

**Mr. Orange:** I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Missisquoi, (Mr. Forest:

That the motion be amended by striking out the words "and reference to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs" and substituting therefor "reference to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works".

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Shall the amendment carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS ACT

##### PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMPTROLLER

The House resumed consideration in committee of Bill C-171, to amend the Company of Young Canadians Act—Mr. Pelletier—Mr. Béchard in the chair.

**The Deputy Chairman:** When the committee rose at 5 p.m. it was considering clause 1 of the bill and the amendment thereto of the hon. member for York South.

On clause 1—

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Chairman, I only wish to conclude briefly the remarks I was making before recess.

The only argument against the amendment of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) I still have to put forward is that, under the proposed amendment, the comptroller that this bill intends to appoint would only have a purely negative role. Indeed, the second part of the amendment reads as follows:

The comptroller shall be co-signatory on every cheque issued by the Company and no cheque issued by or in the name of the Company shall be valid without his signature.

This is designed to give the comptroller a purely negative authority. I am afraid it is

#### Company of Young Canadians Act

inadequate, in view of the particular circumstances that I have already pointed out.

In my opinion, section 10A(2), on the contrary, assigns to the comptroller a positive role, if I may say so, and I quote:

No payment of any money shall be made by the Company and no contract or other arrangement providing for the payment of any money by the Company shall be entered into or have any force unless approved by the comptroller.

This provision assigns a positive role to the comptroller and I think that we would not want him to be a man whose only power would be, as the saying goes: "to shut the stable door after the horse is stolen." On the contrary, we want that comptroller to have real control.

In a previous speech, someone said that I had used the term "financial trusteeship". I uphold those words. I believe that it is indeed a financial trusteeship which is proposed in that bill as an emergency measure. And in my opinion, so that trusteeship is truly effective, the comptroller appointed must possess preventive powers, otherwise the council of the Company might present him with accomplished facts, commitments and previously signed and legally questionable contracts which could lead to legal proceedings.

Thank Heaven, this difficulty has not been encountered yet by the Company and I believe Parliament would not wish to be responsible for causing it to experience that type of trouble which could result in legal action.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I find the amendment unacceptable and, besides, I fail to see what is wrong with the proposal as drafted.

[English]

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply to the minister. I listened to his excellent French very carefully and I want to say three things to him. If the condition of the Company of Young Canadians, of its council and of its executive director is now so bad that they cannot even be trusted with the kind of financial control which my amendment proposes, then I join the ranks of those who say that the company should be ditched completely. I would have preferred if the minister had introduced a simple projet de loi, a simple bill saying that the act establishing the company is defunct, erased from our statute books.

● (8:10 p.m.)

I am serious, Mr. Chairman. If the situation of the Company of Young Canadians has