

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to refer all outstanding issues to arbitration and that both sides have facilitated the waiver of delay. He said also that the agreement was to refer the outstanding issues, including of course the special one about lunch arrangements, but that the term "outstanding issues" is not restricted and would, he supposed, include all the issues which are raised by either side.

In view of the denial by the national president of the Letter Carriers Union that this is the case, and in view of his statement that in meetings over the weekend the union requested management to refer all relevant issues to arbitration, may I ask, considering the importance of this matter, whether the Prime Minister was inadvertently mistaken in the information he gave me. In view of its importance will he clarify this matter?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the statement the Leader of the Opposition refers to. The position of the department is that we are quite willing to proceed to adjudication of any and all issues to which the union might take exception. In fact, we are clearing the way for speedy adjudication of issues by waiving the intermediate steps. I think we have suggested to the union that we should take representative cases, instead of filing tens or hundreds of grievances that revolve around the same issue. To my knowledge, that has been discussed. We are quite prepared, under our contract, to proceed to adjudication of any outstanding issues.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I directed my question to the Prime Minister in view of the statement he made yesterday. If I may, I will pursue it with the Postmaster General, since he is in the house today. Do I understand the Postmaster General to say that all matters in dispute are being referred for third party consideration? The national president of the Letter Carriers Union has issued a public statement that this is not so, that only those grievances dealing with wash-up and travelling time were presented to the Public Service Staff Relations Board for adjudication. These are the only grievances on which management asked the union to facilitate the waiver of delay. A request for the reference of all other matters in dispute was made to the management of the Post Office over the weekend. Management officials flatly rejected this proposal. In the light of this statement by the national president of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, Mr. Speaker, is the Postmaster General insisting that all matters in

[Mr. Stanfield.]

dispute are being expedited and referred for third party adjudication?

**Mr. Kierans:** I would certainly insist that, Mr. Speaker, on issues which in any way were responsible for or caused people to go out on strike are being proceeded with immediately to the fourth and final stage. There may have been a number of other issues during the two day discussions on Saturday and Sunday which the unions wanted to proceed with immediately. I will have to check that and find out what they were. I was concerned of course with the issues at stake in this walkout.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I think it is clear that the Postmaster General has inadvertently given the wrong impression to the house and the country, as did the Prime Minister yesterday. I said inadvertently, Mr. Speaker. In the light of the importance of this matter and avoiding the escalation of disputes as well as having all matters settled peacefully, without disruption of the service, would the Postmaster General not reconsider his refusal to have a mediator selected, so that possible halts in mail delivery may not recur as a result of disputes in other areas in which the union is seeking immediate third party arbitration?

**Mr. Kierans:** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the union lawyer presented grievances to the Staff Relations Board. To the best of my knowledge both sides are now busily engaged in preparing their case for the hearing before the board. I will call Mr. Decarie and find out if there are other issues he wants to proceed with. I will talk this over with him.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Postmaster General to make sure he is fully informed as to the state—

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Postmaster General. He is devoting much attention to staff relations. Would he also devote some attention to public relations and the service of the post office to the public who pay the bills.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****MEASURES TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I direct a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the unemployment statistics which have been released today showing the very heavy incidence of unemployment in