

fairly applied for all Canadians I would not have any objection to support it.

However, Mr. Speaker, we realize that because of some geographic divisions some people and some underprivileged areas of the country are completely deprived of the income they require to live, of rights to which they are entitled. Owing to the magic of some geographical line, the residents of a given village might be exempted from some provisions of this bill when a few miles further other people just as underprivileged would be subject to regulations imposing severe financial and moral hardships, because those people will not be able to find employment.

Mr. Speaker, I have before me a document dated June 1978 and published by the Department of Manpower and Immigration which says that the official unemployment rate in the Charlevoix riding is 23.4 per cent. This rate has been determined by manpower and immigration officials to calculate the budget for the Charlevoix riding under the Canada Works program and the Young Canada Works program.

Mr. Speaker, 23.4 per cent is the official rate established by Manpower Canada when we know full well that the rate does not take into account welfare recipients who are not included in statistics of unemployment or manpower offices.

Mr. Speaker, I checked today with the offices of Manpower Canada in my riding and I was informed that in December unemployment in Charlevoix, including welfare recipients, reaches 42 per cent. But because of an imaginary line somewhere along the St. Lawrence River, three-fifths of Charlevoix riding are included in metropolitan Quebec where you find cities with an unemployment rate around 5 per cent or 6 per cent. This is why, Mr. Speaker, my riding has an effective unemployment rate of 9.5 per cent when the actual and official rate as established by the department is 23.4 per cent.

Well, Mr. Speaker, a majority of my colleagues are from urban constituencies where the unemployment rates can be high and the people also are faced with property problems, but very few members here, outside my colleagues from the Atlantic region and eastern Quebec, really know what it is to live in an area where the unemployment rate may be as high as 20 per cent.

When we suggest it is not possible for an individual to find work for more than ten weeks, this is something other members from more affluent areas cannot get themselves to understand. Apparently they do not realize that in areas where the tourist trade is the only industry, the season extends from June 15 to September 15. Apparently they cannot understand fishing clubs are only open from June 24 to September 3, which can only give some nine work weeks. My colleagues do not seem to realize that even if people make five job inquiries a week by visiting in some particular village the two garages, the two groceries and the clothier or any other office where they might find employment, even if they repeat this 40 times or

during 40 weeks, they will not find enough work to last for more than 12 weeks in a year.

And now we are dealing with Bill C-14. Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest all the changes are acceptable in principle, because all the unemployed support the allocation of more funds to job creation, which is the specific aim of this legislation. However, Mr. Speaker, in the extremely underprivileged areas, particular measures are absolutely essential for the people to live decently. And to meet that concern to some extent, a special clause was introduced for areas with unemployment rates above the 11.5 per cent mark. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the following change has been made in clause 7(i) of this bill:

(i) establishing regions appropriate for the purpose of applying subsections 17(5) and (6) and section 35 and delineating boundaries thereof, based on the boundaries of the regions used by Statistics Canada in relation to its labour force survey;

It is because of this, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot support the bill in its present form. The government seems to be delineating areas without checking on the spot the effects that this will have. Those responsible will probably never have the opportunity to visit these areas or alleviate the human tragedies that their decision will cause.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall the anguish of Sir Cyril Radcliffe when Lord Mountbatten asked him to divide the Indian empire between what is now India and Pakistan. Sir Cyril Radcliffe was very concerned about the situation and very unhappy about having to do what was asked of him, but I have the impression that we are now faced with a blind administration which is saying: The Saguenay river goes through here and it will be a good place to put a boundary. No one thinks about the chain reaction that this can provoke in a specific area where people are too poor to fight and to look for more work.

Mr. Speaker, the major employer in my constituency is the Canada Works program, and every year, 600 to 700 jobs can be created in the area. This is an excellent program, and I must say that the people have learned to depend on it to improve their economic situation. However, there are certain rules for programs such as Canada Works. For instance, if someone worked last year on a given project, he is not entitled to work on another project this year. Now, people will be left without a job for 52 weeks. They will never again be able to qualify as former applicants or newcomers and be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make my colleagues aware of this type of day to day reality, of the serious problems that confront the underprivileged. Those are the concerns that I wanted to communicate to my fellow members. Perhaps we could ask Statistics Canada for example to refine its economic regions, to increase them so that the statistical data can correspond more closely to reality.