

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

that the government is really seeking a way to kill the Company of Young Canadians while at the same time wanting the credit that goes with appearing not to kill it. The government cannot do it; nobody is going to be fooled by it. This bill kills the spirit of the Company of Young Canadians, and nothing else. I think I have given the minister some suggestions which would avoid doing that.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Chairman, I feel that the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) is taking too seriously the case I made against his amendment, and I should like to point out two things very calmly.

First of all, according to every information available, the volunteers of the Company who are aware of this bill approve it. It gives them a feeling of security to know that from now on, they will be able to work within an organization which will not be constantly subjected to charges of malversation levelled against the Company, but which might reflect at any time on any volunteer, no matter how honest and upright he may be himself.

My second remark will be in the form of a question to the hon. member for York South. I would ask him to describe to us the process by which some large American labour unions, for which he has often pleaded with great eloquence, are put under financial trusteeship. I would ask him also to describe to us the process under which some American unions can place some local units under financial trusteeship within 24 hours through a mere decision of the executive.

Does that mean that those labour organizations want to destroy their locals? When a provincial government decides to establish financial trusteeship over a town which has been badly run, does it intend to destroy the town?

To speak of cowardice, of a covert intention to destroy the Company of Young Canadians is, in my opinion, accusing the government of presumed sins. In my view of the attitude of some members of the House and of the great ballyhoo in some newspapers, it would have been only too easy for the government, on the basis of all these opinions, to proclaim the end of the Company of Young Canadians' activities, whereas what we are actually doing is to reassert our faith in the concept. To do this, however, we must convince the Canadian people that we have taken appropriate steps to protect the assets that is rightfully theirs.

There are differences of opinions between the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) and myself on the eventual consequences of the bill we have introduced. I respect his opinion, but I fail to understand why he should attribute hidden intentions to us when the whole thing was dealt with openly in a parliamentary committee. Moreover, the hon. member has served organisations, that I know as well as he does, where the process of financial trusteeship is very strict and speedy, although it does in no way purport to suppress the unions involved.

• (8:20 p.m.)

*[English]*

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Chairman, I have just listened with interest to the running debate between the Secretary of State and the hon. member for York South. I can assure you that I do not intend to be drawn into the legal aspects of this argument. I would suggest, however, to the hon. member for York South that from a medical standpoint he was probably using some incorrect expressions because as I understand it, in Wards Island there was not any physical contact.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Rynard:** I have listened to some of the speeches regarding the Company of Young Canadians and it seems to me that a great many of us in this House have come to the very sad conclusion that the only thing to do is bury it as soon as possible. Of course, I realize it is necessary to carry out some sort of wake in order to have an interim period in which to wind up the business, including the Volvos and the \$600,000, and perhaps Ward Island and a few other things. Really, that is about all that is left of nearly \$8 million taken from the pockets of the taxpayers. About all that has been accomplished is the sowing of the seeds of destruction, immorality and sedition.

There were a few good volunteers. I know the disappointment that they must feel deep in their hearts. To these young people I express my sympathy and regret, as I know the members of this House do. They carried into this field their bright ideals and honest intentions to create out of the weaknesses and social poverty of this country a new Canada. But they went into this work without any structure or ground rules to make what they could of their very high ideals.

I well remember sitting here the day Mr. Pearson brought in this brainchild of his. It