

In conclusion, I might say that the co-ordinated and controlled development of information systems by our Department of Manpower and Immigration is made possible and ensured through the activities of a departmental information systems committee. Thank you for your attention. It identifies requirements, prevents duplication, assigns priorities and ensures that each resulting system can become an integrated and valuable part of the department's total information system.

This is all that can be said on this particular aspect of the hon. member's question. We have other information to submit to him in the course of this whole motion.

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, it is nice to realize that one has the ability to wake up even the NDP in the House. I am a little disappointed that the hon. member who moved this particular motion sees fit to talk while seated rather than stand in his place. He has asked this House to devote its time to, and undertake a vote in respect of, what I had assumed he thought was a particularly important report. He apparently asked the question in the first session in 1967 or 1968. His notice of motion has been on the order paper since November, 1970, almost a year ago. Here, the House of Commons sits waiting to find out why this particular member feels this particular subject matter should be brought to the attention of the House. I think it is an abuse of the privileges he has as a member of this House that he does not see fit to stand in his place. The motion stands in his name. Why does he want this particular report brought to the attention of the House? Why does he want to read it? We have not heard one word from him and he has been asking for this since the first session of this particular Parliament.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member knows he can ask a question only if the hon. member who has the floor accepts the question.

Mr. Cullen: I accept a question from the hon. member.

Mr. Skoberg: Thank you. I wonder if the hon. member is aware I can only have five minutes for rebuttal after finding out why the government will not produce the papers.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Cullen: Here again, Mr. Speaker, we have the typical, negative approach of the hon. member's party. It seems to me that if I wanted a particular document or report presented to the House I would get up and argue for my full five minutes, ten minutes, or whatever time was allotted to me, and argue in a positive way.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the hon. member permit another question?

Mr. Cullen: Yes.

Mr. Broadbent: I thank the hon. member for his not entirely flattering comments about our political party,

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but I wonder if he is aware that the great Liberal regime which currently governs this country has turned down no less than 95 per cent of the requests coming from this side of the House for the production of papers?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair has some reservation with respect to the content of the question. The hon. member seems to be making an argument rather than asking a question. The Chair would ask the hon. member to put his question as briefly as possible.

Mr. Broadbent: I will come right to the point, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. member not agree it would be the height of folly at this stage to continue asking for the production of papers as we did during the course of the previous part of the session, with completely negative consequences, and that it would be much more sensible to listen to Liberal spokesmen giving their reasons for not providing what we consider to be public information?

Mr. Cullen: On that statistical point, all we can conclude is that 95 per cent of the requests they make do not warrant the kind of attention they would like to see paid to them. If the hon. member had refrained from asking his question for a short period of time, and was willing to listen to the comments that I wish to make, I could tell him that I do not think it is the Liberal regime that is his problem. I think it is the fault of the opposition who, whether they are aware of it or not, are slowly and deliberately closing this avenue of securing information from the ministry.

The hon. member who has moved this notice of motion will note that there is something in excess of 293 notices of motions for the production of papers already filed, and we just do not have enough time in the House to deal with all of them. Notwithstanding that, hon. members in his party continue to place such notices of motion on the order paper. In fact, I do not know whether this particular hon. member devised this particular motion, or whether some research assistant sat down one day and compiled 293 notices of motions for the production of papers.

Mr. Skoberg: Let's not impute motives.

Mr. Cullen: I said that I wasn't sure. The point I am making is that there is a certain amount of time available for certain things, and all hon. members cannot always have all the time they like. For this reason alone, it seems incumbent on hon. members opposite to select the reports they want produced, place them on a list and attach some kind of priority to them, instead of coming up with 290 or 300 notices of motions for the production of papers which will have the effect of blocking this avenue for the securing of information from the ministry.

If this were done hon. members in that party might be surprised to find that there would be many hon. members on this side of the House who would welcome the arguments they presented, and would be prepared to vote in favour of particular motions for the supplying of particular documents.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.