

ill-conceived and so well surrounded by political friendship, why did his party, which is never afraid to speak up, vote unanimously for it?

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, it was not that the law was so ill-conceived because of political partisanship. If the hon. member will look at the various clauses of the bill and the report, he will see that not only our party but his own supported substantial revisions. I am sure he cannot help but agree, in view of the report, that the law was very badly drawn.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** I am not talking about the report, I am talking about the—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please.

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, before dealing with the Company of Young Canadians I should like to join Your Honour and other Canadians in the warm welcome to the company of old Cornwallian Canadians. I hope they are enjoying themselves this evening.

So that there will not be any veil of mystery around this matter, the proposal that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) presented to the government should be studied. It is one which seems to him and to some of us in the Official Opposition who have been dealing with this very vexatious problem, to provide that the powers of the financial comptroller be limited. There appears to be some merit in the suggestion because we would be giving back the powers to a man who would be required to interpret the will of 264 Members of Parliament as well as members of the other place. The suggestion of the hon. member is that this power run to the end of the fiscal year, that is, March 31, 1970, to gather whatever salvation is possible for the funds remaining unspent by the Company of Young Canadians.

I understand from the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) and the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Stanbury) that other measures will be coming before us to deal with the Company of Young Canadians. Surely we can take one of two courses over the next couple of months and get it properly set on its feet, or bring in a structured organization that will work. One thing on which we all agreed in committee was that the Company of Young Canadians should never continue as it has been operating up to the present. The vote

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

was as simple as that. Some of us wonder if we ought to scrap it now and perform a mercy killing. We must come up with a structure that makes sense, if the organization is so awful that it should be run by trustees.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Surely nothing could be more condemnatory than that a body of people had to be imposed on it because it was so badly run, although I think that was the view of the majority following the suggestion of the Secretary of State when he presented the motion to have it referred to the committee in the first place. In any event, Mr. Speaker, there was the one point of agreement, that it should not be allowed to continue as it has existed until now.

We have seen almost everything this past week end that would reinforce the argument, and more particularly the argument of the Official Opposition, because half or three-quarters of the time of the council meeting of the Company of Young Canadians was spent discussing whether they were going to buck Parliament, whether they would defy each other, or whether the executive director was a fink. Those are not basic problems for a company that is supposed to call on the altruism and enthusiasm of the young people of Canada to do things to help the voiceless and the poor of the world.

We have had clearly and ably demonstrated to us stories of personality conflicts, stories of people using this project—a project which we set on its way with all our hopes and imagination behind it—to do their own “thing”, some of this their own “revolutionary thing” and some of it their own “subversive thing”. But, Mr. Speaker, others in the company have done such things as helping former inmates of penitentiaries, who do need a halfway house to assist them get back into the mainstream of life. It was this tremendous meshing together of the good and the sleazy that bothered us. One of the oldest laws in the world is at work in such circumstances, Gresham's law, which says that the bad will always debase the good. I suggest that with this bill and a succeeding bill to follow, we will still not be able to put the Company of Young Canadians together again as a believable force for most of the young men and women in Canada. It would still have that tinge or taint about it of those who would subvert public purposes to their own ends.