

commission. However in the Hamilton area a certain employee upon reporting to the commission has been in the unfortunate position of having his payments delayed as long as three weeks from his reporting time through no cause other than because of slow processing. At one time in the Hamilton area employees were able to file their claims by mail on return to work. However, since February 4th they must report in person on a set date during their next period of lay-off. This has occurred particularly in the automobile industry because originally during the periods of unemployment a person was able to mail his claim for benefit upon returning to work. Now he is supposed to appear in person in order to draw his benefits during the next period of lay-off which could be up to three weeks from the time of the unemployment concerned.

As an example, the plant was closed from February 4th to February 11th in Hamilton. Men reported to the commission on the 5th and 6th by departments and they were told that they should not mail forms in any longer, but that they should report in person the next time the plant was closed. February 21st and 22nd were the dates given to report in the majority of cases, at which time they would be paid for the week of the 4th. Some employees mailed their slips anyway, and were sent a notice telling them that if there was a recurrence of mailing in their forms they would be penalized.

I have a sample of the notice. It reads as follows:

It is noted from the postmark on the Claimant's Weekly Report received from you for the week commencing February 3, 1957 that the form was mailed on February 11, 1957.

This is to advise you that the report must be completed and mailed not earlier than February 16, 1957 and not later than February 22, 1957.

In future we will have no alternative but to consider you not available for work for each day you are early or late in mailing the report to this office.

I think that it is contrary to the Unemployment Insurance Act which states that an employee must report immediately upon returning to work.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I think there is some misunderstanding in this because the direction for reporting which is given to every person reads in paragraph 35, as follows:

35. If you find a job that will last a week or more and which will prevent you reporting on your regular report day, fill in your report(s) and mail it to the local office on the Monday following the day on which you return to work. If you delay, benefit will not be paid.

That is the instruction. So, all those persons have to do is to fill in the form and mail it to the Hamilton office.

Mr. STARR: Was this not filed in accordance with the regulations? Is that the reason why this notice was sent to the employee?

Mr. MCGREGOR: If you would let me have it, I will check into the circumstances of the case.

Mr. STARR: There were only something like 400 of them involved. Those who are living out of town may still mail it in, yet it has been stated that those who are living in Hamilton must report in person. That is not the same procedure which is followed for instance in Windsor or Toronto. The privilege has been enjoyed in Hamilton up until February 4.

Mr. MCGREGOR: It is still in effect as far as our offices are concerned. I would be glad to look into the matter.

Mr. HAHN: According to the report which Mr. McGregor gave us it seems that the onus or responsibility is on the employee. I wonder what responsibility the employer has in respect to notifying the department that men are unemployed. I am thinking not only of the loggers and the construction men