

interests of the House and works best when it is shorter, quicker and more spontaneous and is therefore fair to all.

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

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I take it that you have just given some kind of directive to the Members of the House in that you have stated that any question lasting longer than one minute and 15 seconds will not be accepted by Your Honour. I am asking you the question because if I heard you correctly—

**Mr. Speaker:** No, with respect, I said that I gave the Hon. Member for Davenport several indications as best I could. Of course, the Hon. Member was paying attention to the Chair because that is where his question was directed. With respect, I indicated to him several times that his preamble was too long. He chose to continue with his preamble rather than to come to the question. That is the point I am trying to make to the Hon. Member for Davenport. Does the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) have a further point of order?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that you supply us with stop-watches. I will need one from now on because the answers cannot be any longer than the questions. I will buy one.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier knows full well the point I am trying to make. The point of Question Period is for one group to ask questions and for another group to answer. I think Hon. Members also know that the Ministry answers as the Ministry sees fit. If Hon. Members are upset with the answers, as was the Hon. Member for Davenport, they have a remedy under the rules and that is the late show. I presume the Hon. Member chooses to use that remedy given that he is unhappy. I will take his complaint today as an automatic notice to the Chair of a request for a late show question. Perhaps that will help.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid I noticed the Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni rising on a question of privilege and I must give him precedence.

**Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new at this job but I thought my job here was to debate legislation and not to debate histrionics that could be better solved in chambers.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a question of privilege. I now recognize the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I ask quite sincerely for your indulgence because there are a great many concerns here with regard to Question Period and how Question Period is run.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that a point of order?

*Privilege—Mr. Caccia*

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, do not act prematurely, please. What I am asking—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I have ruled on a question of privilege. I ruled that it was not a question of privilege. I responded as best I could to a particular Member's concern and anger. I think the Hon. Member knows that I cannot allow the House to get into a debate or conversation about a ruling. If that is what the Hon. Member intends, I am in some difficulty. If he has concerns about Question Period and how it is run, may I suggest that he come to see me or put his concerns through his House Leader or Whip, who do see me on formal matters, as is the normal procedure. May I suggest that we leave it at that?

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

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My question to you, Your Honour, is with regard to referral. Is there such a thing as referral in Question Period? Why was the Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata) not cut off? He did not have a preamble. Why was he not cut off?

In view of the fact that issues are raised on the floor of the House of Commons which are important to all Members, would it not be better to wait until another time—perhaps three o'clock—to introduce guests in the gallery in order to accommodate all Members of Parliament? Would the Speaker kindly consider that?

**Mr. Speaker:** I take it that these are suggestions and I will take them that way. It is my habit, if I think an introduction has gone on longer than it normally would, to try to grant an extra question at the end of the hour, as I granted one today to the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby). This is done in order to retrieve some of the time we lose during introductions of people for whom we have great respect. That is exactly what I do. If the Hon. Member has some other concern, I suggest he put it through the Whip or the House Leader.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Read your book. It says three o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course. The book also says that the Speaker sees the clock and the Speaker sees Members. If the Hon. Member is raising the question of three o'clock, to which clock does he refer? They all read differently. Does he refer to this clock, that clock, the Hon. Member's watch or my watch?

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

**Mr. Gauthier:** What is the clock for? It shows.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member also knows that I am required to see Hon. Members in the order in which they rise. The Hon. Member also knows that that is not always the request I receive from the various Parties, that I recognize Members in the order in which they rise. There are things we do here which are a part of our traditions. The Speaker sees the clock and if the Speaker, in his judgment, feels that