

*Oral Questions*

parties accepted those points of clarification and that they have since gone back to the negotiation table.

Therefore, I do not wish to add anything at this stage which might cause embarrassment to those who are now negotiating a contract.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the issue was a very simple one, namely, whether or not the amendment to section 903 is to be introduced into section 904 of the collective bargaining agreement so that the words "except classification matters" are deleted from both clauses, and in view of the fact that Mr. Shime—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly ask the question. It seems to me that his supplementary is somewhat involved.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, with great respect, I do not think it is involved, at least not for the minister, nor is it involved for those who know anything about it. There may be a few gentlemen on my right who know something about it.

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Lewis:** May I proceed, Mr. Speaker, and ask the minister my question. In view of the fact the dispute is a simple one, namely, whether or not the same amendment should be made to section 904 as was made to section 903 in the collective agreement—

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**An hon. Member:** Whereas, whereas, whereas!

**An hon. Member:** Hold your tongue!

**Mr. Lewis:** That pleases me, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might ask his question. He will recognize that he has had the floor for some time now. Perhaps he should ask the question and give us a chance to proceed further on this subject.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I will ask the question. You might ask the gentlemen on my right and on your left—

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Lewis:** —not to keep on interrupting me.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he cannot now inform the House whether the government will accept this additional amendment to the contract so that the dispute may finally be settled?

[Mr. Ouellet.]

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot comment as long as that clarification report has not been made public.

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—INTERVENTION OF MINISTER

**Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Has the minister himself contributed to clarify the situation?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, if I must account for all my hours of work, I can tell the hon. member that I worked very hard during the weekend.

[*English*]

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS ACT

**Mr. Peter Reilly (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that this and other disputes involving the public service and adjacent areas have been complicated by certain sections of the Public Service Staff Relations Act which circumscribe the free collective bargaining process, and in view of the fact the government has had before it a report dealing with this matter since the middle of June, 1971, will the minister now say when he proposes to bring forward the proposed changes to that act?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I think this question was asked and answered a few days ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta on a supplementary.

**Mr. Reynolds:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. This is an airport question, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago he informed me that the contracts for the Hudson Street bridge—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. I was under the impression that the hon. member wanted to ask a supplementary question. He will be recognized in a moment. I believe the hon. member for St. John's East has a supplementary on the matter being discussed.

DISPUTE WITH WORKERS—ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF CONCILIATION BOARD PROPOSAL RESPECTING CLASSIFICATION GRIEVANCES

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Postmaster General whether a representative of the government yesterday signed an agreement whereby the government would accept Mr. Shime's interpretation of the report of the conciliation board dealing with sections 903 and 904?