

Unemployment Assistance

Mr. Martin: We are waiting.

Mr. Churchill: The minister is waiting for the figures from them?

Mr. Martin: Waiting for their claims to come in.

Mrs. Fairclough: I take it the minister says some of the provinces do not have proper reporting systems or means of gathering this information. One more thing they have to do is put in a system of accounting which will give them those figures quickly and accurately.

Mr. Bell: When the minister on second reading gave the figures of the total unemployed employables in each of the provinces I noticed that the figures for the maritimes seemed to be proportionately high again. These totals as such do not give me any sort of relative comparison. I know there is trouble with unemployment in the maritimes on a scale that is far greater than anywhere else in Canada. The hard core that has been mentioned here is certainly to be found down there if it exists anywhere. I know there is a sectional aspect to it. The minister said the per capita percentage-wise figures would be available. Before this clause carries I should like to know whether they can be made available and when they will be made available.

Mr. Martin: Before we conclude this bill I shall try to get them. It is a matter of calculation.

Mr. Bell: I would prefer to have the section held over, because it means nothing to me to have figures as such. I had a speech ready; I was going to speak on the resolution stage and on second reading. I realize the minister made an appeal that perhaps we should not waste any extra time on this. Frankly I should like to get those percentage figures, because when we take the last issue of the *Labour Gazette* we learn that the maritime provinces is the only section of Canada that this year has surpassed the previous year's unemployment figures. That means only one thing to me, namely that the statement the minister made a few minutes ago about the high level of employment in Canada is not general. It does not apply to the Atlantic provinces. I think this section should stand.

Mr. Martin: That applies to your province.

Mr. Pallett: Can the minister tell the committee, if all the provinces sign the agreements, how much of the actual cost of relief, and that is exactly what it is, would be paid by this government? What percentage of the total cost would it be? Would it be 5 per cent of the total cost, 10 per cent or 11 per cent? What percentage of the total bill would it be? I do not want the minister to talk about

percentages of contribution, or a percentage over .45, but what percentage of the amount paid by the municipalities and paid by the provinces would be paid by the dominion? In other words, if the total relief bill is \$100, how many dollars would the dominion contribute?

Mr. Martin: We cannot tell that figure because we do not know what the rates will be. They will be fixed by the province and the municipality, or both combined. The provinces have not given that figure, except in the case of British Columbia and Newfoundland. They are the only ones that know the rate. For instance, in the case of Newfoundland, if we take the month of February, 1955, the province is paying \$203,000 and the federal government would pay \$101,000. With regard to the other provinces, excluding British Columbia, we do not know what the rate is going to be; we have not received their reimbursement claims yet.

Mr. Pallett: Mr. Chairman, that figure, quite unintentionally I am sure, is quite misleading. The minister said the province of Newfoundland is paying \$203,000 and the dominion is therefore paying \$101,000. What is the total relief bill? The figure of \$203,000 represents only the amount over .45 per cent. What is the total bill for the other provinces?

Mr. Martin: It would be the difference between .45 and zero, which is about half of one per cent.

Mr. Pallett: It would be about another \$203,000. Therefore, in effect, in Newfoundland you are paying half of \$203,000. Their bill, as submitted to you, is about half what they are paying. Therefore you are paying about 25 per cent of their bill. I just wish to put that on the record as an indication of what the government is paying so there will not be any misunderstanding.

Mr. Martin: The province of British Columbia would have agreed to pay 40 per cent, and one other province recommended 60 per cent. We pay 50 per cent.

Mr. Pallett: Actually, the minister continues to say this government are paying 50 per cent. I wish to point out to the committee that they are not paying 50 per cent of the relief bill. In many instances they are not paying 25 per cent or even 15 per cent. This continual reiteration of 50 per cent is not correct. The dominion government are paying 50 per cent of—

Mr. Martin: It is 50 per cent of over .45. Obviously, we are paying nothing toward that portion from zero to .45. What the amount from zero to .45 is I do not know.