

Supply

● (1920)

In this day and age people tend to live up to their income on a month to month basis, or very close to that. It becomes very difficult, and a great hardship on many families, especially with children when, at the time when their income is already being reduced by at least 40 per cent, if not by more in many cases, they find the extra bite taken out. No one objects to paying their fair share of taxes based on their annual income, but it is an unnecessary hardship, I suggest, that that tax be deducted at the time of the year when they can least afford it. I will certainly welcome any assurance that the government will seriously consider making that kind of reform.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the proposition put forward by the hon. member would not be legal under the Income Tax Act, and therefore that is one reason we do not do it. I suppose there is also the practical reason that people have to pay their tax some time. It is a question of whether it is easier to take it on a monthly basis or in a lump sum at the end. Personally I find it a little easier when I am nicked each month, it does not seem to hurt as much, but that is a personal preference.

Mr. Kristiansen: Not when you do not have a pay cheque!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Chairman, I believe that I should first of all point out to the committee that there is only one representative of the official opposition present for a debate which is very important for all Canadians.

First, Mr. Chairman, I wish to congratulate the hon. minister and his officials for the opening in September of the new unemployment insurance office in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, in the Gaspé Peninsula. This area of northern Gaspé had been waiting for this office for many years and the claimants will no longer have to travel 100 miles or more to meet an official. Now that I have paid a few compliments, I would like to talk about some of the problems which exist in the Gaspé constituency. We should try together to find solutions.

I would like the hon. minister to note that some of the unemployed filed benefit claims in September and October and have yet to receive any benefits. It seems that there are more delays in Gaspé, even though there are some in the other unemployment insurance offices of my constituency such as Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Chandler. Can the minister ask the people in charge of those manpower centres to do their utmost so that the claimants can receive their benefits before Christmas?

Mr. Chairman, I would like to outline an abnormal situation at the Chandler arbitration board. This board is the only one in the Gaspé Peninsula. The next nearest is located in Rimouski in the lower St. Lawrence area. The claimants who appeal the decision of an official must travel 150 miles and those from the Magdalen Islands must take the plane to come to Chandler. In 1979-80, this board included one chairman and two

representatives each of labour and management. Some of the hearings have had to be cancelled because management or labour were not represented. For one hearing scheduled on a Wednesday, one of the management representatives is on holidays and the other is available, so notices to appear are sent. On the day of the hearing, the single management representative is sick and the board is therefore unable to sit. The hearing is cancelled or else a member of the nearest arbitration board located in Rimouski is called.

So, besides paying the salary of this board member we must pay for a 250-mile round trip which comes to 500 miles, and postpone the nine o'clock morning session to three or four o'clock in the afternoon. Just think of these poor claimants who must travel 100 or 150 miles, pay for their extra meals and sometimes even for their hotel rooms. It is unacceptable that a claimant who appeals to the arbitration board should make a trip just to find out there is no meeting. To correct this situation, Mr. Chairman, I recommend the appointment of additional representatives, one for the employees, one for the employers, and also a chairman. So the acting chairman is already appointed and so is the employees' representative. The employers' division has yet to appoint a representative, male or female. I requested that a woman be appointed to that arbitration board and I do not believe, Mr. Chairman, that the minister would object to the appointment of a woman on this arbitration board because she would be the only one in eastern Quebec.

Last week the last person was not yet appointed. So tonight I ask the minister to take the necessary action so as to make this arbitration board works properly in 1981 and in the future, that it is a board made up of two chairmen, three employers' representatives and three employees' representatives. Mr. Chairman, I think I would not accept in 1981 that the Chandler arbitration board meetings be cancelled again because there are not enough board members. If that should happen again after this warning, I believe that the department would have to pay for the extra travel expenses of claimants appealing to the arbitration board.

Now, I would like to say something about the community development projects program in Canada. In a letter which the minister sent to me on November 10, he stated:

On October 14, the Quebec government raised the following points with regard to the implementation of Canada community development projects in Quebec: the exclusion of specific organizations falling under the Intergovernmental Affairs Department Act, the exclusion of specific activities such as construction and those creating dependency and, finally, the consultation process.

Mr. Chairman, non-profit organizations in the Atlantic provinces are achieving very useful projects for the community, building houses and fishing shelters, and employers' associations in these provinces are not subject to construction regulations. In Quebec, construction work is subject to wages imposed by the labour department and the implementation