

Company of Young Canadians Act

The bill before us tonight is unacceptable to our party. Clause 2 of the bill goes far beyond the point of providing financial accountability. It imposes a financial Czar at every level of the Company of Young Canadians. It does not, as the trusteeship suggested, allow the council and executive director to work on the problems suggested by the committee report. It puts dictatorship at every level of the company operation. As I read clause 2, the company cannot hire or contract a volunteer. It cannot even buy a postage stamp, nor can it enter into any kind of an arrangement concerning a project.

• (9:40 p.m.)

I realize the concern of the government regarding lack of financial continuity. I believe subsection 2 should state that the comptroller should be a signatory of the company for every cheque. Our party would have no objection to that. Nor have we any objection to subsection 3, the demand for vouchers. I hope the minister will assure the House that he supports our amendment that a financial administrator be appointed to look after and supervise the financial accountability of the company, but that he stays out of policy decisions. If the minister and his colleagues agree to this, there will be very little opposition from my party.

If the minister can answer the problem that was raised earlier about a permanent financial Czar and, as was suggested by the parliamentary secretary, that his office be limited to the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 1970, I am quite certain that most of us would be well satisfied. So we have no objection to the minister discussing this whole matter in Committee of the Whole. Then we can deal with the various amendments proposed by all parties.

Mr. Olson: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As acting House leader, I understand that there may be a disposition on the part of members on all sides of the House to change the motion to refer Bill C-171 to a Committee of the Whole rather than to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. If there were such agreement, perhaps we could do that whenever we dispose of the motion before the House.

Mr. Baldwin: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, there was indeed such a disposition, and still is. It was linked with another offer and related to the question of time which should be inserted in the bill. It may well be

[Mr. Rose.]

that the minister and members of the government would want to ponder this during the course of the evening and come to a decision more favourable to the original suggestion as to the time at which the financial comptroller should take over. It may be that we should all consider it a little and work out a happier arrangement tomorrow.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say that so far as our party is concerned we would be willing that the change be made as suggested by the acting House leader, namely, that the bill after second reading be referred to Committee of the Whole rather than to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. However, that does not change the fact that we have an amendment to the motion for second reading and we have a position to uphold. The suggestion was that it go to Committee of the Whole after second reading, rather than to the standing committee, and this is acceptable, but that should not do away with our amendment. As the member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) says, there are things that the government might like to think about overnight.

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF
MUNICIPAL DELEGATION FROM
CORNWALL

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order please. Before recognizing the next speaker, I should like to mention the presence in the Speaker's gallery and in the next gallery of an important delegation from Cornwall led by the Mayor of that city and including the aldermen and their charming wives.

[English]

COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS ACT
PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
COMPTROLLER

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pelletier that Bill C-171, to amend the Company of Young Canadians Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

Mr. Prud'homme: Could I ask a question? It is very simple. I do not want to engage in any controversy with the hon. member, but I should like to ask him this: If this law forming the Company of Young Canadians was so