

EMPLOYMENT

COST OF BROCHURES ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. During the past few days glossy brochures have arrived at the doorsteps of millions of households all across the country. These brochures ostensibly refer to women and to youth. However, in reality each brochure contains on page 1 a very glossy photograph of the Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I would like to ask the Minister to confirm that the cost to the taxpayers of Canada for these two brochures comes to approximately a million and a half dollars. Does he think it appropriate for a Minister who is seeking the leadership of his Party to use the taxpayers' money to finance his campaign?

Some Hon. Members: Leader!

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman used the word "ostensibly". The fact is that the substance of those two publications is informative and offers real information which is of use to the taxpayers of the country when taking advantage of the programs of our Department. At the same time as Members opposite complain that we are not vigorous enough in ensuring that the Canadian public is aware of the services and programs we have, they complain when we indeed undertake programs to do exactly that.

If the Hon. Member had looked at the brochures carefully he would have seen that they contain messages from two other Ministers who are not leadership candidates. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, if I had been tempted to try to use the publication to advance my own interests, I certainly would not have chosen the photograph which is contained within the publications, because it is a rather unflattering picture of me.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is accurate about at least two things. He has mentioned the photograph of himself, and I will not elaborate on that. He is also right in saying that the brochure includes photographs of other Ministers, although they are much smaller in size than the photograph of the Minister and are deeply buried within the publications.

POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Considering that the Minister who is responsible for this brochure is running for the leadership of the Liberal Party, and is the same Minister who brought before Parliament the sleazy creation of a slush fund for jobs for Liberal constituencies, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he thinks it is

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appropriate that the people of Canada, on an involuntary basis, should be financing one Minister's leadership campaign.

Mr. Crosbie: Slush pump Roberts.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is the intention of any of the leadership candidates to have the people of Canada finance their campaigns. However, it is the duty of every Member of the House, Minister or not, to discharge his duties as a Minister or as a back-bencher as the case may be. If the Ministers who are running for the leadership are also operating their Departments, they are doing what I asked them to do.

TIMING OF PUBLICATION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, there are two aspects to this situation. One is that a Minister of the Crown, just by sheer coincidence, is running for the leadership of the Liberal Party and is using public funds to obtain additional publicity at this time. The other aspect is that we are in a pre-election period, as the Prime Minister knows, and some parties in the House think it appropriate to collect money from their own members and supporters to spend on themselves. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he thinks it is appropriate to send out glossy brochures containing very little factual information in a pre-election period. This amounts to the people of Canada putting up money, either for one Minister's leadership campaign, or for the intentions of the Liberal Party of Canada in the federal election campaign.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member seems to base his case on the fact that this is a pre-election period. It is always a pre-election period, Mr. Speaker. Under our system of government, an election can be called at any time.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Trudeau: I hear cries of shame from the Tory ranks.

Some Hon. Members: Please! Please!

Mr. Trudeau: Now they are saying please. Just a few days ago the Leader of the Conservative Party was begging me not to try to have an election in the summer. As usual, the Tory Party is badly divided and confused.

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MINES AND MINING

LAYOFFS BY INCO AT PORT COLBORNE

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could direct a question to the Minister of Finance. He and the Government will have learned of the very painful decision which had to be made by Inco to lay off close to 500 people at Port Colborne. This is demonstrative of the fact that