

J. PETER SWANN

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Mr. Peter Brannan,
Chief of Hansard Reporting Service,
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Dear Peter,

Many thanks for your letter of January 4th, I am very glad you are taking this initiative, and wish you all success, which I am sure you will achieve. From my limited conversations with other editors, I can appreciate the points you make regarding the need for greater communication about common problems.

I am, however, passing your letter to Mr. W. H. MacDonald, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, who, it appears, will be assuming the function of Editor of Hansard for the next session. I have been informed that my services will not be required for this session, although I have been told that they may ask me back in the fall.

I would nevertheless like to keep in touch with you, and to be able to pass on to you and your colleagues the benefit of our developments here, although unfortunately they are only half complete. Our system was designed with some long range technical developments in mind, such as phototypesetting, automatic indexing, and the use of recording shorthand machines as input devices. We have reached the point where we could phototypeset the spring session; the indexing would not be automatic, but we could bring out a cumulative index on a daily basis - not for publication, obviously, but with enough copies to serve the people in the Legislative Building.

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The door has been left ajar for me to make a proposal from a group outside government prepared to handle the operation on a contract basis. This I am doing, and hope that it will receive favourable consideration. I am therefore curious to know more about the arrangements under which you operated for your first eight years.

With best wishes, and hoping to hear from you again soon,

Yours sincerely,



J. P. Swann

P.S. May I suggest you add 'relationships with Speakers' to your agenda?! This situation here is quite ridiculous - but don't quote me!

Best wishes
P.

