

## The Monarchy - For and Against

It is interesting to read a Canadian writer defending the <sup>UK</sup> monarchy as legitimising government decisions at Federal, state and local level. The writer lauds the advantage having an authority above partisan politics and suggests that the Queen in some ways defends Canada from the influence of the giant to the South.

However the Canadian writer omits to mention the feelings of <sup>the</sup> people of Québec and Montreal. ~~that~~ He also fails to mention that Canada gets the Queen <sup>for</sup> free.

Thatchell argues, in contrast to Canadian's side-stepping of the money issue, that the monarchy costs Brits a great deal more than the modest 62p per head claimed by Palace spin-doctors. Thatchell adds that the monarchy costs UK residents 20 times the cost of the Irish President. Thatchell, though, omits ~~to~~ any mention of the monarchy as a

as a major, money-spinning tourist attraction which is at least on a par with Shakespeare + Stratford. How many millions is our modern Queen Victoria draining from American pockets as they gawp nostalgically at Buckingham Palace?

In conclusion I would say that the arguments presented in the four source texts fail to address the following areas:

- the relationship of the monarchy to the class system in UK
- the relationship of the monarchy to the EU
- the place of the Royal Family in the "myth structure" of the nation
- the relationship of the monarchy to the official religion of the land

Without examination of the above <sup>areas</sup>, it would be hazardous to come any ~~of~~ simplistic for and agst conclusion.