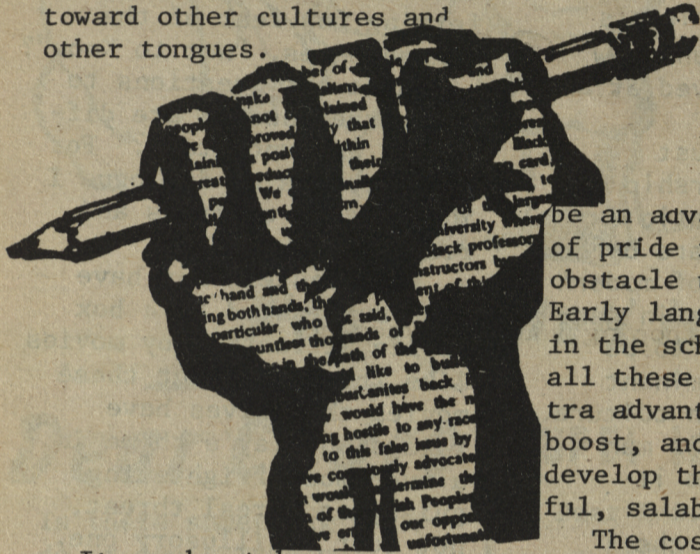


Teach Languages to the Young

He bien, voila!

It seems that the last Quebec election should teach us a lesson semantic. Perhaps one of the reasons for the election results can now be better understood within the following concept.

Canadians learn foreign languages, when they learn them at all, late in life, and often lamely. Among the nations of the West, we have the reputation of being poor linguists, of having little interest in communication skills. Like other English majority nations we are supposed to have a sometimes arrogant attitude toward other cultures and other tongues.



It need not be so.

Generations who have regarded language study as formidable and difficult, subject matter for only the elite and profession-bound student, have cheated our children of the opportunity for early and routine mastery of foreign tongues.

The results show in our own language. Children who study foreign languages grasp their own with greater ease and skill. Often the achievement of North American public schools in English skills borders on the shameful. In the last decade, a good many Canadian colleges and universities have been driven to offer remedial English to entrants. In part, this is due to the disappearance of required foreign languages and systematic, scientific grammar instruction from our school programs.

If North American students were offered the chance to learn languages early, and were expected to learn them well, we would see that we are not so lacking in talent as we suppose. The very young take well to bilingual experience. With the opportunity made nearly universal, the most difficult blockades in language learning would be overcome before the students

reached the upper grades, with their more exacting requirements. The idea that languages are inherently difficult, the possession of an elite, could disappear in a generation.

Achievement represents power, pride, security and independence; to allow the young to bypass it, to arrive at adolescence without communication skills, is a sorry neglect of our responsibilities.

Consider our speaking minorities alone: their language heritage should

be an advantage, a source of pride instead of an obstacle to advancement. Early language training in the schools could give all these children an extra advantage, a psychological boost, and the chance to develop the basis of a useful, salable skill.

The cost of such programs would be great. But the benefits would be equally great, the more so when we consider the spinoff to

A committee for the Legal Defence of Dr. Henry Morgentaler has been formed in Montreal. The goal is to raise funds for the legal defense of Dr. Morgentaler, to work towards repeal of the abortion law and to pressure for community birth control clinics. To date, fifteen thousand dollars have been raised and several thousand signatures collected in the Montreal area.

The committee is now extending their fundraising and petition campaign to a national level. Support is expected to come from universities, companies, labour unions, churches and other groups and individuals.

Patricia Willoughby, a spokesperson for the committee and a Concordia student, said that the Quebec government's decision to set a date, (December 13,) for a fourth trial for Dr. Morgentaler has intensified the committee's

English and the general improvement of academic performance created by systematic language study.

A student accustomed to thinking clearly and accurately about language achieves more in all subjects which require reading. This definitely includes vocational subjects. Language is, after all, the basis of all socially useful skills.

No one has yet considered the possibility that a large part of what is wrong with our schools could be solved by intense effort in language training. The fact that from such early programs a great many students would reach adulthood with a working knowledge of at least one foreign language is only a part, though a significant part, of the bonus.

But isn't grammar, in any language, a difficult, old fashioned, boring subject? Not unless it is taught by difficult, old fashioned, boring people.

Grammar is the only systematic way we have to describe and understand the living, changing magic of a modern language. Properly approached, it is an exciting adventure. Like

mathematics, it often is ruined by teachers whose enthusiasm and interest are worn out, or never existed.

To simply ignore grammar - as recently we have done in many schools - creates generations who can read, speak or listen fluently and accurately, in their own language or any other.

If our younger generation deserve to develop basic competencies to deal with life and living, if our world and nation need citizens who are at home in it, then the intensive language programs I advocate are a necessity, long put off and now more urgent than ever.

Democracy in our nation, and peace in our world, depend on developing the resources of all citizens. Both are endangered when learning and communication skills are the property of the few. Besides, the personal joys of learning ought not to be denied to children, as is often the case. The responsibility is ours and the time, more than ever, is now.

F. Vidal

The case for Dr. Morgentaler

determination to raise funds for the legal defence and to fight for free safe abortions for all women who want the. We know that the law discriminates against poor women, rural women and young women. Often they are forced to go to profit-making agencies who charge them three or four hundred dollars. A desperate woman will do anything to try to raise funds, and failing that, will resort to backstreet butchers or self-abortion." In addition she charge that these agencies further exploit women through giving false pregnancy diagnoses and even through baby-selling when woman is too far along for an abortion.

"The Minister of Justice must know these abuses exist," she pointed out. "He commissioned Dr. Robin Badgley of University of Toronto, to investigate the working of the law. We understand the Badgley report is on his desk.

We feel its contents should be publicly debated in the house.

The liberals may try to sidestep it in order to avoid a controversy.

The committee hopes to pressure the government to have a debate through involving people across the country in its activities.

Committee for the Legal Defence of Dr. Henry Morgentaler
3465 Cote des Neiges #71
931-3807

Montreal, Quebec
Petition sponsored by:

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LEGAL DEFENSE OF DR. HENRY MORGENTALER.

Whereas: the Canadian abortion law has proved to be inadequate and discriminatory as attested to by doctors across Canada; Whereas: Dr. Henry Morgentaler has been acquitted in three jury trials and the Canadian and Quebec Bar Associations have called for a moratorium on further prosecutions under the abortion laws; Whereas: contraceptive information and supplies are not available to all people in Canada;