

*Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971*

submit there should be no question of any infringement of the right of the Crown to expend public funds.

The other matter Your Honour should consider is this. Even if it is determined that, in the strict legal sense, yes, perhaps this does infringe upon what you might call the financial initiative of the Crown, I think in this day and age account should be taken of the fact that people who have complaints, who have experienced difficulties with, and been disadvantaged by, the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in its administration and dispensing of money to those people who contributed the funds in the first place, should have some avenue that enables them to come before parliament with their complaints instead of having to go to this unknown thing called the Crown. Further, I submit that private members representing citizens all across the land should have the opportunity to raise such complaints and grievances in a formal way by proposing they be corrected through the introduction of a bill.

An interesting note—and this is the last of the series of ten bills dealing with people who have been disadvantaged—is that not a single member of the government has in any way objected to the procedure on these bills. They have advanced no procedural arguments against them. In this regard, because the government is sensitive to these matters and to the disadvantages suffered by claimants through delay and so on, I suggest the silence of the government means it consents to the introduction of these bills.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to reinforce the argument advanced in support of these bills. As an individual member I am not of the opinion that we are infringing the prerogative of the Crown to raise money or to distribute money by means of taxation. The Crown has responsibility for moneys that are deposited in the fund and for how they are spent, but this does not upset the balance of ways and means. If this bill were a government measure, I suggest it would not be preceded by a resolution.

For this reason, I hope Your Honour does not make the decision that measures relating to moneys that are on deposit—I am thinking of the Canada Pension Plan, annuity plans and similar schemes in which the government has money on deposit—should be considered as in the same class as a taxation or revenue measure.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank hon. members who have participated in the procedural debate. I shall have an opportunity later today or perhaps over the weekend to look at the arguments which have been advanced in support of each bill, and to review the bills from a procedural aspect, and without delay I shall indicate to hon. members which bills, if any, can be proposed to the House. Then hon. members can proceed further in light of the ruling that will be made at that time.

There is a late addition to the notices received under the name of the hon. member for Skeena. However, I do not have a copy of the bill. I would think that, although there is a notice, since there is no bill the matter cannot, of course, be put to the House at this time.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I was going to ask that the order stand in any event, Mr. Speaker, for the very reason that the bill is not yet fully complete.

\* \* \*

**TERRITORIAL SUPREME COURTS BILL****CHANGE IN NAMES OF COURTS OF YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for the Minister of Justice)** moved the first reading of Bill S-3 (from the Senate), to change the names of the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory and the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER SERIOUS INFLATION**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statements made this week by the governor of the Bank of Canada and the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission clearly warning Canadians that they must expect inflation in this country to rise considerably during the present year, would the Acting Prime Minister very briefly indicate to the House what steps the government is planning to take to stop this serious and continuing rise in the rate of inflation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has to take exception to a question that asks a minister or the government to make a statement as general as this. Even if the hon. member qualifies his question by suggesting that the list be brief or the enumeration be short, I would think a question such as this is not in order. The hon. member might like to rephrase his question and to put it in some other way for the consideration of the Chair.

• (1150)

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, then I would ask the Acting Prime Minister, in view of the statements made by these two gentlemen this week, is the government prepared to introduce any measures other than those already introduced to stop inflation from rising?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to the attention of hon. gentlemen that the rate of inflation in Canada in the last several months has been the lowest of any of the major industrial nations of the world. It will be the intention of the government to continue the expansion of the economy while containing inflation, and constant studies are under way from week to week with all agencies of the government to that end.

**Mr. Hees:** Another Paul Martin. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is this: In view of the nonanswer given by the