

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

now, that is not the reason the question was not allowed. It was on the substance of the question. Again, as I said, I will review the matter. If I was wrong and if the question ought to have been allowed, the hon. member will have his moment of glory tomorrow.

**Mr. Nowlan:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will call Orders of the Day and then recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a point of order. Orders of the Day.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order also relates to Orders of the Day and, unfortunately, concerns you. I appreciate the problems of the Chair in recognizing legitimate supplementaries, and indeed all types of questions, but I rose today to ask the Secretary of State one supplementary question with regard to the first answer he gave on the National Film Board.

The Secretary of State has now gone from the chamber. He is here only three days a week. It is very hard to pin down any minister over there, let alone the Secretary of State who has so many Crown agencies under him. The Secretary of State said, for the first time today, that in view of the changes in the Film Board there was a person, called an independent person, who was going to do something or other. The supplementary which I was trying to ask was for the purpose of clarifying the record, and I tried to catch your eye seven times. My supplementary question to the Secretary of State arose out of the question I put to him on Monday about the same changes in the Film Board.

The reason I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that on Monday—I see that the Secretary of State is back in the House, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat that my question was an attempt to ascertain whether the independent person he now says is going to investigate something is the same person who is to be a substitute for or supplementary to the report the minister said he requested about all the changes in the National Film Board? It was to try to clarify the record in that respect that I wished to ask my supplementary question, and to avoid asking too many questions tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will have to ask the question tomorrow. I am not going to reverse the decision I have made simply because he has raised a point of order at this time. If the hon. member will look around he will see that he is not the only one who was

[Mr. Speaker.]

not allowed to ask supplementaries. There are a number of other hon. members who were not allowed supplementaries.

There has to be some order in the questioning. The Chair has to decide each day how long supplementaries should last. This is a long established discretion that resides in the Chair. If the hon. member thinks the discretion is not exercised properly, that is his judgment, but I can assure him that I try to allow as many supplementaries as possible. It would be easy for the Chair to allow hon. members to ask supplementaries on the same question for 40 minutes, but I do not think this is what hon. members want.

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** I did not suggest that. On a point of privilege—

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** I will sit down when Mr. Speaker tells me to sit down and you, Mr. Walker, don't have to tell me what to do.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members are not helping the Chair by either applauding or cheering when the—

**Mr. Nowlan:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am trying to indicate to hon. members what I am sure they know, that this is not an easy matter to decide from day to day. The Chair has only one concern and that is to be fair to hon. members. I am trying to do this to the best of my ability, and if I have been unfair to the hon. member I will try to do better tomorrow and see he gets the supplementary asked. But I want to say this, too, in all fairness and candour, and in all intellectual honesty: certainly, there is no reason why I should not allow the hon. member for Annapolis Valley as many supplementaries as I allow to other hon. members. I try to do the best I can.

**Mr. Nowlan:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly the first to defer to the fact that you are the fair one in the House. However, because of noise and applause for partisan advantage we sometimes lose sight of fairness. I do take exception with respect to Your Honour's suggestion—and I think it was only by inference and perhaps an inference that resulted from the warmth of the moment—that I was trying to take 40 minutes for supplementaries. That