

Language police can strike any time

Where is the sense of outrage at the unbelievable spectacle of a law-abiding citizen being hauled before the Commission de surveillance de la langue française — 18 months after the fact — for allegedly not allowing a patient at St. Mary's Hospital to "die in French"?

This iniquitous court of inquisition sounds like Senator Joe McCarthy's now-disbanded and discredited Committee on Un-American Activities, which carried on a Red witch hunt in the early 1950s.

Any perceived affront to French hegemony can bring about an anonymous complaint, a French-only subpoena to appear for a French-only hearing, behind closed doors, with no opportunity to confront the complainant if he or she does not wish to be identified. Both complainants and adjudicators are protected by Bill 101 from legal redress for damages. This is certainly not due process; it smacks of a kangaroo court.

Perhaps now those coffeehouse intellectuals, revisionist historians and Westmount parvenus, who have been hectoring the English community to accept Bill 101 and the primacy of French, might finally realize that this infamous piece of legislation is not a passive intellectual exercise, but draconian in design and anti-English in intent.

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