

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

the government, that this would be a great crusade which would give the young people a real objective which would be worthy of their initiative and whatever they could provide in the way of ideas.

Now, after a period of time, the young people find that they have been sorely let down by the government. It is quite true, as the hon. member to my right said, no ground rules or any framework in which to work were laid down. I was a very new member of this House at the time the bill went through. I did not speak on it, but at the time I had reservations in my mind precisely about the lack of a framework and controls. I remember saying to a number of people that the volunteers will be just as successful as their contacts with the older, more experienced organizations and people. This is part of the reason I wish to say a few words tonight.

The young people are looking for leadership. They thought they had found it in this government. Now, they are being told their influence had been so bad on this country that they are not fit to be left alone, either financially or in respect of their programs. We are taking a step which will strangle them and tie them up in every possible way. The young people will not be fooled by this sort of thing. This action will have the effect of driving away many good quality young people who have been looking for leadership.

When people do not find good leadership from the government they look for it in other places. If they look in undesirable places it is precisely because they have been let down and left to their own devices far too much by this government over the past three years. I do not like to feel that this legislation cannot be amended, even at this stage, because I think amendments ought to be made which would make it possible for the Company of Young Canadians to be saved even though far-reaching changes and restructuring are necessary. I do not believe, as do hon. members to the right, that by some kind of easy facelifting we will have a new and better Company of Young Canadians. If we do what they prescribe we would have euthanasia, mercy killing. They say, in effect, put the whole organization to death now, then wait for the resurrection and everything will be all right. I do not believe that for a minute. The same problems that we have at this stage would rise to haunt us in the reincarnation.

This government is not grappling with the problem. It is saying of the Company of Young Canadians that it stinks, that it is

terrible and we must get rid of it. The government pushes the panic button and tries to shuffle the young people around. I do not think we should be misled by the shouting and pressure which has been building up for the past few days. I think we should look calmly at the situation. Undoubtedly, bad things have happened in the Company of Young Canadians. We have heard reports of the bad things which have occurred in both Montreal and Toronto. I do not doubt these things for a moment. Fortunately, however, Toronto is not all of Canada, even though some people there seem to think so, nor is Montreal all of Canada even though some people there seem to think so. Those of us who come from other parts of Canada know of projects in respect of which the Company of Young Canadians has done a good job. We resent very deeply having all members of the CYC tarred with the brush which undoubtedly has been used on some unfortunate characters in the Company of Young Canadians.

In my city of Vancouver I could point to projects where young Canadian volunteers have been doing a magnificent job, either under the auspices of the Company of Young Canadians or under the auspices of other organizations which are off-shoots of this idea. The young people in this city have gone to work. I think of the splendid work done by a young Canadian volunteer among the young Indians who want to get on their own feet in the new and difficult city conditions in Vancouver. They are becoming very fine young citizens, indeed so much so that they are now running a gas station on their own and are making a success of it. I can think of another group of young Canadian volunteers who are working with young mothers who are on social assistance. These mothers had nothing to do except sit at home and look after their children. They are anxious to get out in the world and play a part either in voluntary work or in employment or by upgrading and educating themselves. Several young girls in the Company of Young Canadians have been working with these people in co-operation with social workers. I admit that these are social workers of a very enlightened type.

In Vancouver there are classes now where these mothers are learning to become oriented and where they are being prepared for work. A lot of this activity is going on. A nursery school has been built there, and a happening was arranged for young people last summer which was well organized in every way. There were no regulations broken at that