

Unemployment Assistance

On clause 7—*Regulations*.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This clause would appear to be weakly worded; as a matter of fact it is meaningless in its present form. It reads:

The governor in council may make regulations for the administration of this act and of agreements and for carrying their purposes and provisions into effect.

I think it is bad grammatically. Apparently it was an endeavour on the part of the draftsman to give power to draft regulations, but as it is worded I think it would require something in addition. What it means apparently is that the governor in council may make regulations for the administration of this act and of agreements entered into hereunder and for carrying the purposes of the act or the agreements into effect.

As it stands it is a rather meaningless clause. If what it means is that the governor in council may make regulations for the administration of the act, that is all right; or of agreements entered into in connection herewith for the purpose of carrying the provisions into effect. I think the minister should give consideration to rewording the clause, because as it stands now I do not see how you can make provisions about agreements.

Mr. Martin: All I can say is that I discussed this with the officials of the Department of Justice and they were satisfied that it was proper draftsmanship.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 8—*Payments under prior agreements*.

Mrs. Fairclough: Could the minister indicate what provinces are presently operating under agreements and how long they have been so operating?

Mr. Martin: Agreements have already been signed by Canada, on the one hand, and by the provinces, on the other, and this merely validates them.

Mrs. Fairclough: That is the purpose of the whole bill, so why was it necessary to set it out specifically? The agreements necessarily go back further than this, and obviously they cannot go back beyond July 1, 1955.

Mr. Martin: For these, but for the others it will be twelve months.

Mrs. Fairclough: Back twelve months?

Mr. Martin: In the case of a province where there is now an agreement there is retroactivity to July 1, 1955, except in the case of New Brunswick, where they wanted to go back only to January 1. In the case of the other five it was to July 1, 1955. In respect

of the other agreements, it will go back 12 months from the date of execution.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 9—*Report to parliament*.

Mr. Fulton: It seems to me that it is usual to provide a definite period after the end of the fiscal year within which such reports must be tabled, whereas this clause simply says:

As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year the minister shall lay before parliament a report of all proceedings under this act for that fiscal year.

Would it not be possible to put in a definite time limit?

Mr. Martin: It might be possible but it would not be desirable, for this reason. This provision applies to family allowances, old age assistance, disability allowances, blind persons allowances and so on. Particularly with regard to sharing legislation, we have to get accounts from the provinces. I am not going to suggest that they are dilatory, but there are occasions, and this is a practical necessity. We gave consideration to this, but we had the same discussion, as my hon. friend will remember, on the Old Age Assistance Act.

Mr. Fulton: What is the experience?

Mr. Martin: We have had some delays.

Mr. Fulton: Does it run into six months or a year?

Mr. Martin: We have had six months' delay. We have had one delay of seven months, getting in the claims.

Mr. Fulton: Has any difficulty been experienced in getting them within one year after the end of the fiscal year?

Mr. Martin: I do not recall any.

Clause agreed to.

Mr. Martin: Before we proceed, I wonder whether I might ask my colleague the Minister of National Defence to move:

That the bill be further amended by adding thereto the following schedules as schedule A and schedule B.

This is in accordance with the suggestion made earlier.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Campney moves:

That the bill be further amended by adding thereto the following schedules as schedule A and schedule B.

—it being understood by the committee of the whole that schedule A and schedule B are the agreements referred to by the minister earlier.

Amendment agreed to.