

VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

DECISION OF COMMISSION

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Decision No. : 6229-C

VOLUNTARY LEAVING: 150.2

Date: March 21, 1974

Distance to Work-

Transportation and Travel

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This is a matter before the Commission on appeal by the claimant from the decision of the Examiner (No. UI-74-262) dated February 12, 1974.

ISSUE

Did the claimant voluntarily leave her last employment without good cause within the meaning of Section 60.1-58(a) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended?

FINDINGS OF FACT AND OPINION

The findings of fact of the Appeals Examiner are adopted by the Commission.

Section 60.1-58(a) of the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act imposes a disqualification if it is found that a claimant left her work voluntarily without good cause. In the instant case the claimant began her employment on August 9, 1971. In the Spring of 1972 she became aware of the fact that her residence would remain in Marion, Virginia, and it would be necessary for her to commute to her job in order to continue her work. She continued to do so for more than a year until December 28, 1973. At that time she left her work because of the increased cost of transportation due to the fuel shortage.

It is evident that the claimant voluntarily left her last employment. The issue to be resolved is whether this voluntary leaving was with good cause. The increased cost of transportation alone is not a sufficient reason for the Commission to hold that the claimant had good cause to voluntarily leave her last employment. While it is a

matter of common knowledge that fuel costs have increased because of the fuel shortage, evidence is lacking to show how great an increase was absorbed by the claimant relative to her earnings. Therefore, the Commission cannot conclude that such an increase in fuel costs would amount to good cause for the claimant to voluntarily leave her employment. Neither has there been a showing on the part of the claimant that it was impossible for her to obtain fuel for transportation. Had such a showing been made, a different conclusion by the Commission might have been necessitated.

(Underscoring supplied)

DECISION

The decision of the Appeals Examiner disqualifying the claimant effective December 30, 1973, for having left work voluntarily without good cause is hereby affirmed and remains in effect for any week benefits are claimed until she has performed services for an employer during thirty days, whether or not such days are consecutive.