

that in western Canada and in Quebec, volunteers are already setting up grievance committees to deal on a formal basis with the management of the Company.

Though the proposed amendments suggest that there should be three or four volunteers on the Council, they will hardly make any difference. In order to reach the objective set up by the two hon. members we would need more than a symbolic number barely representative of minority. We would have to revert to the old system which, unfortunately, has proved disastrous.

Besides, the committee has already removed from the government the right to choose the president and the vice-president. This means that the young people themselves will appoint other young people to these two posts.

I now answer the objections of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West. He said that I was contradicting myself by saying that I wanted, willy-nilly, the Company of Young Canadians to survive. In fact, I said so on first reading because I sincerely assumed that young people had a part to play in our society.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley West maintains that under the new legislation, young people will not be able to play this part because no volunteers will be appointed to the Council. I hope that he does not think, because the government is not going to appoint volunteers, that it will appoint old people. The government will appoint young people. In the speech I made on the motion for second reading of the bill, I said that in September last we had appointed to the Council five members less than 30 years of age on the average and that we were determined to do the same with the new legislation. Would it be the contention of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West that as soon as a young man or a young lady is appointed to the Council by the government, he or she will stop being young? That would seem to me an argument rather difficult to support.

It would have to be assumed then that when the government appoints someone as a CBC director for instance, that individual stops being a free citizen on account of his appointment to the CBC Board of Directors.

Finally, the hon. member for Fraser Valley West maintained that by implementing the proposed amendments, we would alienate the young people, we would keep them away from the Company of Young Canadians. I can alleviate his fears in that respect because

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something rather strange but at the same time comforting has happened—rather unexpected in any event. In fact, ever since these amendments have been made public, through the press and all the mass media, I am advised that applications to the Company of Young Canadians have come in greater number than ever and that they are even more interesting in terms of years of schooling or equivalent experience of the new applicants.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to express once more the underlying concept of these amendments. Like the hon. member of Fraser Valley West, I did not want to make an emotional speech.

I think that we have to correct the mistakes which we all made when the bill was introduced for the first time. In my opinion, there is nothing shameful or criminal in rectifying the mistakes which we have made, even though we are the representatives of the people.

[*English*]

Mr. Nowlan: Will the minister permit a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I see several members rising. I am prepared to recognize the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte), but I understand the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) would like to put a question.

Mr. Nowlan: I had not intended to make a speech at this stage. I was very interested in the minister's concise summary of the government's position on the bill. My question is this. I would like to know how the minister reconciles the position about conflict of interest and no volunteer members directly on council because, as he said, of a personal or collective conflict? I can understand some of that reasoning. How does the minister reconcile that reasoning with the whole movement of youth today, especially on the campuses of the country where you have in effect the same type of thing? Does his reasoning also apply to the direct involvement of the campus youth in trying to get representation on the senates or boards of governors of universities? Obviously, they are in a conflict of interest position.

My second question is separate and apart. Am I to understand from the minister's remarks that even though he has the discretion to appoint volunteer or ex-volunteer members to the board or council that, because