

ORDER OF REFERENCE

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate, Wednesday, November 29, 1978:

"With leave of the Senate,

The Honourable Senator Bonnell moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator McNamara:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science be authorized to examine and consider the subject-matter of the Bill C-14, intituled: "An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971", in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate, or any matter relating thereto.

After debate, and—

The question being put on the motion, it was—
Resolved in the affirmative."

ORDRE DE RENVOI

Extrait des procès-verbaux du Sénat le mercredi 29 novembre 1978:

«Avec la permission du Sénat,

L'honorable sénateur Bonnell propose, appuyé par l'honorable sénateur McNamara,

Que le Comité sénatorial permanent de la santé, du bien-être et des sciences soit autorisé à étudier l'objet du Bill C-14, intitulé: «Loi modifiant la Loi de 1971 sur l'assurance-chômage», avant que ce bill ou toute autre question s'y rattachant ne soient soumis au Sénat.

Après débat,

La motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée.»

Le greffier du Sénat

Robert Fortier

The Clerk of the Senate

Last night we had obtained an audience with the Minister and members of his staff. I will now sum up meeting over to the President of the Canadian Construction Association, who may have a brief statement to make.

Mr. Harry de Puyjalon, President of the Canadian Construction Association: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say, and your colleagues, for addressing this time the Canadian and international construction industry. We have had a very difficult year, especially in 1978, because of the general economic situation, and particularly in the construction industry, which has been very difficult.

Basically we have felt, for the past year, that a very difficult year was ahead of us. In fact, last week we introduced to the Unemployment Insurance Commission to remember that the qualifying period was 26 weeks, which was reduced to eight weeks. We did not, at the time, expect that many more people would draw into an Unemployment Insurance program. So, the term "insurance" gives some trepidation—when we suddenly, in the labour market, and who really needed assistance?

The construction industry supports—let me make that very clear from the beginning—an Employment Insurance program, absolutely; but we do feel that it must be restored to an insurance scheme and not a massive income redistribution scheme. That is precisely what happened, in our view, in 1971.

As you can see from our brief that was forwarded to your committee, we agree with most of the proposals made by the minister in Bill C-14. We have publicly called for enactment over a period of time of the following points: firstly, that higher entrance requirements are a necessity, particularly as for repeaters.

Senator McLees: When you say "higher periods," higher than what?

Mr. de Puyjalon: Higher entrance requirements than at present, and particularly as for repeaters.

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Mr. Harry de Puyjalon: Higher entrance requirements than at present, and particularly as for repeaters.

Le industrie de la construction appelle absolument—permettez-moi de le préciser dès le début—un régime d'assurance-chômage, mais nous trouvons qu'il devrait redevenir un plan d'assurance et non un plan général de redistribution des revenus. C'est précisément ce qui est arrivé, à notre avis, en 1971.

Comme nous pouvons vous le dire après le mandat qui a été présenté à votre comité, nous sommes d'accord avec la plupart des propositions du ministre dans le bill C-14. Nous avons également demandé l'adoption progressive des normes visant progressivement des exigences plus élevées à plusieurs échelons, sans être négative, plus particulièrement pour les répétants.

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