

Government Orders

were told today that reducing the benefits from 60 to 57 per cent is only a 3 per cent cut, but this is not true. If the calculations are made it will be found that a cut of \$15 dollars on \$285 is a cut of 5 per cent. For a bread winner with a wife and four children, a loss of \$60 a month is not negligible.

Today I am fighting. I am not in revolt against my government; I am fighting for the workers of Abitibi, the men and women of my riding. Three cheers for the 40 just causes that were added in bill C-113. However, everyone knows these causes have been accepted for the last 8 to 10 years in the employment centres of Abitibi; these are not new.

I am happy that the Minister for Employment and Immigration added those to the eight others. I agree entirely, but I talked to people about this Bill C-113. I went back home to Abitibi and consulted them on Friday, Saturday and Sunday before coming back to Ottawa. I wish to say to those people at home today listening to me, to the miners and workers, to the people at James Bay, that when I vote against that bill this evening. I will not be voting against the government, but rather for the people back home, for the working men and women.

When you read paragraph 18(n), "such other reasonable circumstances as are prescribed", you know the door is opened for any amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act, any day, any time. I am not rebelling against my government.

Do you know that if tonight I were to decide to quit after the vote as of April 4, I would not be entitled to unemployment insurance? And do you know why? Insubordination to the Department of Employment and Immigration. I would not be entitled to benefits.

We are in this House to defend our people. We are here to find solutions with the other parties as well as with my Conservative colleagues. I am a supporter of the Prime Minister. But today I am not rebelling. I am only trying to find a solution as I indicated on January 22 in a letter to the hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration. I said: "I urge you to amend Bill C-105, now C-113, to make changes by simply abolishing clauses regarding eligibility". I was asking him to forgo the proposed

reduction from 60 to 57 per cent of the unemployment insurance rates.

People have to be consulted, workers have to be consulted.

Do not forget that this bill will attack low-income earners, those who earn less than \$6.75 an hour and those who work in the big areas.

I am sorry but I cannot vote for a bill such as this. I have many friends in the government, in the party in office—

An hon. member: You will have less.

Mr. Saint-Julien: Maybe I will have less, as my colleague is saying here tonight. Maybe I will have less tonight. But when I go back to my riding, my hon. friend, I will be less stupid than some members in this House. I will go back home with pride because I am defending the workers of Canada. I am not ashamed to be a Conservative member of Parliament.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 6.45 o'clock p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 78(3), it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the second reading stage of the bill now before the House.

The question is on the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Mr. Speaker: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the members.