

to the second class, which consists solely of those persons who are entitled to receive what are called seasonal benefits.

Of those who are entitled to receive seasonal benefits there are two classes. The first class consists of persons as described and defined in paragraph (a) of section 50, as dealt with in the explanatory notes: in other words, persons who have had at least 15 contribution weeks subsequent to the most recent Saturday preceding the 31st day of March immediately before the day on which they make their claims. The second class is clearly defined by paragraph (b) of section 50 under the explanatory notes. They are persons whose most recent benefit periods terminated after the week in which fell the 15th day of May immediately preceding the day on which they make their claim. As an example, let us suppose that a seasonal worker is entitled to receive unemployment benefits at say \$30 a week—which is the top figure—for a period of 20 weeks. Under the present legislation his benefit would end on the 17th day of May 1958, even though he had not drawn his unemployment insurance at the rate of \$30 for 20 weeks. Such a worker might have drawn his benefit for only ten weeks. Under the bill he will be entitled to draw unemployment insurance benefits at the rate of \$30 a week up to six weeks, but in no event beyond the 28th day of June 1958. The bill provides for such a worker a maximum extension of six weeks during which he can draw his benefits, provided he has sufficient credit in the fund so that the six weeks' payments can be made to him. If he has not a sufficient credit in the fund to make the payment for six weeks his payments will have to stop when his credit is used up. The bill does not allow any worker, whether of the permanent class or the seasonal class, to withdraw money from the fund unless he has a credit there. He cannot create an overdraft—that would not do, but the bill does allow him to draw up to the amount of his credit in the fund.

I think everyone will agree that this is a most necessary and fair extension of the benefits to which a worker is entitled under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

**Hon. Mr. Barbour:** What is the meaning of the term "credit in the fund"?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** Well, each week that a worker works he receives a credit in the fund and it keeps building up for him, and under this bill once he has been unemployed for a sufficient length of time to withdraw his credit from the fund and has used up his credit, then his unemployment insurance benefit expires.

**Hon. Mr. Barbour:** Is everyone entitled to the same amount?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** No. There are different classes, depending upon the amount of money the worker earns each week. Indeed, the \$30 payment is the maximum amount anyone can receive out of the fund.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** Can the honourable gentleman tell me why, if a worker has a credit in the fund, there is any need for a special act?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** No, I cannot tell my honourable friend that. We have to have the act in order to get the benefits out for the worker. This just applies to seasonal employees, not to regular employees.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** But if he has a credit in the fund, what is the need for a special act? I cannot see the need for it.

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** I agree with you, but we are told that we have to have this act so that they can get the benefits out to the seasonal employees.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** Does the honourable gentleman mind answering questions as we go along?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** No, I shall be very happy to do so; at least, I shall try.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** We are all out of order if we ask questions without your consent. Could the honourable gentleman say when the season stops for a seasonal worker? Is there a termination date?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** The 17th of May is when the payments stop for seasonal workers, regardless of how much a worker has in the fund.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** A seasonal worker is not one with a steady job, is that right?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** That is right.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** Does this cover a worker who has never paid into the fund?

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** Oh, no. Of course, if he has no credit in the fund he cannot get anything out of it.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** You said a moment ago if he had no credit in the fund he could not come under this act.

**Hon. Mr. Brunt:** That is right, he cannot; if he has no credit in the fund he cannot draw under this act or any other act. He must have a credit in the unemployment insurance fund in order to draw unemployment insurance benefits.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** Well, if he has a credit in the fund I do not see why this bill is needed.