

Unemployment Insurance Act

In the past, people have often taken undue advantage of unemployment insurance, people who were not entitled to its benefits, people who took advantage of the fact that some employers were not well organized. As a result, complaints were made that people who were not entitled to unemployment insurance and often were lazy, worked solely to get, under false pretences, unemployment insurance stamps in order to benefit from that insurance. The government was then forced to take steps to prevent this type of abuse.

I feel the observations of the hon. member for Medicine Hat are most appropriate in this connection.

We agree on the principle of the bill, particularly in this day and age when small farmers disappear, while newcomers undertake large farm operations and behave like small industrialists.

I think it is entirely illogical that these industrialist-farmers should not be able to give their employees the same benefits as other employers.

I agree that we should pass a bill in this regard and I am inclined to think that we shall be in a position to adopt the proper policy during this session, when the government has the opportunity to introduce its bill to revise the Unemployment Insurance Act, so that all Canadian workers, including farm workers, be put on the same footing.
[English]

Mr. Richard Cashin (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I, too, should like to express the sentiments of the previous speaker and support the principle of this bill. About a month or so ago the very distinguished and very able Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) visited the province of Newfoundland. As all gentlemen in this house are aware, while Newfoundland has many industrious farmers it is not one of those areas of endeavour that has made Newfoundland renowned throughout the world. However, we were very glad to have the Minister of Agriculture visit our province and to meet with the dairy farmers and mixed farmers of the various regions,

particularly in the Avalon peninsula and in central Newfoundland. One of the matters that came up for discussion during this meeting with the farmers, a very successful meeting at which all these men were much impressed by the minister's understandable interest and sympathy, was this very point that is in fact the principle of this bill, namely the extension of unemployment insurance to farmers.

There are certain technical and other difficulties that are recognized. I hope, as I know all hon. members particularly on this side of the house do, that in the not too distant future these technicalities will be overcome to the point where this principle can, in fact, be adopted. I would remind all hon. members, Mr. Speaker, that just as it was the Liberal party that extended these benefits to fishermen in 1956 so, too, it will be the Liberal party that will extend these benefits to farmers, hopefully, in 1966.

I may say it is unfortunate, indeed, that the hon. member who introduced this bill, and for whom I have a great deal of respect, and his like minded colleagues, were unable during the five years they were in office with such a large representation, particularly from the farming areas, to persuade the government of the day to overcome these technical and other difficulties involved.

Mr. Rapp: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In my remarks, I stressed that the Gill commission was set up by our government at that time. The report was not in until December or November, 1962. Then there were the Christmas holidays and after that an election. I should like to have the record straight.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; this is not a point of order, it is a correction. The hon. member may have an opportunity to continue the correction when this bill comes before the house a second time. The hour for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.