There is much argument about political leaders withholding information. There are those who argue that withholding information from the public is a necessary part of a political leaders job while those who oppose these sentiments argue that withholding information is not in the best interest of people. In my opinion, openness and being forthcoming are necessary attributes of a political leader. I will try to explain my perspective using two main points.

First of all, not being forthcoming with information will create an atmosphere of mistrust. If the people are not informed of things like whether or not a virus is spreading in their country and whether the environment they are living in is safe or not, they will lose their ability to trust institutions and the heads of those institutions. This will lead to hysteria and a lack of control during a crisis which could cause an already bad situation to turn catastrophic really quickly.

Second, a lack of transparency causes corruption. If a political leader is allowed to filter out information that might show them in a less than ideal light to the public, then it creates a lack of accountability for one’s actions. Lack of accountability will lead to an environment where said political leader can freely commit crimes and keep the information from being released to the public.

However, full transparency is not necessarily the best of choices either. One could argue that military information and certain economical information must be kept safe in order for the country to prosper and grow. Afterall, governments around the world all have spy agencies just for the purpose of discovering such secrets. Such data has little worth for the common people but are priceless for other governments.

In conclusion, political leaders withholding information from the public does more harm than it does good and keeping the public informed is a vital part of a healthy government.