

Company of Young Canadians Act

was to be the counterpart of the Peace Corps. There were visions and hopes that stirred the imagination, and many members spoke in warm and glowing terms of this Company of Young Canadians and the things it might accomplish. But alas and alack, the government failed and Parliament failed entirely to lay down any ground rules and direction. Now they and they alone must take responsibility for this failure.

To show how badly Parliament dealt with this matter I should like to refer to page 6548 of *Hansard*. I asked the then minister of justice what the ground rules were, and Mr. Favreau's reply was:

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the matter of relative provincial federal jurisdiction is involved here. The Company of Young Canadians will be a group of volunteers whose purposes are as follows. The Company of Young Canadians should be the instrument of the government of Canada to support, encourage and develop programs and activities in the field of social service in Canada and abroad. This company would be based on the provision of volunteers. This program will serve to co-ordinate the activities of those who in the social field will implement the purposes of the Company of Young Canadians.

We read the words of Mr. Vidal, one of the directors of the company who states, according to reports, that there were not any ground rules, none were laid out. Just imagine bringing in a group of young people without any qualifications! At least we have qualifications for this place—we have to get elected. It is no use blaming the company. What would happen with any group, young people or not—and we have some very fine young people in this country—who were allowed to operate without any ground rules, any program or any direction? Just imagine, no qualifications to be a volunteer! Any and all could come, no matter what their background or character—no qualification for education, no experience, and above all, no program set out for them to work under. There were not even any priorities. Mr. Pearson has gone, Mr. Favreau has passed to his reward. Man is mortal, both in politics and life.

The five directors appointed by the government and the ten directors appointed by the company had no specific training, and as far as I can learn there were no rules even for the volunteers. What an injustice was done to the Company of Young Canadians the day the bill was passed! But what could one expect? Some very fine young people were attracted, but many with cruel disappointment and disillusionment had to leave for other fields. Others, not so desirable, were attracted and

[Mr. Rynard.]

as time went by even Marxists were on the payroll. What a way to run the country!

Mr. Chairman, I have here a newspaper article written in 1967 which states:

The Company of Young Canadians, an unkempt collection of youthful layabouts, held a five-day meeting in Orillia last fall. The 69 members who turned up for some or all of the sessions spent \$4,738 on transportation alone; \$226 on telephone calls and \$3,930 on food and accommodation. All this produced not so much as a single report.

One would have thought that the government at that time would have taken action to see that ground rules were laid down by the directors appointed by the government. However, there was not a single report. I believe the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister advised the House that none could be expected, although he believed that a member of the staff had kept some record of the session. In that area the Company of Young Canadians could have done good work. There is a development at Cahigue, which is near the town of Orillia. An old Indian village has been redeveloped there and every summer, students under the direction of a professor, do lots of work in the area. Nothing constructive resulted from the Company's reckless spending of \$8,000 of the taxpayers' money on a meeting. Mr. Chairman, what a disgraceful blot the government left on the young people of this country by creating the CYC. Does this not remind you of the lady who abandoned her baby on the doorstep? The blame and responsibility in this matter must be accepted by Parliament, and particularly by the government because it created this organization. The government must also accept the moral responsibility for spending the people's money long after it was warned that there were difficulties connected with the CYC. We must keep in mind that the Company was under the direction of the Prime Minister's office, and that the appointed executive director was well paid to carry out his duties.

• (8:30 p.m.)

Let us look at some of the warnings that were given. The *Montreal Gazette*, in an article published in September, 1967, warned that the CYC had become infiltrated with radicals and Marxists who were attempting to take over the CYC. What did the government do after it became known that the organization had been poisoned in this way? It was warned about the field worker in British Columbia named Lyn Curtis who wrote an article in a communist newspaper and thereby launched a direct attack against the "rotting middle