

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Joliette on a question of privilege.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, as my question is of the utmost importance, not only for Quebec which pointed out the vagueness of the federal act yesterday, but also for all the other provinces, I wonder, as you mentioned yourself, whether we should revert to motions and the House would agree to allow the minister to explain exactly where we stand with regard to this act.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Agreea.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the wish of the House that we revert to motions for the purpose of allowing the minister to make a statement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

[Translation]

Is the hon. member for Joliette rising on a supplementary?

Mr. La Salle: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask the minister whether employees of school boards and hospitals in Quebec will not be subject to the new Unemployment Insurance Act.

[English]

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the regulations, particularly in section 49(2), now read as follows:

For greater certainty, employment in Canada by Her Majesty in right of a province, for the purposes of subsection (1), only includes employment in Canada of employees who are appointed and remunerated under the Public Service Act or Civil Service Act of a province—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member asking the question and to the minister giving the reply that this is not in accordance with the spirit of the question period. We have already had two long answers to two long questions and we only have limited time at our disposal. We should go on. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL FOR APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): My question is for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hees: Hey, buster!

Mr. Paproski: In light of the fact that there are some five million Canadians living in poverty and approximately \$7 billion is spent annually in health and welfare services, is

the government going to set up a council for applied social research as urged by the Senate report on poverty and, if so, when will a statement be made?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I shall confer with the Minister of National Health and Welfare on this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: In light of the fact that the social development council only received \$995,000 in the 1970-71 budget to monitor and research that \$7 billion, can the Prime Minister assure the House that far greater funds will be made available next year and, if so, will a statement be made shortly?

Mr. Speaker: While the matter is being considered—the hon. member, of course, is making a suggestion and he has to assume that it will be considered.

Mr. Paproski: One further supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Centre but I bring to the attention of hon. members that if we have two or three supplementaries on every question—

An hon. Member: And no answers.

Mr. Speaker:—whether there are answers or not, certainly there is no point in hon. members rising by the twenties or thirties hoping to participate in the question period as there is less than 15 minutes left before we call orders of the day. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre on a further supplementary.

Mr. Paproski: Is the Prime Minister aware that the social development council estimates that of the \$7 billion only 9 per cent was spent specifically for financial assistance and services for the very poorest in our population?

Mr. Speaker: That is argument and not a question. The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre.

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ELECTIONS

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION ON CANDIDATES' EXPENSES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): My question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. In answer to a question of mine last September 22 concerning legislation to implement the report of the Special Committee on Election Expenses the minister said that the objective of the government was to have legislation passed in this Parliament. May I ask the government House leader if that legislation is being prepared or is now ready? If it is ready, could members have the advantage of looking at it over the Christmas and New Year recess and could he assure the House that it will be presented to parliament early in the next session?

• (2:40 p.m.)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure my hon. friend that we have been working on the recommendations of the parlia-