

unemployment insurance and taking a course while the person in the next seat is not getting a penny.

This has nothing to do with income but with the way the lists are distributed. Currently, there are new rules for deciding who gets the manpower seat. The new rule is: first come, first served. For example, someone could be on that list for three years while another person might apply this year for a course because of his or her prospect for employment in that occupation. Although that person may need the course more than the one who has been on the list longer, the rules state that it is first come, first served.

What should happen in the case of unemployment insurance? I believe that if somebody qualified for unemployment insurance and is available to work outside the normal retraining hours, he should be able to draw his unemployment insurance without any interference from the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

It is unfortunate that the changes being made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration are detrimental. Recently, she changed the mobility allowance. The Government announced that it was going to cut back on that allowance, but now one must exhaust one's unemployment insurance in order to get it.

I watched the news on one of the national networks in this country the other night. There was an item dealing with all the jobs available in Banff, Alberta. At that time I was staying at a home on one of the islands in Newfoundland where everyone in the house was unemployed. After this report about all the available jobs in Banff, the reporter said that there is even federal assistance available to move people to Banff to fill these jobs. Every one of those unemployed people in the house knew that was a complete fabrication of the truth because they knew of the requirements to get a mobility grant. In order to get a mobility grant, not only is it necessary to have a job that lasts for more than one year, the nearest Manpower office to that job must list that job for a specific period of time. It then must go to the next closest place to be posted again. Mobility is approved on the authority of the local Manpower office closest to the job, after you have a signed declaration from the employer guaranteeing work for over one year.

I suppose that there are people who do not understand what it means to be unemployed. They may sit in their homes and criticize people for being lazy for not taking those jobs. There are people throughout this country who are anxious to go there if they only had enough money to take the train. If the Department of Employment and Immigration decided to hire a VIA Rail car and provide meals along the way for people travelling, there would be plenty of employees in Banff.

The reason for this inequity is quite simple. There are people who have never drawn unemployment insurance and therefore do not qualify to go to work on any federal job scheme. That is the law because one must have exhausted one's unemployment insurance in order to qualify.

Now, people do not qualify for mobility grants unless they have exhausted their unemployment insurance. Let us consider

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971

the case of those over 18 years of age who are living at home and have lost their family allowance. If they have never worked before they cannot get welfare in four provinces in this country. If those people are living with someone else, they qualify for welfare in some province. In Newfoundland, it is \$71 a month. The point I am making is that as a result of the Government's recently passed measures, it is really putting the nail in the coffin and giving no hope at all as far as the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Minister of Employment and Immigration are concerned.

The other day I asked the Minister a question concerning 210 people in Newfoundland who are judged to owe her Department between \$5,000 and \$7,000 as a result of an audit of a certain company. The Minister's response was that she responded to a telex from the Premier, a telex from the Minister of Fisheries and one from someone else. She said that her Department will go very easy on the collection of the money. However, it was a mistake in the company's books. That indicated to me that the Minister of Employment and Immigration knew no more about those cases than the man in the moon. She only knew what she was advised by her advisers in Ottawa and in the regional office in Newfoundland. Of course, their advice was that the company had made a mistake, as they saw it.

The fact is that the benefits from funds paid out to the Unemployment Insurance Commission by a company depends on the occupation and when work is performed for the company. Let us take the case of a fisherman. He is judged to have an unemployment insurance benefit when he sells fish to the company. Let us assume that he sold the fish to a company once every two weeks. The books would show that he worked for the week in which he sold his fish.

The Unemployment Insurance Act states that if that person worked the previous week, in order to get that particular product he was selling to the company the following week, that company can issue two unemployment insurance stamps. In other words, it is work for two weeks but it is not on the books of the company because audits are made according to what is on the books. What is on the books of the fish company is shipments of fish.

The Minister said that the company made the error in issuing those unemployment insurance stamps. I suggest that no one made an error. None of those fishermen should be paying back that money and receiving attachments. The people who made the error were the bureaucrats who advised the Minister to instruct her unemployment insurance officials and the Department of National Revenue to go over the books of these companies. That is who made the error. In other words, that will go, as the Minister said, to the board of referees. The board of referees will side with the Department of National Revenue, and then the case will go to the Deputy Minister of National Revenue on a second appeal. The Deputy Minister of National Revenue will side with the people who performed the audit. Then the case will go to the Federal Tax Court of Canada in about two years' time. Meanwhile people cannot collect their unemployment insurance.