Supply

tainted ones to make a partisan political point, because otherwise we are playing with the future of our country.

We do far more than just advertise with the few dollars that go into this type of program. The Canadian Unity Information Office is a co-ordinating body for all government publicity campaigns. For example, we have numerous publications. General Foods, when it advertises, does not have to have numerous publications; it just has to have a few TV ads. We have 57 different publications that are put forth by the Canadian Unity Information Office. More than 6.6 million copies have been distributed throughout Canada. The CUIO has held exhibitions right across this country in the smaller communities where people might not have the access to information that they would in the big cities. Over the past short while the CUIO exhibit has visited 1,289 communities throughout Canada and attracted over three million visitors. The exhibits show Canada's north, its resources and explain its different peoples to everyone across the nation. There are as well documentation kits. More than 52,000 of them have been sent to Canada's schools at their request. Special events have been arranged from the west coast to the east coast; including the Canadian Pacific Exhibition, the CNE in Toronto and the Quebec Exhibition. Government programs are set forth in booths so that people can see what their government is doing for them, what rights they have as people and what they should expect from their government.

We have other programs. Surely hon. members do not object to the Government of Canada publishing our national anthem and sending copies out to various people. As far as the Constitution goes, we have had increased expenditures over the past short while to fight the referendum campaign in Quebec and to explain certain of our programs.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, how do we acquaint new arrivals to Canada with their duties and privileges as Canadians? I am very proud that we fought against the PQ and its systematic plans for separation. Remember the publicity campaign against federalism, launched by the Parti Québécois. There were huge signs throughout the province of Quebec, showing the hand of an English Canadian grasping the flag of the province of Quebec. What does one do against threats of this kind? What should have been our response to this threat to Canadian unity? No one, except perhaps the separatists, can criticize our attempts to protect Canadian unity. We have a duty to do everything we can to fight separatism and to fight for a united and strong country, because without Canadian unity, and I mean unity—

• (1720)

[English]

I am speaking not only against separatism in Quebec but about unity right across the country. If we as Canadians do not come to believe that we will never be as strong as our potential dictates if we break up, until that message is indelibly written in the hearts of every Canadian, and until we realize that only by standing and working together can we achieve our true economic potential, we will never attain what it means and can mean to be Canadian.

The hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe attacked us in respect of the policies we have implemented. Here again I refer to his hypocrisy. He said that the Tories made all their polls public. This is not true. In October, 1980, the Liberal government, in an unprecedented move, made public 129 polls, among which were a number of Tory polls. We made some of the polls public for which he is taking credit. Also I refer to the policy adopted by the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Jarvis) when he was the minister responsible for federal-provincial relations. When the Tories were in government their policy, as articulated by the hon. member, was that polls would be made public when their policy formulation objectives were met. That was a good policy; it is one to which we adhere and have adhered.

Another objection of the hon. member was that a number of our ads and publications were simply to advertise the Liberal government. He did not once show an advertisement with the name of any Liberal on it or an advertisement which talked about the Liberal Party or the Government of Canada. For example, I show an ad which was put out just before the patriation of the Constitution.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The Chair asked hon. members not to exhibit any materials during their speeches; this applies to all hon. members.

Mr. Peterson: I merely exhibit a colour ad which was put out by the government of Ontario under the names of Premier Davis and Thomas L. Wells. This was the use of taxpayers' money to promote the idea of Canadian unity and the patriation of the Constitution. I support that step. We used that step, and I am proud of it, but we did not put our names on it. The government of Saskatchewan did the same type of thing in another ad. It was not bashful and shy; it was not afraid to stand up and be proudly Canadian.

If this program were aimed strictly at Liberals, I am sure it would have been utilized more by Liberal Members of Parliament than by other Members of Parliament. I am sure it would have been used more by provinces wherein a majority of Liberals have been elected than by other provinces of Canada. The facts are not true.

Mr. Beatty: "The facts are not true!"

Mr. Peterson: The facts indicate that these programs were utilized equally in every province of Canada. Accordingly, our information programs have been made available to Canadians throughout the country and have been utilized in every part of the country. There has been flexibility in the program. In the budget next year we will be cutting the costs. I am not sure whether this is a good idea when I learn of the ignorance and misinformation which is being expressed across the aisle and across Canada. I am referring to misinformation about who pays for education and health plans. Very few people know