

Supply—Privy Council

election campaign and I found that very hard to believe, but the word was getting around in the whole region and I simply wanted the minister to clear up that matter in order to protect authority in the country, because if a judge ever agreed to dispense election gifts, what would happen to the administration of justice? I have not yet heard a single word about that investigation and I do not know if it is going on now; \$30,000 in brand-new bills were found and it certainly is not money saved and put aside through the years. A sum of \$30,000 coming out in the midst of the election campaign and with all the rumours going around, that is very disquieting.

It is very disquieting for the administration of justice in our region to let such rumours circulate and that is why I requested an inquiry. It was not to find out if this judge is Liberal or that one a Conservative, or if he worked for this or that party, but only to find out—

● (12:40 p.m.)

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think the remarks made by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) concern much more the Department of Justice or the Department of National Revenue, and I do not see how the fact that a judge may have mislaid \$30,000 in bank notes can be of interest to the members who are considering the estimates of the Privy Council. The only inquiry that could be held would be under the R.C.M.P. which is no concern whatever of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau).

Mr. Gauthier: We are precisely on inquiries, Mr. Chairman, the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) mentioned inquiries a while ago and I see here under the heading of administration:

Expenses of the Royal Commission listed in the details—

Mr. Choquette: Will the hon. member permit a question? Has he suggested the appointment of a royal commission of inquiry into the fact that \$30,000 have been found?

Mr. Gauthier: Not exactly, Mr. Chairman. I have asked for a royal commission of inquiry on justice, on judges generally, because I object, as the Leader of the Opposition does, to the appointment of judges to preside over royal commissions of inquiry, 50 per cent of which are political inquiries, and in this, I endorse the hon. Leader of the Opposition, because justice should not be involved in politics. This is very dangerous for the population.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

I am not speaking from a legal standpoint, for I am not a lawyer, but I hear people talking between themselves, and I hear the population grumbling and I am telling you what the people think. The people want to respect these judges and possibly judges should no longer be appointed to such commissions of inquiry that are half political when they are not entirely so.

Another point is of interest to me. A pilot program is mentioned here. Well, sir, I wish to call your attention to these famous pilot programs, an example of which is the establishment of The Company of Young Canadians. The provinces must have their word to say on these pilot programs.

I understand that the objective might be good, of course; the intention might be good, but the means to the ends are often not desirable. That is obvious if you read the debates on the establishment of The Company of Young Canadians. There is no doubt that the objective of the bill is good but the means to that end are certainly are not desirable from a constitutional point of view.

Care must be taken when the government proposes pilot programs, as they are called, because it is absolutely necessary to protect the autonomy of the provinces. It is not enough to say that we will consult the provinces. No, the bill should stipulate that we will ask the permission of the provinces. Thus the constitutional rights would be respected. But as long as the provinces are only consulted, that is not enough.

Even if The Company of Young Canadians consulted the provincial authorities, it would go its own way and get into any field, especially the social field, which belongs to the provinces and is administered now by each province. At least the province of Quebec, which I know very well, has its own social service, its own social organizations. There is no doubt that if they communicate with the authorities of the province of Quebec, they will certainly be told: We do not need help in that field. I understand that The Company of Young Canadians was established probably to help other weak groups within Canada or in foreign countries but without the express permission of the province—I warn you that we will be very adamant on that point when the bill is introduced again in the house—The Company of Young Canadians will not be able to do anything in that province. It is the only condition which will make us agree to the bill and, besides, which will make us accept all the pilot programs introduced in this house.