

Unemployment Assistance

entitled to assistance because they fall within the exceptions have to be defined, and it thus gives an appearance to some extent of complexity. However, when it is explained it is really not too difficult. Many of the questions which have been put to the minister arose from the fact that this is a rather complex subject we are dealing with, but I suggest that the legislation has been drawn with reasonable clarity. This may not be the last word on this matter, but it is my submission that the government is to be commended for bringing in the legislation at this time and making a bold attempt to meet a serious problem.

Mrs. Fairclough: There is just one question I should like to ask with regard to section 8(a)(i).

The Deputy Chairman: An amendment has been moved to one of the other subclauses; shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Pickersgill: Before the amendment carries I want to put in declarative form a question I wish to ask the hon. member for York West. In Newfoundland unemployment assistance is not paid by the municipalities. Up to the present time it has been paid exclusively by the provincial government. Of course this legislation will provide for a considerable federal contribution. I see no reason why the provincial government of any rich province like Ontario should not do what we can do in a province like Newfoundland, which has nothing like the sources of revenue Ontario has.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): As the minister made a speech rather than asked a question I do not think I need say anything.

Mrs. Fairclough: Surely the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is not serious, as Ontario is not even a party to these agreements.

Mr. Pickersgill: Newfoundland has been paying it entirely for years.

Mrs. Fairclough: Newfoundland is a party to these agreements and Ontario is not. Obviously the minister does not know what he is talking about. I should like to ask the minister if section 8(a)(i) of the agreement refers to members of parliament?

Mr. Martin: I do not believe so.

Mrs. Fairclough: I have a serious question I want to ask now. Section 15 of the agreement reads:

Canada shall, on receipt of a reimbursement claim that has been prepared in accordance with this agreement, pay fifty (50) per cent of the total claim.

[Mr. Carrick.]

It seems to me that the word "total" is scarcely descriptive of a claim which would be made under section 6 of the agreement, which provides that a monthly statement shall be made to the federal government. That would indicate the number of persons on assistance and the total amount which had been paid to those persons. Subsequent sections of the agreement set out the deductions which are to be made according to the formula. It seems to me that section 15 should provide for the payment of 50 per cent of the amount arrived at, or whatever description might be given to it, but certainly a total claim would be the total amount expended by the province before it started to make the deductions set out in the agreement. To me the word "total" means a grand sum, and I do not think it is descriptive of the amount to be paid by the federal government.

Mr. Martin: It is the total amount claimed by the province. In any event that is the agreement.

Mrs. Fairclough: I presume that under the regulations definite forms will be drawn up to indicate the deductions and other statistics necessary and then finally the net amount, which I suppose would be called the total claim. Am I correct in thinking that it will be so designated on whatever forms are available to the provinces for the making of their report?

Mr. Martin: That is right.

Mrs. Fairclough: It certainly does not seem clear to me.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): Has the minister any formula which would indicate the percentage that will be required for administration? Has the government arrived at a figure which they think might be spent in this regard or which under this legislation must be expended by the municipality or the province?

Mr. Martin: No, I have not. My hon. friend asked me that question before, and I have not that information.

Mr. Fulton: May I refer to clause 4(2)(d) and I do not intend any levity when I ask why funeral expenses are excluded. It seems to me that such expenses would be a very serious burden and I should like to know why they are excluded.

Mr. Martin: They were not included in the agreements under the Unemployment Assistance Act, and they are not included in most public assistance legislation.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.