

utes to the debate. This is a matter of opinion. If we were to allow points of order with regard to different interpretations of, or opinion on, what is said, there would be little time left to members who had the floor. The hon. member did not make a specific attack; he was speaking in generalities, he has his own opinion and he is entitled to it.

**Mr. McCain:** In reply to that intervention, let me tell the hon. member something. They have a formula in place which no member of this House can figure out. Can the parliamentary secretary figure it out? Has he ever sat down with that formula in mind and tried to determine whether his constituency is getting its fair share of the funds available?

**Mr. Maine:** Yes, I have.

**Mr. McCain:** Well, in that case the hon. gentleman may be able to sit down and give us a lesson. The government has changed the regulations but the basis of the formulation cannot be substantiated.

**Mr. Maine:** Untrue!

**Mr. McCain:** What price is going to be paid, what plums are going to be passed out to Liberal constituencies through the distribution of wealth and various government programs? I see an example in the designation of districts. I want to start with one district in the province of Quebec. I want to congratulate the government because to the extent that I understand Quebec—I cannot claim to understand it all—a perfect example of a suitable district was carved out when the city of Quebec was regarded as one district because it lies in an area of seasonal unemployment, agriculture, seaway transportation and so on.

But let us turn to New Brunswick. Are we going to change the boundaries of the regions and thus grant a few favours? There are chances for changes in those regions. Let me explain why I say that. If we look at the Carleton-Charlotte constituency, we find that the southern half of that constituency is included in the city of Saint John. That is an area of high employment. Saint John is grouped with a seasonal, rural, small village and town area of the province of New Brunswick. When the unemployment rate in Saint John is averaged with the rate in the surrounding district, the level is brought up to the point where this bill would apply in full.

● (1222)

Why do I complain about that? Part of the city of Saint John is in my constituency, but so is the island of Grand Manan, and so are all the fishing communities on the shore of Charlotte county and on the other islands. If we were to count heads on Grand Manan today, we would probably find that unemployment in that area is somewhere between 20 per cent and as high as 40 per cent. However, that island is included in the same region as the city of Saint John. The government did not use the discretion in New Brunswick which it used in Quebec, and I wish the minister was here to hear this.

**Mr. Maine:** He will be back.

### *Unemployment Insurance Act*

**Mr. McCain:** Let us carry this a little further and go to the city of Fredericton and the region in which it is included. Included with the city of Fredericton are rural areas of York county and other areas nearby. What happens when this is done in a highhanded way without consideration for the nature of the region? The city of Fredericton again is an area which is blessed with a high employment rate, but the surrounding area is forest, agriculture, seasonal. If a person lived, for instance, in the community of Stanley in the county of York in the province of New Brunswick, that person would find himself without any of the privileges which special circumstances grant under this bill to seasonal employees. However, if he moved a few miles into Northumberland county or to the constituency of Northumberland-Miramichi, he would find another little community which has a source of employment common with the village of Stanley but, because they are ten miles apart and a district boundary comes between them, this person will get no unemployment insurance in Stanley while people in Boiestown will be as eligible as they ever were. This is unfair, and there is no way it can be supported.

On the boundary between York county and Carleton county there is a little village called Meductic. If a person lives north of the river in Meductic he is eligible, but if he walks or moves across the bridge, he is then in an area of high employment and seasonal employment and is not eligible for unemployment insurance. There is no way this type of bureaucratic division of a country without any consideration or knowledge of employment opportunities can be made by regulation.

That reminds me of a responsible individual in this House, the chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications. I think I have identified him. He spoke in support of this bill, and this is what he said:

Regulations can be implemented to make sure that no one suffers, and no one will suffer.

It was emphasized earlier that regulations have already been gazetted. I will not touch on that, but backbench and responsible members are relying upon regulations to be sure that their constituents are not hurt. The hon. member also said:

Every bill needs minor changes. That is done through regulations.

Every Canadian is entitled to know exactly where he stands and to equal treatment in this nation. This bill would discriminate among equals, and some will be much more "equal" than others. If this bill can be defended in the village of Meductic, in the village of Stanley or in a multitude of other places, in view of the way the province of Quebec has been handled, I would love hon. members opposite to campaign on that basis in the next election because they are going to have some explaining to do.

This bill is inequitable and unjust. It ignores all the democratic principles which I thought this House of Commons should espouse. This is pure and utter contempt for parliament. This House is asked to consider a bill. The bill goes to committee. It is considered by very hard working people who are dedicated to the welfare of the people who are involved with unemployment insurance, and they learn that the bill is already in effect because by regulation the major aspects of