

Company of Young Canadians Act

The *Toronto Globe and Mail* this morning covered the week end's activities in a rather startling article by John Burns, who wrote:

Two members of the Company of Young Canadians governing council—one of them the chairman—resigned abruptly on Saturday after the council voted 5 to 3 against firing two Toronto volunteers who were said to have done no useful work for the company whatsoever—

The volunteers, both Americans—

So, it is the Company of Young Canadian Americans.

—live in a house on Ward's Island and receive benefits from the company totalling about \$975 a month, plus \$75 a month for the rent of a basement office on Spadina Avenue. Part of the money—\$85—is earmarked for support of a young woman who is declared a dependent of one of the Toronto volunteers.

A report prepared for the council said that there was no evidence that the volunteers—Larry Williams, 24, originally of Los Angeles, and David Gardiner, 28, from Buffalo—had made any real effort to fulfil their assigned task of working with alienated youth.

The report said the volunteers had refused to co-operate with CYC staff and with the Ottawa headquarters, and had misled the reporting team on key points. It also cited use by the volunteers or their friends of a Government telephone line for long-distance calls to Hollywood and other U.S. points.

I wonder what problems in Canada they were going to solve by calling Hollywood? Maybe they wanted to sell Hollywood their life stories about the experiment they had entered into, an experiment which I will tell you about in a moment.

The Spadina Avenue office is in the same building as the headquarters of an underground newspaper called *Harbinger*. The *Harbinger* staff, with assistance from Mr. Williams and other volunteers, mailed post free a tabloid containing vulgarity in CYC envelopes in October. The envelopes bore the inscription On Her Majesty's Service.

I imagine that we will have the Postmaster General (Mr. Kierans) on our side trying to stop these fellows.

Mr. Baldwin: Did they say they were working with underprivileged Toronto MPs?

Mr. McCleave: I do not know, but I will tell you something about this experiment.

Mr. Williams... told the council that the volunteers and a community of about 300 people were conducting an experiment in living. He said it was machines, not men, that work.

That is the way this country is drifting. In a winter of high unemployment I will grant that.

Later, he told a reporter that the community he spoke of was spread through Toronto "and the world."

[Mr. McCleave.]

It does not sound so bad if there are only 300 of them and they are diluted through the world.

Members considered themselves "the new natives," pioneering a life style for all, he said.

Nowhere in this report and in other reports that I have read has anybody been able to explain what this experiment in living is all about. Yet this is costing us \$975 a month, plus another \$75 for rent, and \$85 of this money is earmarked for the support of a young woman who is a dependent of one of these two characters. Quoting again from the newspaper report:

The council members who voted to continue the scheme—known as the Toronto Youth Project—took the position that the council was in no position to judge the value of the volunteers' work.

I would think that was putting it mildly. I do not think anybody could judge the value of these two gentlemen's work except possibly the young lady who is the dependent of one of them. I continue the quotation:

One, Millie Barrett from the Lakehead, said the issue was whether the CYC was going to sponsor venturesome projects or play the game according to the rules of "the Establishment."

I do not know whether this experiment is something new. I do not know whether it does play the game according to the rules of the establishment because nobody has been able to set it forth succinctly. The press did reach the young lady concerned, and while she did not want to admit them to the home she was living in with one of the CYC people, she did grant a long telephone interview in which she said:

"I'm not a common law wife. I don't have physical relations... I'm not living in what some people call sin."

I put that on the record to justify her position. Whatever the experiment was—

Mr. Lewis: What do you call it, Bob?

Mr. McCleave: I call it living in a quandary, because if she is carrying on some experiment in living relations with 300 people, that must be about the busiest house in Toronto if not in all Canada. Anyway, I just point this out to show that while we are presented with a serious bill by the government, one to which it has given consideration, the council met and was not able—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald).