

there any more. So it respects the fact that our people have to work sometimes two or three different times a year, sometimes in two or three different jobs.

Standing up here and going on about the repeater provision and the hurt it is doing people is a sort of scaremongering based on nothing. It hurts people more than anything else. This legislation provides options. This legislation says we can do something. The member says that we are saying, "Let them find work". We are saying to people, "We will help you find work". That is the difference between the new legislation and the old legislation which says to people, "Here it is and that's it".

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, I do not think there was a question in that tirade of words of the hon. member.

Mr. Reid: No question. I don't want an answer.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): I would just say to the member that he has two things wrong. If his variable entrance requirement goes from 10 to 16 right now—

Mr. Reid: Right now.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): —he does not realize that the repeater provisions are already in effect in his riding.

Mr. Reid: Can you explain that?

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): I cannot explain it because it is the hardest thing in the world to understand. I can do it by using as an example the southern end of Nova Scotia. Right now the variable entrance requirement is based on the unemployment rate in an economic region. For instance, because of that, 11 weeks are necessary under the variable entrance requirement. That is the VER. We are asking the government to give Canadians a chance, to allow this motion to go through so that we can continue the study on this disastrous bill.

The second thing that the hon. member does not seem to realize is that in an area like southern Nova Scotia we have repeaters in the same year, given the fact that that is what the repeater provision was in the past. With that repeater provision a repeater is penalized six weeks for

being a repeater. I agree with the minister's aim to do away with the repeater, but the member does not realize that, if this bill passes, the claimant who needed 17 weeks to qualify last year will get 10 weeks less of benefits. It is the amount of benefits they will receive that is reduced. Look at it, it is the amount of benefits.

Maybe Bell Island will get something from heaven or this government, I do not know, strange things happen with this government and some people. But I am telling the hon. member that this is an economic take-away from communities of \$1,000 per claimant. I figured it out to be about \$1,000 per claimant and that comes to big numbers. I said that in debate and you could probably find it in the debate of June 21. I think it is well over \$50 million that is taken out of the communities in Nova Scotia because of the reduction of the number of benefit weeks. Look at what the minister prepared.

The member may stand up and pontificate about how good this legislation is but I would like to hear how the people in his area have been affected in a year's time. If the unemployment rate in an area is over 15 per cent they are not even affected by the legislation, because it stays the same. So the member is comparing apples and oranges over there, but the effect of this legislation will be apparent to most Canadians.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Madam Speaker, as the member for the riding of Restigouche—Chaleur, I want to point out that the unemployment rate is very high in my riding as well. I am astonished when I hear members on the government side saying they will not institute temporary measures, pending a decision by the other place on Bill C-21.

As a result of the proposed changes in the unemployment insurance program, the Atlantic provinces will lose \$260 million in benefits, which breaks down as follows: \$51 million in Newfoundland; \$32 million in Prince Edward Island; \$29 million in Nova Scotia and \$148 million in New Brunswick. There is no guarantee that this money will be returned to and spent in those provinces.