

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

and disruptive tendencies. If this is so, I can only describe it as the subsidization of subversion.

Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has not posed a question, so I am not able to answer one. I take it from his remarks that he was doing one of two things: either he was attempting to bring to the attention of the Canada Council his view, and the view of many Canadians, that the council has made a mistake in reaching this decision, or he was suggesting there should be an amendment to the Canada Council Act to restrict the council as to the criteria it takes into consideration when making such grants as this.

The hon. member recognizes that the council is independent of the government by reason of the act and he seemed to approve of that independence. I should like to remind the hon. member and the house that during the debate on the Canada Council bill, as reported in *Hansard* of January 18, 1957, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), speaking of the chairmanship of that body, stated:

I say that the chairman of this body should be one who in no way will be subject to any suggestion that in the slightest degree the council might be subject to outside influences. Following any other course would in my opinion strike a blow at the validity and prestige of this council even before it became operative.

And after he had become Prime Minister, the right hon. gentleman, answering a question as reported in *Hansard* of November 27, 1957, spoke approvingly of the action of the former Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, in emphasizing, while introducing the resolution preceding the Canada Council Act that the council should be made as free as possible of government interference.

Mr. Dinsdale: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanbury: I think the hon. member accepts that principle. If his purpose tonight has been to draw his concern and the concern of some Canadians over this matter to the attention of the Canada Council, I shall be pleased to see that his concern is expressed to that body, as I agreed it should be. If his purpose is to suggest that there should be an amendment to the Canada Council Act, I will be pleased to discuss with my minister any suggestions he may have to make in that regard.

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

• (10:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

CANADA COUNCIL—GRANT TO
STANLEY GRAY

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I feel there is a certain coincidence in the fact that the matter I wanted to discuss this evening is the same one that the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) has just brought up.

Mr. Speaker, that means that the members of this house are very much interested in obtaining information on the grant to Mr. Stanley Gray, a university student.

On April 17 last, I asked the Secretary of State if he could tell us whether Mr. Stanley Gray has applied himself for a Canada Council grant, filled in the requested application form and passed the necessary examinations for obtaining a grant.

Mr. Speaker, considering the attitude of the beneficiary of the grant, and as we know all about his rather subversive activities, we have a right to ponder a few points. What is the purpose of the Canada Council in giving a 5,500 dollar grant to that individual? Apparently it is to enable him to carry on studies in economics at Oxford University; and to achieve a complex study on the electoral and political attitudes in North America and in Western Europe since 1945, with a view to preparing his Ph.D.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, a 5,500 dollar grant for such studies is quite unnecessary; indeed, as far as electoral and political attitudes in North America and more particularly in Canada are concerned, there is a study in two volumes on that subject, that Mr. Gray or anyone else, can get for about 5 dollars.

I imagine that similar studies have been made in the United States. Besides in any European country where elections are still free, at least to some extent, it is possible to get some kind of data on that subject.

I cannot see the point of a study on electoral and political attitudes of any given country since such studies are already available.

This makes me wonder why, out of public funds, we should make such considerable grants for a type of work which would be redundant, whereas there are thousands of young Canadian students who cannot get grants from Canada Council to carry on their studies in the field of arts or various other subjects.

In my view, if the purpose of the Canada Council is to promote culture and to allow