

Company of Young Canadians Act

The hon. member for Fraser Valley West said last evening that we should account for all the moneys spent by the company but we should not interfere with its programs. I thought that was a rather odd observation. I presume the hon. member was speaking on behalf of his party when he made that remark. Presumably the hon. member would agree with the amendment moved by the hon. member for York South. Apparently all that is wanted by that group to my left is an accounting of all the money spent but they do not care how it was spent. I find that rather unacceptable.

There has been some criticism of the government's proposal that there should be some supervision. I see nothing wrong with this, because if any groups ever needed supervision quite clearly that group did. I am afraid I will have to disagree, not only with the amendment, but also with the proposition of the government. It must be pretty obvious to everybody that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. It will be very difficult to make this organization smell any sweeter no matter what you call it. The name of this organization is clearly "mud". We better get rid of it here and now.

I do not wish to create the impression that we are not anxious to see an organization of young people doing the work that this one was intended to do. The government should set up a new organization, avoiding the mistakes that have been made, with a supervisory body. If it does not want to do that, then let it give the millions of dollars that are thrown down the river by this organization to other organizations that are self-starters like CUSO, the Frontier College and others. This is something the Government might well bear in mind.

While I may not disagree with the idea of supervision of this organization, providing there is a time limit, I feel that we should complete the funeral. I would go along with supervision but not on a permanent basis. For this reason, I cannot support the amendment or the general proposition of the government.

The Chairman: Order, please. I should like to seek the advice of the committee. I indicated before that I thought the debate at this point should be strictly related to the amendment before the Committee. I am concerned that there may be others who wish to move amendments. This may be difficult as long as the amendment is before the Committee because sub-amendment must necessarily be related to this amendment. If other members

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

wish to speak on this particular amendment I shall be pleased to recognize them, but if members prefer to deal with clause 1 in a general way, perhaps I could put the question on the amendment by the hon. member for York South at this time. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: The question is on the amendment moved by the hon. member for York South. All those in favour will please rise. All those oppose will please rise.

Amendment (Mr. Lewis) negatived: yeas, 10; Nays, 73.

The Chairman: I declare the amendment lost.

• (9:10 p.m.)

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Chairman, our party has been endeavouring to have changes made in this bill because we do not feel we can support it in its present form. As a matter of fact there are certain things in respect of the Company of Young Canadians which have us really worried. This bill, however, does not solve anything. We do not know what else the government has in mind. We have not been told. All this bill proposes to do is hamstring these young people by appointing a comptroller who will have control over their finances and their programs. Any of us who have had dealings with young people do not believe we can get young people to work under conditions in which they are tied down hand and foot. We do believe the financing should be controlled. We have suggested this. Other members have suggested that with control of the finances there should also be control over the programs. We do not believe that is necessary if the person in charge of the finances has sufficient intestinal fortitude to deal with the situation.

What concerns me and others is that the young people turned to this government for leadership and believed they would get it through this line of volunteer work. Three years ago they were welcomed by a government composed, to a large extent, of the same people who make up the government today. They were told there was room for a large organization in this country which would send young people out, not to do Boy Scout or social service work in a mild way, but to do pioneering work in which they would have an opportunity to use their ability and initiative in giving help in this country where it is needed. We were told in this House by the then prime minister, and other ministers of