

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

May I have an answer to my question? I asked the minister to take the first opportunity on motions to explain these things.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

**BROADCASTING****EFFECT OF CRTC DECISION RESPECTING CABLEVISION**

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** I hate to take the stage away from the Minister of Manpower and Immigration but perhaps my hon. friend from Prince Edward-Hastings can go back to him later. I have a question for the Secretary of State. Does the decision of the CRTC against certain cablevision applications affecting towns and cities far from the United States border reflect a government plan to reduce the amount of United States cultural influence in our country?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member appears to be inviting the minister to make a statement which is very general in scope and in my view any such statement ought to be made on motions.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Very well, I will ask my supplementary. Would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions concerning the interesting remarks of the president of the CRTC and, if so, would he in the meantime use his good offices with the president to stimulate the commission into taking action against existing cablevision stations in cities and towns close to the United States border—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of a representation and he has to assume it has been noted by the minister.

**Mr. Nowlan:** On a point of order, it cannot be noted until I have finished.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly inform the Chair of the nature of the point of order he wishes to raise?

**Mr. Nowlan:** The point of order is that I had not finished the question. I have been trying to get to the Secretary of State to ask several questions for a long time; he is only here about three times a week. Here is an important decision which affects Canadians not in the central parts of Canada but in parts of Canada which are isolated, parts in which hon. members opposite said they were

interested at one time. I asked, with respect, whether the minister would consider the suggestion which Your Honour made to the effect that he might make a statement on motions concerning what was said by the president of the CRTC? Before doing so would he use his good offices in order that the president of the CRTC might take some action against cablevision stations which now receive United States programs—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have heard the point of order. I am prepared to compromise with the hon. member and recognize that his first point is well taken—that he may ask the minister whether he would be prepared to make a statement on motions. However, I put it to him that the second part was a representation to the minister. The minister may wish to reply to that part of the question which is a question.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Certainly, Mr. Speaker, all the more so since it seems that this CRTC decision which, just like everybody else, I did not have the time to study in detail, will arouse much interest in Canada and could very well justify eventually a statement on motions.

[*English*]

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** A supplementary question to the minister. Has he received protests from western Canada, Alberta, and particularly from Edmonton with regard to the arrogant decision of this body? Bearing in mind this decision of the CRTC, does this commission intend to dictate to the people of Canada which United States stations they are to look at? Is this another slap in the face for the west?

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

**Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the CRTC in pursuing its policy of evident geographic discrimination has the approval of the government?

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

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

**Mr. Paproski:** I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see a number of hon. members who want to ask supplementary questions and I trust that—