

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

or two when we have had considerable discussion on points of order, questions of privilege and everything else. I suggest that he accept the ruling.

**Mr. Valade:** On a point of order concerning the statement the Chair has just made with regard to my absence from the house in the last few days, may I say I do not think the Speaker should make such a remark, because my absence was motivated by an illness. Therefore I do not think such a comment should be made by the Chair. My question was directed to the Prime Minister, and I think the Prime Minister should tell the house what salary he is paying to the commissioner general of the world fair.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is disputing the ruling. The Chair tries to make its rulings impartial and fair on every occasion, though perhaps it does not always succeed. I have suggested that this is a question for the order paper, and the matter of what type of questions should be put on the order paper has been under active discussion for the last few days. I suggest that the hon. member leave it there.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, it might assist in satisfying the hon. member for St. Mary if I were to inform him that there are questions on the order paper relating to the salary of the commissioner general of the world fair which will be answered on Monday.

**Mr. Valade:** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the salary exceed that of the deputy commissioner?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must intervene again. This is an indirect attempt to ask the same question.

**CANADA COUNCIL**

## REPORTED REQUEST FOR \$30 MILLION GRANT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Some time ago a question was raised in the house concerning recommendations of the Canada council with respect to its financial structure. I would ask the minister to take this question as notice and give some indication to the house of the government's attitude in this regard some time next week.

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**SOCIAL INSURANCE**

## MANITOBA—TEACHERS STILL REQUIRED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION CARDS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Labour but in his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the confusion which has been created with regard to requiring teachers to sign social insurance cards, and is related to an answer given in the house by the Minister of Labour last Monday. At that time the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg asked the minister to make it very clear that it is not an offence for teachers not to complete these cards, and the minister said:

I have made it clear and I shall be glad to make it clear again.

Information I have from the Manitoba teachers' society indicates that up to last Tuesday several school districts in Manitoba were still requiring their teachers to fill out these cards, and that a check of the unemployment insurance office in Winnipeg was made by the Manitoba teachers' society which indicated that that office had received no new letter from Ottawa nor any instructions to prepare a new letter for the districts explaining the error.

Will the Prime Minister assure the house that a statement or directive will go out that will clear up this matter; because apparently Manitoba teachers are still being asked to sign these cards.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are very anxious to clear up any misunderstanding that may have arisen in this matter. I will bring my hon. friend's question to the attention of the Minister of Labour, and perhaps he will be able to deal with it on Monday or Tuesday.

[Later:]

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of the answer he gave the hon. member for Churchill, in which he said he would discuss this matter with the Minister of Labour and have him bring in a report on Monday. I wonder if, during his talk with the Minister of Labour, he would discuss the desirability of having the minister send out a letter in the near future to the various unemployment insurance districts to clear up this misunderstanding.

**Mr. Pearson:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, and since the minister is not