Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker, that the reason I am asking indicate the extent of the government's the question is that I heard the parliamentary secretary indicate that the first question had been directed to the wrong person. I am taking the opportunity now to ask for a reply from the right source.

Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will give the hon. member another opportunity tomorrow, which will be the next allotted day for directing questions to the Secretary of State.

GRAIN

CESSATION OF DAMP GRAIN DELIVERIES

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the provincial co-ordinating committee on grain drying was told in Regina that all major line elevator companies are expected to cut off deliveries of damp grain before April 1, will the minister endeavour to have the elevator companies change this decision since, according to the same source, there are five million to ten million bushels of damp grain still to be delivered?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport.

With regard to the announcement made on March 21 of the appointment of Mr. Frank Lafferty of Ottawa, but a native of Quebec, practice of stalling on the part of the governwould the minister tell the house whether ment. We are most anxious to negotiate and this gentleman is a French Canadian or an conclude agreements with all bargaining English Canadian?

[English]

INDUSTRY

NOVA SCOTIA PULP LIMITED NEWSPRINT MILL

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question has a note of urgency and it is addressed to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development or his parliamentary secretary. Can the minister tell the house whether negotiations have been completed with Nova Scotia Pulp Limited I should like to reiterate that we are not for a large extension of its operations at the stalling, but rather are putting forth every Strait of Canso and the establishment of a effort to reach agreements.

Mr. Dinsdale: May I say with deference, new newsprint mill? If so, can the minister involvement through Devco and other federal agencies and programs?

> Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member indicated in his preamble that there was an element of urgency. This was not apparent in his question. Perhaps he might consider the possibility of discussing the matter at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Corbin: Mr. Speaker, may I point out with all due respect that the note of urgency is very subtle.

PUBLIC SERVICE

GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Acting Prime Minister whether he could clarify the situation with regard to negotiations between the government and the Public Service Alliance. He took the question as notice. Perhaps he or the President of the Treasury Board may be able to answer my question today.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board is prepared to answer the question.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the question was asked whether or not the Treasury Board was engaged in stalling in relation to the conduct of negotiations with bargaining units represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada. I should like to say that there is neither the intention to stall nor the agents, including the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

I am sure that hon. members will understand that the government as the employer cannot agree to everything that the bargaining units are asking for. We are meeting on a continuous basis with them and we continue to meet with them with a view to negotiating agreements which are acceptable to both sides. This is what collective bargaining is all about. In fact, an agreement was signed just yesterday with the printing operations group.