

*Unemployment Insurance Act*

It has not been made clear what government policy is in respect of the recommendation of the Gill committee to include certain classes of employees now exempted. There is a great deal of apprehension, on the part of those people who fall within those categories enumerated in the act as being exempt from coverage, that they will be included without any government announcement as to acceptance of the Gill committee recommendation in this direction. I know of no government declaration to the contrary.

In view of the fact the government has introduced some amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act, it owes these people, who feel they are simply going to have their pockets picked for the purpose of offsetting losses, a declaration as to the Gill committee recommendations. The government should declare itself in respect of the inclusion of these people for coverage under the act, particularly when there is little possibility of their obtaining benefit. As long as such apprehension exists, since the Gill committee was established for the purpose of inquiring into the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Act, I suppose we are entitled to assume that the government has considered the recommendations and has not come to any conclusion.

To give the government the benefit of the doubt, I am sure it has considered these recommendations. There is no more opportune moment than now, when parliament is dealing with this act, for it to make its position known by saying it accepts the recommendations of the committee and, at the appropriate time, by order in council will include these people for coverage. If that is not the case, then conversely the government should say it does not agree with the recommendations, or that it has not made up its mind.

Because of the fact that with this change some people will be required to make contributions, with little likelihood of receiving benefits, the government owes it to them to declare itself in respect of at least this recommendation of the Gill committee, perhaps between now and the time the bill comes up for resumed consideration, when the minister will close the debate. Perhaps during that interval the government will consider the

thoughts I have expressed and make its intention known.

May I call it six o'clock?

**MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate have passed Bill S-33, an act respecting the Bonaventure and Gaspé Telephone Company, Limited, to which the concurrence of this house is desired; and also a message informing this house that the Senate have passed the following bills, without any amendment: Bill C-163, an act to implement a broadcasting policy for Canada, to amend the Radio Act in consequence thereof and to enact other consequential and related provisions; Bill C-192, an act to amend the Excise Act, and Bill C-191, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker I should like to ask the government house leader whether he can give some indication as to what will be considered tomorrow, Friday and Monday?

**Mr. Pennell:** Tomorrow we will continue with item 57 the second reading of Bill No. C-197, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act. Then we will call item 64, second reading of Bill No. C-202, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954. I hope that some time tomorrow I will be able to inform the several house leaders of the business for the rest of the week.

**Mr. Starr:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the house leader whether the votes taken on any of these items will be considered as votes of confidence.

**Mr. Pennell:** It is for the house to decide.

**Mr. Starr:** You mean there will be two votes on each bill?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It being six o'clock this house stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.