

that the federal government pays for 60 per cent of these programs which are completely administered by the provinces. I am shocked to think that hon. members opposite would object to our programs which deal with helping small business. What does the hon. member have against helping small business and setting forth federal government programs so that Canadians can make themselves aware? What does the hon. member have against senior citizens making themselves aware of programs affecting them? What about young Canadians and job opportunities which are available to them? What about farmers and what they can do? What about the Constitution? Since patriation more than 200,000 Canadians have written in requesting copies of the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) talked about an advertisement concerning the rights given to Canadians in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; he threw it on the floor and stepped on it. I do not share that approach. Perhaps there are hon. members on that side of the House who voted against the charter, who were not fighting for it or were not proud of it, but I am very proud of it. Canadians will find new ways to protect their equality and dignity. They will not have to supplicate to governments. Governments have put the people of Canada and their fundamental rights and freedoms above the rights of government. The charter means that people will have the right to fight against discrimination and intolerance. Canadians have responded in kind.

In my riding a week ago Saturday, more than 1,000 Canadians came out to celebrate the patriation of the Constitution. They were proud to be there; the look of pride was upon their faces. They were proud to sing "O Canada" and to take away with them copies of the charter. We ran out of them; I wish we had had more. I was positively thrilled to see the pride of Canadians for what was done in that area. I want more Canadians to write in for copies of the Constitution and for the booklet on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and what it means to Canadians.

What does the hon. member have against the book which outlines the great advantages of the programs available to the construction industry in Canada? If people do not know about these programs, how can they respond? He said that it was the obligation of Members of Parliament to tell their electorate everything they should know. Does he expect the people to know about every one of the programs of the federal government simply by Members of Parliament talking to them individually and sending out householders? Members of Parliament are the biggest users of our publications to inform their electorate. This is what the program is about.

Mr. Chrétien: One Conservative member requested 40,000 copies.

Mr. Peterson: The Minister of Justice is informing me that one Conservative member asked for 40,000 copies of the

Supply

Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Is that not pride? Is that not what we should be doing?

The hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe said that he was against advertising. If there was a way to do it without advertising, I should like to know what it is. Does he think that we can just issue press releases, drop them in the press gallery and that the press will pick them up? Does he honestly believe that the press in Canada will advertise national programs? How many national press media are there? He objected to an ad on Canadian unity which appeared in *The Globe and Mail*. How many truly national newspapers do we have?

If he wants to cut off all government advertising in newspapers and on television, what alternatives does he offer? If he has reasonable alternatives to inform Canadians about their rights and to help them make more use of governments and their programs, he has not told us what they are. What are his alternatives? Is it more billboards? Is it greater access to householders? We welcome any comments he would have on constructive ways in which to make Canadians more aware of their rights. Having heard his comments today, I am more and more convinced that Canadians do not know their rights. We must consider very seriously what we can do to make them more aware of their rights in terms of government.

● (1730)

I do not apologize. I make no excuses for the efforts by this government to bring to the attention of Canadians what their government is doing for them. I make no excuse for the programs that we have undertaken across this country to inform Canadians about the advantages of remaining united and strong. I make no excuses for the efforts we undertook in the province of Quebec at the time of the referendum, for the efforts that were undertaken by the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister to fight the separatists on their own territory and beat them, because I, as a Member of Parliament, would have been ashamed had we stood back at that time and not done everything possible to ensure the outcome which resulted. I would only ask the hon. members opposite, individually, what were they doing during that period of time?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You know damned well what we were doing!

Mr. Peterson: Were they in the province of Quebec fighting that fight individually?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peterson: I simply ask the question.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Beatty: Pretty disreputable, Jim, casting slurs.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) is rising on a point of order.