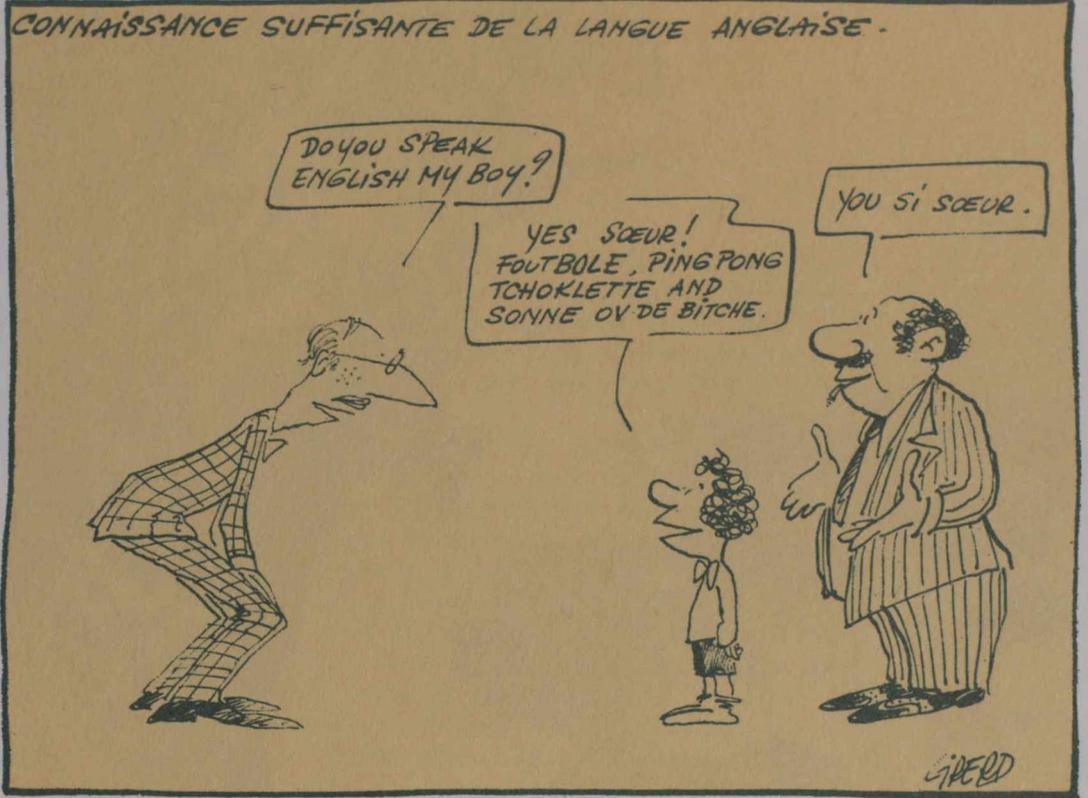




Silver Threads

Quebec's revolutionaries were not always quiet. Most pursued economic independence, educational reform and the peaceful expansion of provincial rights. A few violently sought total separation. Crisis came in the fall of 1970, when the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) kidnapped a British diplomat and a Quebecer, who was a provincial minister, and killed the latter. Canada was shocked. Still, silver threads of humour line the blackest cloud. Girerd of *La Presse*, a man who is basically apolitical, made a small, wry joke — a bewildered motorist asks if a



traffic cop, whose suspenders have snapped, is just fulfilling one of the FLQ's demands. Girerd continues to rise to lesser crises. Bill 22, the Quebec government's language act, which includes a provision to admit only children with a working command of English to English-language schools, caused much resentment and some subterfuge among

Italian and other immigrant families, who wanted their children to enjoy also the opportunities available in English-speaking business and industrial centres in North America. Girerd showed Papa and son demonstrating their "sufficient knowledge of the English language."

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