

Company of Young Canadians Act

We are not satisfied with the minister's explanations.

He is responsible for what is happening within the Company of Young Canadians. The government also is responsible, but it does not try to hide its inefficiency or its slackness behind a bill they want us to pass with an unseemly haste. Let them introduce a well thoughtout bill, that could offer a satisfactory guidance to the Company of Young Canadians and we might gladly work hand in glove with the government to make that organization more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more to say. Perhaps, when the bill is read for the third time, I will express my views in more detail. But I must say right now that the government has been remiss in its duties; it has not warned the Parliament of the malaise that existed among the Company of Young Canadians. And when we know that the Company has spent 7 million dollars of public funds we are entitled, as representatives of the people, to know how this money has been spent, and in what direction this Company, that a Liberal government has established, intends to carry on its job.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Chairman, as I have already participated in the debate on the motion for second reading of the bill, my remarks will be rather brief.

It was probably noted that in concluding my speech yesterday, I proposed an amendment that was perhaps premature. In fact, I have learned that the government, through its leader in the house, intended to amend section 2 so as to limit the duration of the comptroller's tenure of office within the Company of Young Canadians. I believe that my amendment is no longer necessary and I now rely on the leader of the government in the House and on his promise.

However, I believe that section 1 of the bill entrusts the comptroller with too little power. After the charges laid against the Company of Young Canadians up to now, the comptroller should have a much clearer mandate.

Like many other members, even ministers, I think that the Company of Young Canadians should be abolished and that we should let it go at that. It might even be too fine and well!

I think we request the abolition of the Company because we feel they have acted contrary to the mandate entrusted to them. That is why I feel that we must not merely ask the government to abolish the Company

[Mr. Asselin.]

of Young Canadians but look into the reasons for doing so.

In addition, we must find out whether the public charges made by either the chairman of the executive committee of the city of Montreal or any one else were justified. Personally, I have no doubt about it, but I feel that as a result of the claims of those people, a full inquiry is indicated.

With regard to clause 1 of Bill C-171, the comptroller should be granted more powers so that he might not only look into the operations of the Company from now until March 31st, but also have the right to scrutinize the files. That is what the chairman of the executive committee of the city of Montreal requested, namely who had spent the funds of the Company, and to which purpose. It would certainly be a good thing to know.

That is why, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe):

That clause I, sub-clause 10-A be amended by adding thereto, immediately after paragraph (4), the following:

(5) The comptroller shall have power to carry out any investigation into the uneasy administrative circumstances of the Company of Young Canadians, the charges made by the President of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal in relation to subversive manoeuvres by certain members of the Company of Young Canadians, and generally, the various aspects of the activities of the Company of Young Canadians.

[English]

The Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Amendment (Mr. Laprise) negatived: yeas, 3; nays, 57.

The Chairman: I declare the amendment lost.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 2—*Expiration*

The Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Mr. Nowlan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, in view of assurances which have been given should the government not be proposing an amendment at this time?

[Translation]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Chairman, I wish to move the following amendment:

Bill C-171 is amended by deleting clause 2 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"2. This act shall expire on the earlier of

(a) March 31, 1970, or

(b) a day to be fixed by proclamation."