

taxpayers' money on propaganda campaigns? I wish the government would quit telling the people what to think with the people's own money.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have seen publications by practically every province, including the province in which the hon. member has chosen to live, financed at the taxpayers' expense, which indicate policies, the advantages and the glory of living in any particular province. I have seen ads on television about how beautiful it is to be in Ontario and so on. I do not believe there is anything wrong with governments indicating to Canadians that they have good cause to be proud of the country in which they live.

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister, who has said that his government is committed to the concept of freedom of information. In view of the fact that the documents released today by the hon. member for Halton include an allocation of \$1.4 million for research on the constitution, including \$900,000 for public opinion surveys of the public's reaction to the constitution, will the Prime Minister tell the House whether he is prepared to instruct the Minister of Justice, for whom these polls were prepared at the taxpayers' expense, to stop suppressing those polls and to make them available to Parliament and Canadians so that, at a time when this Parliament is being called upon to assess the constitutional direction which this country should be taking in the future, they will have access to the results of those \$900,000 worth of public opinion surveys paid for by the taxpayers of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am sorry but I missed the hon. member's question. I am not quite sure to what document he is referring, but he did mention, I believe, some \$1.4 million being spent on research on the constitution. I believe that is the amount which the government allotted to the various Indian groups in Canada so that they may conduct research on the constitution. I see nothing wrong with the Government of Canada also spending an equivalent amount of money.

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, the House will recognize that the Prime Minister avoided answering my question, which was very simple. Would the Prime Minister, in the spirit of information, order the release of three public opinion surveys and the following trace surveys on the constitution which were completed at a cost of \$900,000 of the taxpayers' money? Those documents are currently being suppressed by the government. How can the Prime Minister conceivably justify to the Canadian people the expenditure of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to manipulate public opinion to try to draw

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support for the government's propaganda for its constitutional initiatives, when at the very same time he refuses to release information relating to public opinion surveys of public response to his constitutional initiatives, paid for by taxpayers' money?

● (1140)

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I remember hearing the Minister of Justice indicating in this House that he had released that particular day results of some 120 or 130 surveys. He did say that a small number, perhaps three, had not been released. I do not know which three but I will be happy to see if those three cannot be released very soon.

Mr. Hees: Three important ones.

Mr. Trudeau: Three important ones? I imagine they were all important, Madam Speaker. I wish the hon. member for Northumberland would spend a little more time reading the 133 which have been released, because he would get a lot of good information on which he could base questions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: We want the three with the real information.

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THE ECONOMY

REDUCED PURCHASING POWER OF CANADIANS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I, too, would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister aware that the purchasing power of Canadians has been dramatically reduced in the past year, in fact to the extent that Canadians now have in comparative terms \$244 less a year to spend than they had a year ago? As a result of this, there has been a reduction in the industrial capacity figures to the point where they are at the lowest they have been in 18 years. Bankruptcies are up 20 per cent. People cannot find their way to meet mortgage payments or renew mortgages. Will there be a time when we in this House are going to be able to deal with the problems confronting tens of thousands of Canadians all across this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think I indicated in the House a few days ago that it is obvious, with the vast transfer of spending power resources which Canadians are now embarked upon in order to purchase petroleum abroad under OPEC prices, that the rate of growth of the Canadian economy, of the purchasing power, and so on, is not as great as it used to be. The House knows that we have before us now a budget and an energy policy which will increase the price of petroleum, but it is an increase considerably less than that requested by the producing provinces.

Mr. Crosbie: That is untrue. It is completely untrue. It is unfounded. In fact, I could go further, but it would be unparliamentary.