

under Rule 140 be refunded to the petitioners, less the sum of \$25 to apply on costs in each case, including printing and translation costs.

The reports were severally read by the Clerk Assistant.

The motions were agreed to, on division.

PRIVATE BILL

HURON AND ERIE MORTGAGE CORPORATION BILL—FIRST READING

Hon. W. D. Euler presented Bill G, an Act respecting The Huron and Erie Mortgage Corporation.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time.

Hon. Mr. Euler: Thursday next.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, at the present time the House of Commons is discussing a bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act. The purpose of the bill is to increase the supplementary benefits and to extend the class eligible for them. It is felt desirable that the bill should become effective on Monday, and to make this possible it would, of course, have to receive Royal Assent before then. The Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) was good enough to say that he would defer his discussion on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, so that this house would be free to deal promptly with the bill, if it comes from the House of Commons today.

I propose, therefore, that the house rise now, to reconvene at the call of the bell. If the bill comes to us from the House of Commons it can be taken into consideration immediately, and, if deemed advisable, receive third reading, and be given the Royal Assent today. I am assured that there will be an opportunity later in the session to discuss the bill thoroughly.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the sitting was resumed.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 6, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: With leave of the house, I move the second reading now.

Honourable senators, the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the House of Commons was interrupted this afternoon in order that consideration might be given to this bill, which by reason of some urgency received second and third readings there in the one sitting. The bill provides that unemployment insurance payments shall commence on a Monday. Therefore, if this house deems it advisable to pass the bill today, a considerable number of working people will receive the increased benefits for which it provides as from last Monday, and others will receive the full benefits under the bill from that day; whereas, if the bill does not pass until next week, the benefits will not commence until next Monday. It is for that reason that I suggest that the bill be considered now.

Some honourable senators may feel that we are unduly rushing things. I would point out, however, that the House of Commons was assured by the Minister of Labour that another measure embracing this bill would be introduced later in the session, and that a full opportunity would be given at that time to all honourable members and senators to discuss not only the features of this bill but all phases of the general question of unemployment.

Honourable senators will recall that under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act the employee and employer each pay, shall I say, two units of the amount contributed, and the Government pays one unit. That is to say, if the employer and the employee each pay \$1.00, making a total of \$2.00, the Government pays 40 cents, together with the cost of the administration of the act.

In order to be eligible for benefits under the present act a man must have been employed for a period of thirty weeks or 180 days. If an eligible person happens to have used up all his benefits during the period between January 1 and April 15, he may receive what is known as supplementary benefit. The act also provides that when a man has made contributions for 90 days, instead of 180 days, he is entitled to supplementary benefit for the period between January 1 and April 15, to the extent of 16 days.

As honourable senators know, in Canada there is considerable seasonal unemployment,