

# LETTERS



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Signs in Chinatown: When will language watchdogs realize that they are not in French?

## When will someone cry foul over sign law?

Bill 178, it would appear, is quite clear and unambiguous in its requirements that all outdoor signs be in French only. This being the case, why then do we hear only the businesses being picked on for having English on their signs? Why is Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Greek, Italian, etc. (in fact, *any* other language) allowed? Are the language police not able to recognize these as languages that are not French, too? Why are businesses with these signs not persecuted and prosecuted, too? The answer is obvious: the signs carry no English.

When is someone going to have the guts to stand up and cry:

blindfolded, impartial, but it would appear that here in Quebec, she is not only peeping, but winking too!

**ALWYN HUGHES**  
*Pointe Claire*

I don't think there has ever been a majority of Quebecers in favor of Bill 178. It was very impressive a few days before it passed to see about 200,000 people walking the streets of Montreal, but one has to consider that this march had been organized for weeks and these people came from all parts of the province. For many of them, it was also an occasion to pass a nice Saturday in Montreal. And 200,000 people

anglophones know that they are really wanted here, and Bill 178 has been the symbol of intolerance.

I talked to a few francophones about this and 4 out of 6 wanted to abolish it. And among the other two, one said he did not know whether the law should stay or not.

The one in favor of Bill 178 mentioned numerous reasons. Of course, there was the protection of the French language, but also he mentioned that anglophones in Quebec are the best-treated minority in Canada; that the English media "have sided with the thugs" during the Oka crisis.

But as I told him, someone has

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When is someone going to have the guts to stand up and cry: "FOUL!"?

The law, while it stands, must be respected but should *not* be applied as it is now, in an obvious and blatantly discriminatory fashion. It should either be applied fairly or not at all; better yet, let it be rewritten stating honestly its true purpose: to outlaw English.

"Justice" is depicted as being

blindfolded, impartial, but it would appear that here in Quebec, she is not only peeping, but winking too!

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So perhaps Premier Robert Bourassa should not have been that impressed. Anyway, I don't see why the law should remain in effect any longer. Did it really help to protect the French language? I doubt it. The political price has been high.

The time has come to let young

anglophones know that they are really wanted here, and Bill 178 has been the symbol of intolerance.

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But as I told him, someone has to come out of the trench and wave the white flag.

And the time is ripe for this, considering the damage it has done to both anglophones and francophones who have been looking at each other like enemies for too long.

**PAUL-ANDRE ALLARD**  
*Montreal*