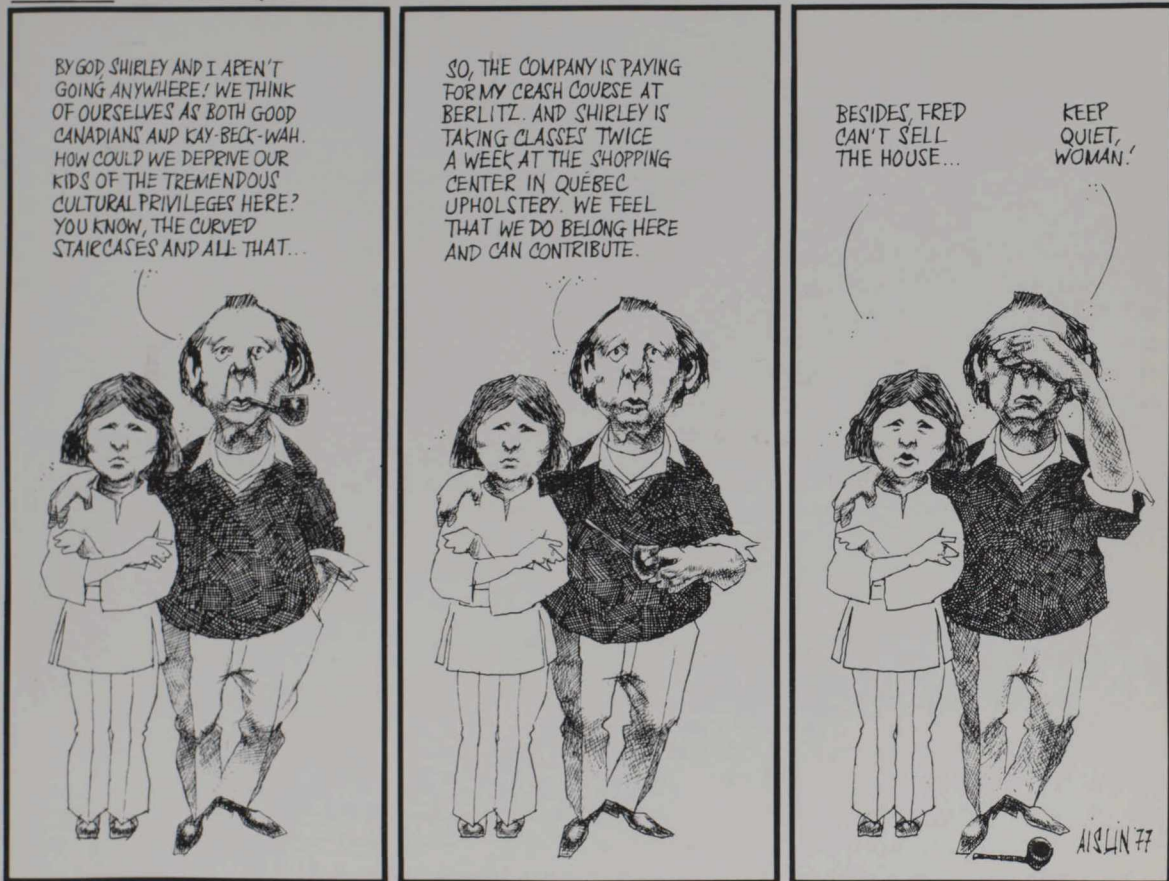


NEWS ITEM: RENÉ LÉVESQUE CLAIMS REPORTS OF ENGLISH LEAVING QUÉBEC ARE UNADULTERATED GARBAGE.



Cartoonists traditionally overstate their cases, but the good ones often sum up emotions and fears as well. On the left Roschkov of the Toronto Star burlesques Quebec language restrictions. Above, Aislin of the Montreal Gazette makes fun of the city's English community. (Real-estate values have since bounced back.)

tunity, protested. The business provisions apparently have caused some companies to move from Quebec to other provinces or the US. The population changes are part of a large pattern extending over a considerable period of time, however, and both the causes and the ultimate effects are difficult to discern. Federal figures show that Quebec suffered a net population loss of 46,742 persons in 1977. The net loss in 1976 was 18,000, and in 1975, 12,000. The most publicized exit was by Sun Life, whose policy-holders recently voted 84 per cent in favour of moving its

headquarters to Toronto. The company, Canada's largest insurance concern, said explicitly that it was moving because of the language law. The Quebec government said that by all indications Sun Life had decided to move before the law was passed.

Canadian newspapers have carried many stories about massive capital outflows from Quebec to the US, notably to New England and Florida, but the cause, size and significance of such a movement has not been measured accurately.

"Quebec separatism is rooted in deep-seated psychosocial, sociological and economic factors. I believe that as long as we fail to alter these psychosocial factors and also the economic status of French Canadians by the economic promotion of Francophones within, for example, the country's business circles, there will remain a basic feeling of insecurity among the French-speaking population of Canada. As long as we have not convinced them once and for all that their future is more certain within Canada, that their fulfillment is guaranteed within the framework of the Canadian federation, we will experience tensions. I do not think that constitutional changes are all that is required to solve the problem — even though they are necessary. They are an important factor, but not the determining factor. The determining factors are of another nature and another order, and it will take several years to fully rectify them. In the meantime, people have to feel that something is being done."

MARC LALONDE, 2 December 1977