

Mr. HOUCK: Can we ask any questions in regard to that, Mr. Chairman, or would you rule us out of order?

The CHAIRMAN: We have left this item completely open.

Mr. HOUCK: There is one question, Mr. Chairman, on which you will probably rule me out of order here. However, I am becoming used to being ruled out of order and I expect it.

I did bring this question up last night in regard to the bill, but I will try to rephrase my question so that it does not pertain directly to that bill. I will direct this question to the minister.

In the event that a man was on strike and after the strike was settled he returned to his former employment, in what category would he be in respect of his unemployment insurance? I am thinking of the steamships' strike on the west coast.

When these employees returned to their ships, in what category will they be as far as their unemployment insurance is concerned?

Mr. STARR: They will revert to their normal unemployment insurance status. The stamps will be provided for the weeks they have worked except during the period of the strike. There will be that period for which stamps will not be put into the books.

Mr. HOUCK: That is the question I wanted answered.

Mr. STARR: In other words they will lack those contributions.

Mr. STANTON: The spaces in the unemployment insurance books will be vacant for those periods?

Mr. STARR: Yes.

Mr. BEECH: Will these employees be allowed to make double contributions?

Mr. STARR: No.

Item No. 170 agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: First of all I would like to thank the members of this committee for their patience and diligent attention, and also for their attendance. The attendance has not been too good in some cases but in the majority it has been all right.

I would also like to thank the minister, Mr. Browne and the officials who have been in attendance for their consideration in regard to the questions that have been asked of them. We have not been able to stump them on any question yet. They have been very cooperative and very helpful. I would therefore, on behalf of the committee, tender our appreciation and thanks.

Mr. HOUCK: Mr. Chairman, I think the other members of this committee will back me up when I say that of our whole governmental system, the Unemployment Insurance Commission has one of the most difficult tasks to perform. I believe they are dealing with these very difficult and intricate problems every day, and I know from my experience in the Niagara Falls area that the problems with which they are confronted almost hourly are very difficult. I think the Unemployment Insurance Commission is doing a splendid job keeping in mind that they are working under difficulties with very great problems.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Houck.

We have now concluded our public hearings. The remainder of this session will be held in camera. If the officials would retire now we will consider our report.

—The committee adjourned.