

Company of Young Canadians Act

recommendations to the minister on which he would base proposals for legislation changing the set-up of the Company of Young Canadians. Without that we do not believe any changes would be useful and would permit the company to operate in the spirit in which it was established and under which it has not operated until now. So, as I say, we could support a temporary financial administrator. I say that without any hesitation in light of the evidence presented to us during and since the committee hearings.

I should like to place on the record a few examples of the sort of things we heard which I think are inexcusable, cannot be justified and which provide me with reasons for voting for a temporary financial administrator. There were reports of a number of incidents. For example, at Halifax office space was rented in a new building for a period of six months, at a cost of \$2,500. According to the information we received, those offices were never used. In northwestern Ontario a film about Indians was made. It was never authorized, but \$3,600 was spent by the Company of Young Canadians for that film. The people who made the film have now left the company. They walked off the job and took the film with them. That should never have happened. Legal action should have been taken against those involved. We understand charges have now been laid. Not only was it proved that they took the film, but they also took filing-cabinets and other property belonging to the Company of Young Canadians.

There was another project involving work with the Indians in northwestern Saskatchewan in respect of which I believe \$31,000 was funded. The volunteers running the project have refused to account for the money to the staff and the director of the company. We think that is completely unacceptable. The Toronto development project which was to work with the Italian immigrant community was funded \$60,000. When the committee had Mr. Vidal, the director of the company, before it, he told us that about half the money had been spent, and I presume another \$5,000 or \$6,000 has since been spent. He could not tell us how many volunteers were on the job. In other words, he did not have proper direction of the project.

• (8:10 p.m.)

I am sure Members of Parliament have read the news stories of the week end meeting of the company's council. It is reported that the volunteer who was instructed to

[Mr. Orlikow.]

evaluate the project could get no real information or co-operation, and in fact thinks that the project should be wiped out; that there are better places and more deserving organizations in Toronto which should be assisted by the company.

Then, of course, there is the Toronto youth project for which apparently two so-called volunteers of the company are getting in the neighbourhood of \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month between them. As far as anybody can find out, nothing useful is being accomplished by that group except the subsidization of the printing of one of the so-called underground newspapers, which is not a company publication. Yet during the week end the council refused to take any action to close down that operation.

These are just a few of the illustrations of misuse of funds about which we heard and which are completely inexcusable and unexplainable. We should not condone them for one moment. Therefore, I have no hesitation in telling the minister that I am prepared to support the appointment of a financial comptroller, provided it is just a temporary measure and that he is a comptroller of the funds only and does not have the power of veto on projects which I think come under the jurisdiction of the council, with all its faults, and the director.

Unless the minister agrees to that kind of change, we in our party will vote against second reading of the bill. Because of our reservations about this bill as it is drafted, I propose to move an amendment, seconded by my colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) as follows:

That Bill C-171 be not now read a second time, but that it be resolved that in the opinion of this House the government should give consideration to the introduction of a measure to provide for an interim financial administrator having general supervision of the expenditures of the Company of Young Canadians without the power to interfere with the program of the company as determined by the council and the executive director.

Mr. Nowlan: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Do I take it that Your Honour receives the motion without adjudicating on its admissibility?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have examined it, and in my view it is in order. However, if there are objections I will certainly be prepared to hear them.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Of course it is in order.