

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

have made a real impact on the communities in which they have been doing social pioneering work.

My objection to this bill is that it is trying to keep back the social thinking and development of the young people. Young people today are not going to be kept back. They want the right to express themselves and they want the right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. When they are stultified, they use less desirable ways of expressing themselves in both words and actions. In my opinion, it is essential that we adopt these amendments which aim at having at least part of the council elected by volunteer members. If this is not allowed, the young people will not be able to demonstrate their initiative, proof of which we have already had in our province.

I do not need to go into detail about the projects that have been undertaken there except to say that the members of the CYC have shown a great capacity for resourcefulness in the low rent housing projects, which has surprised the Vancouver people. They have gone in when they were requested and they have assisted people in the housing projects to take control of their own lives in a way which nobody believed possible. One of the most successful projects that they have undertaken has been work among people who have come out of penitentiaries, people who have been involved with drugs and other young criminals. The fact that the CYC volunteers have given their assistance and leadership has helped the people in the community to regain their self-respect, to get back on the track and to become self-supporting again. The same thing has happened where they have worked among the Indians on the north coast.

If the Company of Young Canadians is made into a housebroken, tame organ of this government, we will lose these young people. They will not be interested in doing everything that they are told to do by Ottawa. If you know anything at all about provinces on both our coasts, you also know that the people there do not want things to be run for them and every detail of their lives worked out here in Ottawa. For one reason it takes far too long for directives to get out there, and for another the people in Ottawa do not see things the way people do in different parts of the country.

We are living at a time when everybody tells the young people that what they must learn to do is to take part in the decisions

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

affecting their lives. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was elected partly on his personality and partly on the slogan "participatory democracy". There is no section of the community that is more determined than the young people are to participate in the decisions affecting their lives. If one tries to dam them up behind the old walls and tries to tell them to do exactly what they are told to do, they will stop being people of initiative and resourcefulness. They will become tame, youthful Uncle Toms; broken in spirit and following along just to keep their jobs. They will be tame cats instead of tomcats. It should be the opposite.

As my colleague said a little earlier, what the government has done is to panic. They made a mistake in not giving proper direction in the first place. The CYC did not receive guidelines or directions in any shape or form. As a result, things went wild and got out of control because certain elements in the company tried to achieve goals which the company was never intended to achieve. In my part of the country, the CYC people were able to hang on to things and keep on with constructive projects, probably because we do not have as big a centre as either Toronto or Montreal.

If you want to keep the faith of the young people and to make the best of their abilities to do social pioneering work where it is most necessary, you have to go along with amendments of the kind we are proposing. These amendments are very necessary. I am referring to the amendment of the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) and of my colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose). I know that the minister is one of these people who takes pride in making up his mind very early in his life and then saying "no matter what happens in the way of change, here I stand and I will not look at the matter again for fear I might be tempted to change my mind". I wish that the minister did not do that because we are living in a very fast-moving age. I, myself, grew up surrounded by many people who thought it was wonderful to hang on to old ideas because their father, their grandfather and their great-grandfather did the same. But nowadays, people know that this is not the way to do things.

● (5:20 p.m.)

I think the minister would be very capable of taking another look at this if only he could get away from the feeling that he has made up his mind and cannot change it. They