



James Reston
The New York Times



Henry Giniger
The New York Times

story about a particular family who are nationalists as are most French-speaking Quebecers but who are lining up three to one against.

On May 20 eighty-five per cent of Quebec's 4.3 million voters went to the polls in an outwardly calm atmosphere and 58.2 per cent of them voted No. The Nos carried almost every region of the province, and it

appeared that the French-speaking voters alone had given them a majority.

The next day Giniger reported: *The nationalists' dream of independence [was] shattered by a cautious population.* He added: *If federalists were evidently happy with the results, they avoided gloating. One pointed out that the forty-one per cent supporting Lévesque was a large segment of the Quebec*

population.

On May 22 the Times summed up in an editorial:

The first impulse was to cheer. Six of ten Quebecers turned down even a tentative plan to negotiate a vaguely defined sovereignty. And there can be no plausible claim of foul. On reflection Quebec has given its votes but not its heart to the cause of federalism.

Safire's Scenarios or In Between Biafra and A Big Business Boom

Satire is a difficult art, particularly when the subject is complex and consequential.

On May 15 New York Times columnist William Safire wrote a piece on the referendum entitled *Le Cuba du Nord*, in which he sketched a few scenarios that demonstrate the danger on our doorstep.

There were a total of eight and some might find all of them a shade farfetched. The first three established the general flavour: 1) A major No vote by French Canadians. The separatist movement collapses, the central

Government in Ottawa gratefully extends more self-rule to all provinces, business investment booms in Montreal. 2) Mr. Lévesque loses in a squeaker, blames the defeat of separatism on a monolithic 'Anglo' vote, rallies the French-speaking majority to a cultural and economic freeze-out of English-speaking Quebecers. From this flows much bitterness, economic flight, rising unemployment. 3) Mr. Lévesque wins. A stunned Canada, under Pierre Trudeau, has to decide how to handle its West Bank, its Biafra, its Confederacy.



William Safire
The New York Times