

Company of Young Canadians Act

the community level, which will far exceed the present legacy of \$7.2 millions spent on 38 outgoing projects which involved not more than 400 volunteers in its troubled and turbulent three year history.

We therefore say:

Our primary belief is that volunteer service for youth is still as valid an aim as it was when we supported the concept behind the Company of Young Canadians. Surely, however, we have all learned that good intentions are not sufficient to prevent the abuses that arose in the company's operations. We endorse a new start after proper study.

Let me say again, in reference to the Minister without Portfolio, that we are pleased he showed a spirit of consultation. We appreciate this. We are pleased that he showed a spirit of co-operation. This is the way in which the House can work. We are always prepared to be co-operative, to have dialogue and consultation. The government now knows our position in respect of March 31, 1970. We are sorry the government did not tell us what the appointment of this comptroller was all about; we do not know what it is all about; we do not know who he is, we do not know how long he is going to fill this position and we do not know what the position actually is. The government has left us in the dark.

These are the kind of questions we hoped the minister might answer. He should lessen the darkness so we can walk in a path of light and understand what the government is trying to do. I feel I have made my points clear, in spite of the interruptions. I am sure the minister understands the position we have taken. We want this matter referred to the Committee of the Whole this evening in order that it can be dealt with expeditiously, bearing in mind that we are all interested in this company. Let the government understand that March 31, 1970, is the deadline as far as the comptroller is concerned.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I doubt that my speech will include the emotional content of the previous speech.

Mr. Bigg: Or the intelligence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rose: I hope that my speech will generate a little less heat and a little more light on the problem that confronts us.

An hon. Member: Don't go away Linc.

Mr. Rose: I am sorry that the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) is leaving.

An hon. Member: He is back.

[Mr. Alexander.]

Mr. Rose: I should like that hon. member to make as great a contribution to my speech as I did to his. We have believed in the CYC. The members of my party believe strongly that Parliament will by this bill hobble the Company of Young Canadians so much that volunteers will no longer be able to work effectively for social change and to provide a voice for the voiceless. We feel, in other words, that the company will be limited to being a sort of respectable Boy Scout organization, a conventional service organization supporting the status quo. If that is all the CYC is to be, I agree with the hon. members to my right; it would be kinder to kill the organization cleanly. Its uniqueness will be gone and its effectiveness will be lost if we allow the kind of proposal we now have before us.

In seconding the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), and as a member of the committee on broadcasting, I say to the people of Canada that I voted for the three-man trusteeship because I believe that a temporary trusteeship with sympathetic and knowledgeable trustees would allow time for the present elected permanent council and executive director to work out the obvious inadequacies in the management and methods of this organization.

We should make a few things very clear. Neither I nor other members of my party believe that the people's money should be squandered uselessly. We believe that greater financial accountability is of crucial importance if the Company of Young Canadians is ever to enjoy the confidence of the Canadian people. There is no disagreement on this point. We do not object to financial accountability worked out by the company with the trustees and the government. We do not think this is necessarily a sinister thing; we believe it is a must.

We should make another point very clear. I do not accept the distressing tendency to blame all the troubles of the CYC on a bunch of hairy-headed kids, or the newly elected permanent council which has been operating only since last October. The provisional council of the company, comprising 15 members appointed by the government, has guided the company over most of its life. If anyone thinks that all the CYC troubles can be solved by denying volunteers their part in policy-making, they are naïve at best and ignorant of the company's history at worst.