

Inquiries of the Ministry

minister's day in the House. I did not take note of the question but I will look it up in *Hansard* and refer it to him.

Mr. Nesbitt: May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. Could he inform the House what are the duties of Mr. Robert Lindsay who has been seconded recently from the Department of Justice to the Department of Finance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question should be placed on the Order Paper or, if there is urgency which is not apparent to the Chair, it should be debated or considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Baldwin: Perhaps the minister can tell us about the cost of breathalyzers.

GRAIN

BARLEY—AMOUNT STORED ON FARMS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the setting of the unusually high quota for barley of 16 bushels per acre and the apparent slowness of supplies coming forward to fill this quota, can the minister inform the House whether this indicates that the amount of barley stored on farms has been grossly overestimated?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must say that I have some reservations about this question. The hon. member is asking the minister to express an opinion whether prognostications have been right or wrong. I would not think that the question as asked is in order.

POST OFFICE

POSSIBLE NATIONAL STRIKE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO RESOLVE DISPUTE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Considering the continuing disruption of the postal service and the apparent deadlock in the talks, can he advise what the government is now doing to bring to an end this problem which is already affecting the economy of the country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are doing nothing more than

what the President of the Treasury Board said yesterday we were doing.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of the Prime Minister's answer and in view of the "negotiaphobia" existing between the Public Service of Canada and the government of Canada and the refusal to permit mediation of the dispute, is the government considering taking steps along the lines of those taken when similar labour problems regarding the railways arose and the country was threatened by strikes, in order to keep business and industry economically healthy?

Mr. Trudeau: Not with a view to immediate action, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Matane has a supplementary question.

Mr. De Bané: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask the Acting President of the Treasury Board whether negotiations have taken place this morning and whether there have been developments that would be of interest to the House.

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: It is not his day in the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings on a supplementary.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question of the hon. member for Hillsborough which was answered by the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister has said that the government is doing no more than the President of the Treasury Board has outlined and as the mediator who was appointed by the government has said that Treasury Board is doing absolutely nothing to bring about a settlement of this dispute, does the government intend to do absolutely nothing whatever and allow this country to become tied up by a disastrous strike? Is that what it intends to do? It must do something a lot better.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is obviously an argument.

Mr. Woolliams: The hon. member threw you boys a long pass that time.