

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

given or published. However, in cases where the person making a census return completes a form authorizing the dominion statistician to furnish information from the census records as to age in the event that other proof of age is not available, the practice is for the bureau of statistics to supply the information in the census records for purposes of verifying the age as submitted to the old age security and old age assistance administrations.

Applicants for old age security, that is to say those over seventy years of age, who come under the terms of the federal Old Age Security Act, should apply in the usual manner directly to the regional director of old age security in the capital of the province of residence. Those 65 to 69 years of age should apply to the appropriate office in the province of residence charged with the administration of old age assistance.

Hon. members will notice that in no case can information be given except on the request in writing of the applicant. However, forms of request for search for this information as to age are available in the old age security regional offices.

**Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether, when the original forms for universal pensions were being formulated, consideration was given to including an authorization by the applicant to search census records.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, if I understand my hon. friend's question correctly he is asking whether, when we prepared the forms of application, we gave consideration to the further use of census records. My hon. friend will realize I am sure that that could not be done, because the law at that time did not permit our doing so. We have secured legislative authority under the Old Age Security Act.

My hon. friend may be interested to know that the progress of applications, to date, is such that I may say to the house that, from present indications, we expect to arrive by December 31 at a total of some 685,000, which is not very far from the theoretical total of from 695,000 to 700,000, as we estimated. We have since learned that the population of Canada is 13,900,000 instead of 14,200,000; so that it appears that our original estimate was slightly in excess, and likewise the estimate made by the parliamentary committee. As I said a few days ago, there has been no undue difficulty. Rather, very efficient operation is being experienced in connection with the applications received and the processing in connection therewith.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** I take it that that is for my persistence. I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare following the answer made by the parliamentary assistant with reference to dominion bureau of statistics records. Which census records, the 1921 or the 1931, will be accepted by the Department of National Health and Welfare? As the residence requirement is twenty years, will the department accept the 1931 records?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** May I say to the hon. gentleman at once—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Martin:** May I say to the hon. gentleman at once that the reason for the applause when she rose was not her persistence but because of her quite apparent charm. The figure will be 1921 or earlier.

#### IRRIGATION

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROJECT—REQUEST FOR REPORT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, has a report been received from the commission looking into the South Saskatchewan river scheme? If so, will it be tabled?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** No report has yet been received, but I can assure the hon. member that just as soon as it is received or available it will be made public.

#### EDUCATION

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES—METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question, arising from an answer tabled yesterday. Will he state the reasons for delay in the arrangements to pay authorized grants to universities; and may we hope that those grants may come soon?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I hope, as does the hon. member, that they can be made soon. The reason it has not yet been done is that we are still in correspondence with the premiers of the