore, is that we address this problem of zoning and attempt to identify the economic pockets of high unemployment more reliably.