

Company of Young Canadians Act

the passing of a by-law, the chairman of the executive committee said again, and I quote:

I say it again that it is absolutely indispensable for the government to order the tabling before this committee—

The government had then decided to refer the matter to the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts. The chairman of the executive committee asked again, and I quote:

—for the government to order the tabling before this committee of all the payment warrants issued for the purposes of the Company by any government agency, because I am convinced that the government has realized, as we have, that it must protect our country and its inhabitants, a task which will be easier when Canadians are aware of the perils they face.

Mr. Speaker, neither these statements nor the reports submitted to the Secretary of State, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) have succeeded in alarming the government, in urging it to action. Why? Just because the Secretary of State did not have full confidence in the authors of the reports. Here are the very word he used in his statement of October 22:

However, usually responsible sources, without producing evidence, have alleged the utilisation of the Company of Young Canadians to cover the furtherance of subversive activities.

He mentions "usually responsible sources". This would seem to indicate that the Secretary of State considered Mr. Saulnier's utterances in the presence of TV cameras as unjustified.

Since very little credit is given to the statements of people as important as the Chairman of the Executive Committee, as well as to those of the inspectors of the RCMP, of the Quebec provincial police or of the Montreal police, and since this is not enough to prompt the government to look fully into, through a royal commission, the activities of this Company, it is high time, in my opinion, that something were done. The necessary steps must be taken to stop such activities.

With regard to the appointment of a comptroller to prevent the possible wasting of money that still belongs to the CYC, I have been informed, but I am not quite sure, that there are still approximately \$900,000 left. In order to prevent these funds from being used again for subversive purposes and certain members among the Company's top officials, who might be less scrupulous than others, from disappearing with them, I think a comptroller should be appointed.

[Mr. Laprise.]

However, when this bill was introduced last Friday, I asked myself: why could the government not act by order in council, in a case of necessity and emergency?

Mr. Speaker, if this had happened during a recess, for instance, I do not feel the government would have called an emergency session in order to pass such a bill, nor would it have run the risk of waiting a few weeks, so that the House would reconvene for that purpose. It would have undoubtedly proceeded by way of an order in council, which is within its powers if the need arises.

We do not oppose the appointment of a comptroller, but I wonder whether the rules of the House would allow me to introduce an amendment, since there is already one before us, or if the first one must be dealt with before another is moved.

An. hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Laprise: Someone said yes, Mr. Speaker. Therefore I move, seconded by the member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin):

That the said amendment be amended by replacing by a comma the period following the words "Governor in council" in line thirteen of the amendment, at subsection (1) of section 10A, and by adding after the said comma the following words:

"and whose term of office shall not exceed three (3) months following the coming into force of this section or the period of time required for an investigation by a Royal Commission ordered by Parliament, particularly into the uneasy administrative circumstances of the Company of Young Canadians, the charges made by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal in relation to subversive manoeuvres by certain members of the Company of Young Canadians and, generally, the various aspects of the activities of the Company of Young Canadians."

● (8:40 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I assumed that the hon. member was moving a subamendment to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). I suggest the amendment moved anticipating the committee stage of the bill, and it would be more appropriate to move this subamendment at that stage of our proceedings. Furthermore, I am advised that citation 394(1) of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition is relevant to this point.

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the comments of hon. members have been pertinent and useful.

Mr. Crouse: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, should not the minister be in his own seat when addressing the House?