

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

members and the majority of Canadian citizens, who are worried about what is happening in that cauldron which is called the Company of Young Canadians.

We could solve this problem not by appointing a co-signer but simply by freezing the funds and stopping the activities of the Company of Young Canadians, by launching a judicial inquiry into their activities, so as to know what happened. Thus, whenever we establish an organization to perform the task the CYC was entrusted with, we shall know what is to be done in order to make a success of it.

So I come back to the expression I used a while ago and which I am not in the habit of using because I express my opinions in a rather definite way. I urge the government, on behalf of the majority of the people whom I meet and whom I know, to put an end to all that. Let us not appoint someone to counter-sign cheques, as the hon. member for York South said. That hon. member had a better reaction towards the end of the discussion with the minister, when he said: "Let us put an end to it, if it is to be like that".

Let us put an end to it, Mr. Chairman. Let us know where we stand because the Canadian people are worried about such a waste of public funds, for subversive or other purposes.

I believe the amendment moved by the hon. member for York South is sterile and superfluous.

There is the only possible remedy: we should indeed grant the demands made by such reliable men as Mr. Drapeau and Mr. Saulnier. They have given ample proof of their ability. They are not out of place when they come here. They have proved to be great Canadians and they are assuming considerable responsibilities. As for me, I am going to vote in favour of the bill introduced by the minister, without even knowing what he is going to suggest later on, because, in my opinion, this is a final step.

The people would be more reassured and feel happier if we voted against the amendment of the hon. member for York South and if the government simply decided to freeze the money, to suspend the activities of the CYC and to conduct a legal inquiry in order to find out what happened. Such a course of action would result in the setting-up of another organization, established on the basis of acquired experience. We would thus give to those who are unable to find an audience in Canada, a voice which, this time, would be

[Mr. Mongrain.]

sincere, honest, objective, constructive and beneficial instead of letting them go astray on the path of revolution.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few observations on the first clause of the bill.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, may I rise on a point of order. I think my hon. friend will appreciate that I raise the point of order in a friendly way. I am not assuming that he is about to violate any rules, but if it is the case that most members who want to speak wish to speak generally, rather than specifically to the amendment moved by the hon. member for York South, I wonder whether we could take a vote on the amendment and then let the debate proceed.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Chairman, with respect, my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre is perhaps anticipating my remarks. I assure Your Honour that what I have to say is quite relevant to the amendment moved by the hon. member for York South; my comments are directed to whether we should accept the amendment and, indeed, the bill. In order to discuss these matters I may have to take five or six minutes of the committee's time, and I do not think this would be unreasonable.

There is an old expression that the road to Hades is paved with good intentions. High-minded people of the very best principles and intentions are often quite incapable of realizing that others are not always motivated by the same good intentions. When the company was originally formed I was a member of this House, as were many other members here this evening, and I think we all agreed with the general aims and objectives of the organization. Although a lot of us had misgivings about how it would work out, the company was the responsibility of the then government and Prime Minister, who appropriated the Company unto himself and his staff. But we all agreed it should be given a fair chance.

The legislation we passed removed this organization from the control of Parliament, and an attempt was made at the same time not to hamstring any of the creative ideas that our young people might have. I think this was the first mistake. The hon. member for Simcoe North has pointed out that repeatedly the members of this House gave warnings of trouble that was brewing, but nothing