



Parlez-moi D'HUMOUR

Alcide Borik



LA SOLUTION DE LA CRISE GRECQUE !!!

C'est une morne journée dans un petit village de Grèce.
Il pleut à boire debout et les rues sont désertes. Les temps sont durs, tout le monde est endetté et vit exclusivement du crédit.
Or, il advient qu'un riche touriste allemand traverse ce village et s'arrête devant le Grand Hôtel Olympico.
Le touriste allemand pénètre dans l'hôtel et dépose un billet de 100 euros sur le comptoir en disant qu'il voudrait regarder les chambres pour choisir celle qui lui plaît afin d'y passer la nuit.
Le patron ravi lui remet un trousseau de clés et, aussitôt que le client disparaît dans l'escalier, il agrippe le billet et court chez son voisin le boucher pour payer sa dette.
Le boucher prend le billet de 100 euros et s'en va payer quelques factures à l'éleveur de porcs qui lui fournit ses savoureuses grillades, lequel se saisit du billet et court payer sa dette d'essence et de nourriture porcine, afin de protéger son crédit.
Le gars de la Coop fermière empoigne les 100 euros et va payer son ardoise au tavernier lequel, la mort dans l'âme, refile le billet à la prostituée qui déguste son verre au bar. Car, elle aussi a de gros problèmes de liquidités puisqu'elle offre désormais ses services à crédit. Elle court aussitôt à l'hôtel Olympico pour lui remettre le billet de 100 euros pour la location de sa chambre.
Le propriétaire de l'hôtel remet alors innocemment le billet sur le comptoir afin que le riche voyageur allemand n'ai pas de soupçons.
Le voyageur descend et dit que les chambres sont trop moches, empoche son billet de 100 euros et quitte la ville sans se douter que personne n'a rien produit, personne n'a rien gagné, mais que tout le village n'a plus de dettes et considère l'avenir avec optimisme...
C'est cela la solution de la crise en Grèce!!!
...Ah! ces touristes allemands!!!

Bien entendu, il faudra désormais élaborer un nouveau code en Grèce :

- Si tu te lèves avec une envie irrésistible d'aller travailler, recouche-toi, ça te passera!
- Il ne faut jamais contredire une Allemande. Il n'y a qu'à attendre qu'elle change d'avis!
 - On aime bien l'Euro, alors pas question de changer de devise!
 - On s'appellera désormais Terre des hommes.
(parce qu'il est impossible de faire taire des femmes!)
- libération complète de la femme. Ça réduira déjà de moitié la facture du restaurant pour les hommes!
- À la suggestion de M. Péladeau : Un référendum c'est très bien, à condition qu'on réponde OUI.
- À la suggestion du Premier Ministre grec, on fait comme à la toilette : c'est quand vous êtes au bout du rouleau qu'on voit ce que vous avez dans le ventre!

Conclusion : il dit ça parce qu'il a gagné!

Moralité : OK il a gagné, mais il a gagné QUOI ?

It's in Canada's interest to renew bilingualism

In an address that St-Laurent – Cartierville MP Stéphane Dion delivered to a conference on the future of French in North America at the University of Ottawa in June, he essentially called upon the federal government to renew its historic promotion of French/English bilingualism.

"It is in Canada's interest – the whole of Canada's," said the former federal Liberal leader and a one-time sovereigntist who drafted the Clarity Act setting conditions should the federal government ever choose to negotiate with Quebec over its exit from the federation.

"Bilingualism is one of our best assets," added Dion. "Canada is one of the few countries whose people can use two official languages of international stature in their everyday lives. We should love them, learn them and use them, in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from them."

While Dion's ideals are lofty to say the least, a cross-country survey of bilingualism shows greatly uneven linguistic distribution at best. Only New Brunswick officially recognizes the equal status of French and English. In Manitoba, where there is a significant Francophone population, French has only had equal legal status since 1985, and French language services are only provided in certain regions. While Quebec is unilingually French, Alberta and Saskatchewan are unilingually English, although in all three of these provinces some services are still made available in both French and English.

More than 50 years ago, the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism was mandated to recommend steps to be taken so that Canada would be an equal partnership between its two founding peoples in conjunction with other cultural groups. Since then, however, Canada's failure to effectively implement official bilingualism has provided advocates of Quebec sovereignty with viable arguments.

Speaking to a Bloc Québécois convention in Montreal five years ago, Jean-François Lisée (who would later rise to prominence in PQ Premier Pauline Marois's cabinet) noted that when the British Columbia government tables an annual budget, it reflects B.C.'s growing multicultural reality since it's made available in English, Mandarin and Punjabi – but not in French.

Lisée noted that Francophones in B.C. have become so rare that they rank near the bottom of a list of linguistic minorities in Canada's most ethnically diverse region. So even though French-Canadians are officially recognized as one of Canada's founding peoples, in B.C. French ranks seventh as a minority language – behind Mandarin, Punjabi, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Persian.

Lisée took into account that the geographic and social peculiarities of B.C. – which is Canada's port of entry from Asia – might give rise to this kind of phenomenon. But he further maintained that according to the Canadian census completed in 2006, French could no longer claim to be the first-ranked minority language in Canada outside Quebec at that point in history.

In Ontario, according to Lisée, Chinese had become the mother-tongue for 18 per cent of non-anglophones, ahead of French which stood at only 13 per cent. The "fiction" of a bilingual country, according to Lisée, still survives in some government offices in Ottawa and Toronto, but exists for real in just two places: Montreal and the predominantly French-speaking region of Acadia in New Brunswick.

Despite these complaints, Stéphane Dion insisted in his talk that "no language threatens the status of French as the second most widely spoken language in Canada after English." He maintained that according to 2011 census data, English is the mother tongue of 57.8 percent of Canadians and French is the mother tongue of 21.7 percent, with Punjabi in a very distant third place.

Responding to the Bloc's line of reasoning, Dion recalled being told in the early 2000s while he was Minister responsible for official languages that Mandarin was about to replace French as the second most studied language among students in B.C. He said he toured French immersion schools in that province "and met numbers of young Canadians of Chinese origin who spoke excellent French. French immersion schools are now so popular in British Columbia that lotteries are sometimes held to assign the available spaces."

All the same, Dion admitted that bilingualism across Canada is currently stagnating after making no progress in at least ten years. The most worrying drop has been among young Anglophones outside Quebec where the proportion of such youths able to conduct a conversation in English and French has dropped four percentage points since 1996. "The truth is that bilingualism is at a standstill in Canada," Dion said. "We have to realize this, admit it and summon up fresh energy."

– Martin C. Barry –

The opinions on THIS PAGE reflect the consensus of Editorial Board.

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