

*Employment and Immigration*

du-Loup, where Mr. Jean-Rock Laroche, officer Bélanger—she mentions all that here and then concludes her letter by saying:

I would have another 20 names to mention, but having already taken enough of your time, I will stop here. It is almost discouraging to go over all those addresses without any prospect of work yet.

So, with all those facts, the executive management of the Unemployment Insurance Commission is still forcing public servants administering local offices to make people spend money to look for work. I have another case here. An ambitious young man wanted to work at any cost. He had already paid us several visits. I told him: My boy, one way perhaps to wake up a couple of them would be to write the Minister of Labour in Ottawa. Contact the Quebec minister and various government officials. We are going to see their response. Here it is.

Someone, a senior official in the Rivière-du-Loup Manpower Centre, sent him the following reply:

The recruiting of workers for this project—

He wanted to work in the James Bay area.

—has been referred to us for a reply.

Workers for this project are recruited through the Quebec manpower centres and not our Department. We therefore suggest that you communicate with the Cabano office, where you will obtain all the required information.

This man was writing to the Director of Manpower, and he was writing directly to the then minister of manpower (Mr. Andras), and this is the reply that he received:

Mr. Robert Andras, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, has asked me to reply to your letter. I am sure that you will understand that it is your own Canada Manpower Centre which is in the best position to help you. It is only at CMC that you will find people able to advise and help you.

The letter closes in saying:

I strongly advise you to remain in close contact with your Canada Manpower Centre in Rivière-du-Loup. The Manager has assured me that he and his staff will do everything possible to help you, and I hope that their efforts will soon bring positive results.

He was in regular contact with the people of the Rivière-du-Loup-Montmagny-Cabano Manpower Centre.

Here is another letter. This again was written in the hope of getting work in the James Bay area. The reply was as follows:

You can rest assured, sir, that we are giving very particular attention to your case and that we shall communicate with you as soon as a position that could interest you becomes open.

This letter was signed by Yvon Bergeron, Recruiting Coordinator for the James Bay Development.

I have another one here which has been sent directly by the Department of Labour in Ottawa and it is signed by an executive assistant. That man wanted to work at the James Bay project, in Labrador or any other place, he had no definite choice. He was readily available. He was prepared to go any place in this country to find a job. Here is the answer:

As this subject is under the responsibility of the Minister of Labour and Immigration, the Hon. Robert Andras. I took the initiative of forwarding your letter to his office so it will receive appropriate attention. I am convinced that they will communicate with you within a short time.

[Mr. Dionne (Kamouraska).]

I have here another answer from Mr. Boucher, manpower consultant. That letter has been sent from Rivière-du-Loup and it says:

However we will keep your request in our records and communicate with you if we hear of a suitable job opportunity . . .

● (1520)

I could read you similar letters for 20 minutes. I will not do it because I have many other things to tell you today. But I wanted to give you an idea about this matter, which I would call the job seeking nonsense at times when there is no employment or almost none in the area. Why compel the unemployed to spend money on taxis when he does not even have enough to begin with, just so he can get a written statement from an employer he has visited? That does not make any sense. Does Bill C-27 now being debated contain clauses with a view to preventing that kind of nonsense? The administrators of the unemployment insurance have no such guidelines, so it is a free-for-all.

I understand that and I will not criticize the civil servant of my region or any other for that matter. I have letters from just about everywhere. I have read some from the Bay of Chaleurs. I have one sent from Manitoba by a young woman, originally from Kamouraska. She was not entitled to unemployment insurance benefits because she had left her job as a secretary for the Department of National Health in an area where there was a lot of work, to find employment in Manitoba, where it was said that work was not easily available. They did not want to pay. Yet they ended up paying and on top of that the computer which usually gives so much trouble to the unemployed had been helpful to this young woman in this instance because the commission has paid the weekly reports that had been submitted. The commission had granted her a period of 15 weeks for rehabilitation and all the reports she had submitted had been requested after the amounts were paid, but she never paid it because she had no reason to do so.

I contacted the Unemployment Insurance Commission in Manitoba and all the correspondence had been written in English. They did not want it to be brought up before a board of referees because the director, a certain Mr. Boulton from Edmonton, had acknowledged that he would have to admit he had corresponded in English, a thing for which he apologized, by the way. So you have an example of what happens. And that in my opinion, is taking place all across Canada.

I am well aware of the problems of the area covered by the offices of Lévis, Rivière-du-Loup and Quebec City.

It happens very often that I have business there, on behalf of employees in the Portneuf area or elsewhere. I have an illustration here. I will not mention the name, because I am somewhat sorry for the gentleman. I am told he is ineligible. He is rather old, and he lived in Tourville, Ste. Perpétue, St. Pamphile. Those are the three villages around his home. I am told he is ineligible for an indefinite period starting from October 31, because it has been established he was not ready and available for work. We have hundreds of those letters.