

Inquiries of the Ministry

since it is one of the major causes of contention?

Mr. Trudeau: This is the particular aspect of the lunch break, and transportation between the walk and the post office. The new system is a system of single mail processing. Under this new system provision has been made for transportation, and provision made for lunch.

Again I repeat that we are in the hands of the unions as to what they want to make grievances about, but it is my understanding that the employees are all back at work today and there is no longer any cessation of work. Therefore these questions may be purely academic.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Mr. Justice Montpetit at the time of the 1966 work stoppage recommended that the straight-through walk be eliminated, would the Prime Minister urge the Postmaster General to suspend the straight-through walk pending this arbitration?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the opposition are urging that we reopen the collective agreement. If they are, then I do not see that we could agree with them. There has been a collective agreement arrived at. We are sticking to it and abiding by it as we see it. That is the question and that is why we have agreed to appoint an adjudicator. Surely the hon. member is not urging me to ask the Postmaster General to reopen the agreement on some point that was covered by Mr. Justice Montpetit.

Mr. Orlikow: A further supplementary question. I am asking the Prime Minister to urge the Postmaster General to live up to the collective agreement, which did not provide for walk throughs, and to follow the procedures recommended by Judge Montpetit.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will address to the Minister of Labour. Does the minister consider these tie-ups as wildcat strikes?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons the public service act was so designed was to make it unnecessary for the Minister of Labour to pass judgment on disputes between employees of the government and the government itself. In this way it ensured his neutrality as far as employer and employees

were concerned, and I should like to respect that particular philosophy.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary question. I would then ask the Minister of Labour—and certainly this falls within the category where I can receive a straight answer—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: Put your question.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, between the interjections to my right and the panic that seems to be striking the Prime Minister, it is very difficult to get anything across.

An hon. Member: Get on with it.

Mr. MacInnis: I will have to take to quoting the Prime Minister when he spoke the other day, if these bums and idiots—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member can state his question of privilege after I have reminded him that he should ask his question. There is no point in waiting unduly. I assure him that I can hear his question and I would urge him to ask it as soon as possible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacInnis: "As soon as possible" means when I get the proper attention and do not have all these interjections from this group on my right. I might say here and now to the Prime Minister and others that I can include them in the bums because—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. MacInnis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of the hon. member that supplementary questions are the entire and exclusive responsibility of the Chair. Previous to the hon. member's rising I had recognized the hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): May I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. As the postal workers are back at work, has the inquiry into the legality