

*Company of Young Canadians Act*

● (8:40 p.m.)

I have about one tenth of it on hand, and I am sure that when I return home for the weekend, if I have not stated my position on that question, I shall be accused of cowardice.

This is more especially true as the Opposition has put me in an extremely difficult position because they attacked the bill in a partisan way, while I am about to express views which, at least at first sight, might not be exactly in line with what the government proposes tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I think that hon. members must approach arduous problems with courage and consider them objectively and honestly.

I would have liked it just the same if the hon. members opposite who all voted for that bill with the best intentions, which moreover were summarized this morning in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* by Mr. George Bain—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I hope that the contents of the article he wants to quote relates to the amendment before the House. The debate seems now to become general while we are discussing the amendment proposed by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) to limit the role of the comptroller who would be appointed under the bill.

I would ask the hon. member and the members of the committee to restrict their comments to the amendment under study.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, I have great respect for your rulings. Perhaps it is appropriate to say that I did not explain myself clearly enough as to how to approach this problem.

The member for York South claims that an amendment is necessary so that the comptroller can only countersign cheques, while the minister maintains that a comptroller must be appointed.

In order to show that the conclusion of the member for York South leads nowhere, I say that he is straying from the subject-matter of the debate. Otherwise, the only thing to be said is that either the member or the minister is right.

The member for York South is wrong in asking simply for the appointment of a cheque co-signatory because this would not serve the purpose of the legislation.

First, I want to prove that the matter of the Company of Young Canadians is a serious

[Mr. Mongrain.]

one. In fact, some outside elements are responsible for contaminating, disintegrating, disorganizing, in short, rotting this organization. Parliament must have some control over it. It would not be enough to adopt the amendment of the member for York South.

I call upon your indulgence in order to prove my point. Otherwise, I would simply rise and say: The hon. member for York South is wrong and the minister is right. But I believe that neither of them is right.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I fully understand the feelings of the hon. member but presently, the members of the committee are well aware that we are discussing a particular amendment.

I think it is necessary that the hon. member should limit his remarks to this amendment so that, when the committee has dealt with the amendment, hon. members might discuss in general terms the bill now before the committee.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Charlevoix on a point of order.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Chairman, I comply with your ruling, but as the previous speaker said, how can an amendment be discussed without referring to the heart of the problem?

To refer to the essence of the matter does not mean to refuse to discuss the amendment, for that constitutes an entity. The Chair will understand that if the hon. member for Trois-Rivières wishes to refer to the essence of the matter, that relates to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like you to give us your instructions as to how the matter must be debated.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I thought I had been clear enough in asking the hon. member for Trois-Rivières to be relevant. According to the rules, when an amendment, a section of a bill or simply a bill are being discussed in committee, we must remain exclusively within the ambit of the subject. We have now before us an amendment to section 1 of the bill, which provides, as I said earlier, for limiting the role of the comptroller. The committee members will agree that we must restrict ourselves to this amendment.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, I want to do what you do not allow me to do. With all due respect, I must just the same prove that the member for York South is wrong.