

TABLE 1¹⁸
BENEFIT STRUCTURE—*concl'd.*

Type	Identification	Eligibility	Duration	Rate	Financing
	Retirement	Same as phase 1	Same as phase 1 but no waiting period	Same as phase 1	Private sector but experience rating for employer not applicable.

Earnings of 25% of benefit rate allowed in phases 2 to 5.
No earnings allowed in waiting periods or in Sickness and Maternity.
Earnings ignored in phase 1 and Retirement.
Maximum benefit is \$100 per week in all phases.

Determination of Unemployment Rate

- (a)—Based on national annual average.
(b)—Seasonally adjusted three month moving average.
(c)—Seasonally unadjusted—12 month moving average for the region.

¹⁸White Paper entitled 'Unemployment Insurance in the 70's' pp. 34-35.

2. Claimant assistance would be provided by the UIC as it is the point of first contact for persons experiencing an interruption of earnings. The claimant, whether he is eligible or not for monetary benefits could therefore receive information regarding the most useful avenues of assistance.

3. The claimant whose interruption of earnings is due to a lay-off, would enter at one of two points of a five-phase benefit route.

(a) the details of the monetary benefit structure for these 5 phases are set forth in Table I of the White Paper which is reproduced below.

(b) the proposed level of benefits rate would be 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of earnings to a maximum of \$100 per week in phases 1 and 2; from the latter stages of phase 3 on, the rate increase to 75% of earnings for claimants with dependents, with the \$100 per week maximum applicable in all cases.

(c) the duration of benefits is fixed at 3 weeks for phase 1; from 8 to 12 weeks in phase 2; from 10 to 18 weeks in phase 3, depending on the national unemployment rate; in phase 4 it varies from 2 to 18 weeks for those with a labour force attachment of more than 20 weeks according to the length of this attachment; and in phase 5 from 0 to 18 weeks according to the margin by which the regional unemployment rate exceeds the national unemployment rate. The duration of benefit entitlement from all phases is limited to 51 weeks.

4.(a) The claimant whose interruption of earnings is due to sickness, if his labour force attachment is over 20 weeks in the last 50 weeks, receives benefits of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of earnings to a maximum of \$100 for up to 15 weeks after a 2-week waiting period.

4.(b) The claimant whose interruption of earnings is due to pregnancy and whose attachment to the labour force constitutes at least 20 weeks in the last 52 weeks is entitled, after a two-week waiting period, to benefits of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of earnings to a maximum of \$100 for 9 weeks before and 6 weeks after confinement.

5. The claimant whose interruption of earnings is due to retirement and whose attachment to the labour force is 20 weeks or more in the last 52 weeks is entitled without any waiting period to benefits of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of earnings to a maximum of \$100 for 3 weeks.

6. Claimant assistance benefits or interviews will take place at least twice in the benefit stream.

7. In addition to the various benefits provided by UIC, the claimant would be made familiar with available programs at all levels of government as well as private programs of possible assistance to him.

In almost all these points, the Committee hearings have generated the expression of a diversity of views.

1. Types of Benefit

One of the often mentioned points had to do with the reassessment of the role of UIC under the new plan. Some witnesses who were in sympathy with the benefits as described in the White Paper questioned whether the UIC was the proper channel through which these benefits might be provided. While the case for coordination was made by most witnesses, the attempt of the White Paper to integrate many of these benefits and services around UIC was questioned. However, under questioning, witnesses revealed that such preferences as to the location of these services were of a subsidiary nature and that their objections to a UIC-centered system were not due to any real concern about effectiveness.