

kind of information, the only way it can be obtained is through a plan or pre-programmed study made by a particular department.

How does a department prepare this kind of information? Is that the sort of thing contained in this report? I do not know, but it would seem to me that to prepare the material necessary for the compilation of a document stating departmental plans for the future requires development of a clearly integrated system within the department. For this reason I have suggested to the managers to whom I have spoken that they should make representation to have more than one meeting with the department. They should hold regional conferences, and conferences in Ottawa, and I think they should design and bring forth the more practical approach which they see from day to day in their jobs.

Some managers say that there are people using this program to the detriment of their fellow workers. They take a course in one area of the country and if they cannot get a job they move to another area where another course is being offered. If the plan is being abused in that way, the managers should bring it to the attention of their member and the minister concerned. It is my experience that most people operating under this plan and deriving benefit from it, applaud it and welcome the opportunity to find a job and to improve.

I had not intended speaking so long, Mr. Speaker, but interjections from the opposite side of the House took up my time. I know that other hon. members on this side have a point of view which they wish to express. Liberals have never been shy. I do not wish to take up all the time, but want my colleagues to have their say. However, if I have one message to convey I would say that great team work, using the managers of manpower centres, could operate to the benefit of the section of the Department of Manpower and Immigration concerned with manpower.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the two gentlemen who spoke from the government side had within their remarks such a tremendous amount of irrelevancy and speciousness that it is impossible to cover all the false points that they raised. Of course, that is what happens when these hon. gentlemen are not speaking their own minds but are simply reading what somebody else has written for them.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that one of the matters involved here—

Mr. Cullen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen).

Mr. Cullen: I do not need somebody else to write my speeches, Mr. Speaker. Everything I said here today came from my own head. Whether it was good, bad, specious or whatever, it was mine.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The Chair does not have to rule on the point of order, but would take this opportunity to point out that it is a basic rule of the

24171—67

Management Information Systems

House that one hon. member has to take the word of another when he speaks in this House.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I never questioned the hon. member's word, Mr. Speaker. I think what is involved here is the fact that ever since this government took office we have run into a brick wall. The hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) made reference to some brick walls, and we have run into a brick wall of secrecy, of absolute refusal by the government to disclose what it is doing to the public and how it is spending their money. It has not disclosed the direction of its intentions and hopes, and is confining as much as it can of its internal activities to itself, refusing to provide that information to the general public. What we are up against, Mr. Speaker, is the concept of government that says: The public is not entitled to know what government is doing except to the extent that government wants to disclose that information—in other words, a closed system, a confidential structure and practice within government to keep things to itself rather than the open practice of revealing what it is doing. That is the brick wall we run up against.

As my friend the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) tried to elicit by way of a question, this government has refused information in response to notices of motion for the production of papers to a far greater extent than any other government in the history of Canada.

Mr. Olson: That is not correct.

Mr. Francis: Not true.

Mr. Olson: The record does not reveal that.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I would ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) to take a lead from the hon. gentleman from Sarnia-Lambton and keep his mouth shut or stand up and speak.

Mr. Olson: I would be very happy to stand up and ask a question.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): As soon as I sit down the Minister of Agriculture, who is voluble and verbose but many times not very relevant, will have the opportunity.

Mr. Francis: You are not very kind.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Never in the history of Canada since it was founded in 1867 has there been a government which has refused so much to the people it is supposed to be representing.

Mr. Olson: That is not a fact.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The Minister of Agriculture says that is not a fact, but let him get up and disclose which government was more secretive. Also, Mr. Speaker, the self-appointed directors of rights and interpreters of the rules of this House have a pretty basic misconception of what the rules are and how things are supposed to operate around here. In a notice of motion for the production of papers it is the individual member who takes the initiative.