

Company of Young Canadians

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, following the remarks made by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) about the Company of Young Canadians, I must say that the conclusion he has arrived at is somewhat disappointing to us on this side of the house, because it does not follow the recommendations and wishes of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city of Montreal, who is an important figure, and who has made some very serious charges. Mr. Saulnier has asked the federal government to set up a royal commission of inquiry to clarify the whole matter, but the minister concerned has not seen fit to follow up this request made by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city of Montreal where the trouble occurred a few weeks ago, creating a very dramatic and serious situation.

Considering the circumstances, a committee of the house would, to my mind, be a tool in the hands of the federal government, a tool that it would use to minimize the importance of an investigation in such a serious and important matter.

For instance, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city of Montreal states that the Company of Young Canadians has become the tool of revolution, that it promotes revolution, disorder, dictatorship, resistance to the police and criminal activities such as the use of firearms or potassium cyanide.

Mr. Speaker, considering the circumstances, and since very serious charges have been made, parliament would be well advised to establish a royal commission, free from all control by the house, to investigate thoroughly the activities of the Company, and its finances in particular, in order to prove definitely that the charges are unfounded or to find the guilty parties.

• (2:20 p.m.)

As, for instance, we presently know of some newspapers which are encouraged by the Company of Young Canadians, it would be important to know where the money to finance such newspapers comes from, since they spread the idea of revolution and advocate subversion.

In view of the accusations made by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the city of Montreal, we think it would be preferable that a royal commission be established to

inquire into every aspect of the matter, because a committee of the house might not have the powers needed to scrutinize the accounts of the Company of Young Canadians and determine what funds were spent each year—in the range of about \$2 million—to support this Company.

There are good elements within this Company, and we should not only strive at uncovering the guilty ones, but rather at straightening up an attitude, a way of thinking and the procedures that have been used. I have here the August 1969 issue of *Pouvoir Ouvrier*, the workmen's newspaper in St. Jerome, in which the Company of Young Canadians published the following advertisement on page 2, and I quote:

Visit:

Livres et Périodiques Progressistes Ltée.

Marxist-Leninist and anti-imperialist literature, as well as revolutionary papers from around the world. "People, and people alone, are the generating power, the makers of history".

Mao Tse Tung

Such literature is spread around and we would set up a parliamentary committee, with extremely limited means, to change the policy the Company of Young Canadians has been following for some time.

No other solution was found except to refer the problem to a committee of the house. The committee would not have enough powers and would be too directly dependent on parliament. It would then be difficult to find those who are really responsible. The public wants explanations and a serious inquiry into this matter, because after all it has been financing the Company of Young Canadians until now.

It is our duty to ask for a judicial inquiry into this matter in order to meet the demands of the taxpayers and to punish the agitators. We must do justice to the good elements in the Company who have been affected by the bad publicity their association has received these last few weeks.

[English]

**CANADIAN COMMITTEE ON
CORRECTIONS**

TABLING OF REPORT

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the report of the Canadian Committee on Corrections.