

of the "Jeunesses Musicales" clubs are offered to the clubs at a cost which, of course, could not possibly be done without our grant.

Therefore, since we are giving all that we can to the head organization, we do not, in fact give grants to the regional clubs.

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): I see. Naturally when we read the sensational stories in the papers that have something to do with the Canada Council, these are things that are perhaps on our minds when you come before us and I would like to ask, Mr. Boucher, about our separatist friend in France who was studying on a grant from the Canada Council. I would like to know what he went there to do and what is your feeling regarding the political opinions of such people?

Mr. Boucher: You are referring to Mr. Dorlot, I presume.

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): Yes.

Mr. Boucher: I have to say that Mr. Dorlot applied in a competition for doctoral fellowships that are open to all Canadians who are pursuing studies leading to a Ph.D. in the social sciences and humanities. He was one of some 2,500 applicants, I believe. His application was supported by two or three—I remember two—Canadian historians of outstanding repute who certainly are not generally identified with the separatist movement; if anything, the reverse.

His proposal was to go and study in France. He was accepted as a student by one of the better known French historians who is particularly conversant with Canadian history. The subject of his thesis was a study of the reality of financial encouragement that came from France to develop commercial traffic between the Channel ports and the St. Lawrence in those days, the 17th Century.

This, as a topic, is not likely to lead to a demonstration of the soundness of the separatist thesis. There was nothing in that application that would make anyone suspicious that there was any faking in this application. The student was regarded as particularly competent from his academic record. Actually, he was rated in the top 25 per cent of those who received awards and there was no problem whatsoever about his being recommended for an award. So, he indeed received an award and this was made last spring. Of course, there was no reason at that time why anyone

in the Canada Council should have taken notice of something which was not known to any of us.

The question then is, having made an award to a person like that, on what grounds should the Canada Council withdraw it? The only thing that we know at the moment is that it has been said in the papers that Mr. Dorlot may have separatist leanings because at one stage he worked with René Lévesque and he worked part time for the B and B Commission. That is all we have; it is from reading the papers we know that. The question then is should the Canada Council start an investigation to find out whether indeed it is faced with an applicant who could be regarded as being engaged not only in separatist activities, or having separatist preferences, but is engaged in some criminal activity. If we instituted any system which would presume to bring this out, I think that we would have to establish a complete system of investigation of the political leanings of all applicants. This is not regarded as a proper factor in the adjudication.

• 1145

This does not leave out the fact that if we were faced with an award which was obviously used to subsidize political activities, whether they were acceptable or not acceptable to the general public, we of course would have to withdraw the award because this would not be the purpose of the award. But at the moment I do not know that we are equipped for or expected to set up a system which would resolve the problem in this instance, which remains simply a matter of doubt.

Mr. Martineau: May I add one word, Mr. Chairman, to what Mr. Boucher said? On that question we depend very largely on the three or four people who make the recommendation, people who are known to us as being actually reliable. So, when they say so and so is a great student, he is all right, he has every quality, he can do his work well, we then send his name to the judges of the competition and they take the applications and look at them and then they write out all the applicant's names, and if one man comes within the number of grants that we make, then he gets it.

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): I appreciate that, but if he happened to be someone who was a