



EDITORIAL

大公社評

中文基本功

Civic Party is chief culprit for influx of pregnant Mainland women

The issue of pregnant Mainland women flooding into Hong Kong to deliver babies remains a major focus of public concern. Some people have suggested that the SAR Government ask the National People's Congress (NPC) for an interpretation or revision of the Basic Law. Some others have proposed that the SAR Government stop issuing identification cards to babies born to parents who are both not Hong Kong permanent residents. Some District Councilors have even suggested that pregnant Mainland women storming into the emergency room of a public hospital be sent back immediately by helicopter... as though we were confronted by a formidable enemy or in a no-compromise situation.

Needless to say, the immediate effect of pregnant Mainland women flooding into Hong Kong to give birth to babies is that they take away many hospital beds. And in future they will take a bite in social resources. As such Hong Kong citizens are fully entitled to raise their objection and demand the SAR Government to take the issue seriously and work out a solution, including considering whether public hospitals should further cut this year's quota of taking in 3,400 pregnant Mainland women or even completely shut the doors for them. Nevertheless, while considering taking restrictive measures, there is a need to further clarify the origin of this problem of the influx of pregnant Mainland women and some assertions in this regard, so as to stop incorrectly relaying false reports and messages, and to avoid confusing cause and effect as well as right and wrong. Otherwise, antagonist sentiment would grow between people in the two places while the politicians who have created the problem would laugh up their sleeves.

First of all, if a pregnant Mainland woman or her husband is a Hong Kong permanent resident, then she is entitled to come to the SAR to give birth to her child. For, a baby is entitled to be born in Hong Kong if one of its parents is a Hong Kong resident. If both a pregnant Mainland woman and her husband are not Hong Kong residents and she still comes here to deliver her baby, then what is questionable is that she is not entitled to and should not exploit Hong Kong's public medical care resources. But it is another matter if such a woman comes to deliver her baby in a private hospital. If foreign pregnant women can come and give birth to their children in private hospitals, why should pregnant Mainland women be excluded - so long as they can afford the expensive charges?

Recently some media outlets, citizens, lawmakers and even government official are talking about how to "crack down" on pregnant Mainland women. Such rhetoric is definitely open to criticism. Pregnant Mainland women are not criminals. Nor is their coming to deliver babies aimed at challenging or ruining the rule of law in Hong Kong. Why should they be "cracked down"? If there is a need for a crackdown, then the target should not be these women but the intermediary companies which have taken the opportunity to expand business and make money. Even when intermediary companies are to be dealt with, they are not to be blamed for providing their services. On this, the Secretary for Food and Health Dr. York Chow Yat-ngok made it very clear, in his written answer to an inquiry by some lawmakers yesterday, that "According to Hong Kong's laws, non-local pregnant women come to Hong Kong to accept obstetrical services through the arrangement of an intermediary company is not an illegal activity." What should be cracked down are the use of forged appointment documents and antenatal check-up reports, and the transport of pregnant Mainland women into Hong Kong with cross-border vehicle that are not authorized to carry passengers. It is such illegal activities that should be cracked down.

As for the proposal to solve the problem by denying right of abode to babies born to parents who both are not Hong Kong permanent residents, such assertion itself sounds against the law. If a Western baby with green eyes and blonde hair born in Hong Kong can have its birth certificate and ID card, how come a baby born to Chinese parents who are not Hong Kong residents should be denied? The adoption of such a suggestion would simply invite more "judicial reviews".

More absurdly, today some politicians including the Civic Party are making a fuss to claim that the problem can only be solved by an NPC interpretation or revision of the Law. They are talking barefaced nonsense! In the definition of permanent residents of Hong Kong on Item (1) of Article 24 of the Basic Law, "Chinese citizens born in Hong Kong" refer to those who are born to a Hong Kong-permanent-resident parent. As early as N years ago, asked by the SAR Government, the NPC Standing Committee already made a clear-cut, unambiguous interpretation on the Ng Ka Ling case. There is no ambiguity and hence no need for further interpretation. But right after the NPC had made the interpretation, the Civic Party and its ilk launched a "clad-in black protest" to mourn "the death of the rule of law", refusing to accept the NPC interpretation. Later on, there was the case of Chong Fung Yuen, who was born in Hong Kong when his parents made a short visit to Hong Kong. He was exactly a baby born to parents who were both not Hong Kong residents. But the Civic Party came forward to file a lawsuit for Chong and the Court of Final Appeal made a ruling in favour of him. This has opened the gate for the influx of numerous Chong Fung Yuens.

And now some people are talking about a crackdown on pregnant Mainland women and on intermediary companies. But they should not be the target of a crackdown. What is to be cracked down is the Civic Party, the chief culprit who brazenly defies the NPC interpretation! 9 February 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 As though = as if (idiom) - Like something was actually so. (彷彿, 似乎)
Examples: 1. She treats him as though he were a stranger. 2. The pain was so bad, he felt as if a knife were sticking between his shoulders.
2 Entitle sb to do sth (phrasal verb) - To give someone a right to do something. (賦以某人做某事的權利) (This phrase is often used in the passive)
Examples: 1. This ticket entitles you to go in and get a seat. 2. As a former student you are entitled to apply for your own free alumni membership card.
3 Take sb in (phrasal verb) - To admit and take care of someone. (接待, 收留)
Examples: 1. My house is full; I can't take in any more guests. 2. Last year, the college took in more students than ever before.
4 Crack down (on sb/sth) (phrasal verb) - To deal with bad or illegal behavior in a more severe way. (打擊, 鎮壓)
Examples: 1. The library is crack down on people who lose books. 2. The police cracked down on speeding.
5 Open to criticism (idiom) - Vulnerable to criticism. (有待批評, 值得商榷)
Examples: 1. Anything the president does is open to criticism. 2. Should all knowledge claims be open to rational criticism?

尊重方言是中國傳統世界潮流 學中文的要懂教中文的更要懂

一月二十日晚上,商業電台《光明頂》主講北京大學中文系教授孔慶東罵香港人為「狗」的事件。主持人將一段錄了音的聲帶播出,只聽得孔教授粗聲粗氣地罵。他又用魯迅所用「西崽」一語形容港人(「西崽」者,洋奴也)。孔教授認為港人受了英國百年統治,乃養成「狗」性,咒罵內容,不足掛齒。倒是他罵港人「不說普通話是王八蛋」值得玩味。此語勾起我對近代中國文字改革史的回顧。

話說清末民初,文字改革先驅,以為西方之所以富強,皆因「語言統一」,我國如欲圖強,非步其後塵不可。於是有「國語統一」運動,由一九一三年,到一九八四年,歷屆政府都奉之為國策,在超過七十年的時間內,政府各採不同形式限制方言乃至禁止方言;說方言者必然挨批挨罵。八十年代中期以後,執政者「放眼世界」,發現西方國不論大小,都是語言龐雜,既無「國語統一」之事,且甚尊重方言,影響所及,早於一九七六年通過的兩個國際人權公約都有尊重方言的規定。可能是要「融入國際

社會」吧,從那時開始,內地方言刊物紛紛恢復,方言學會紛紛組成,用方言寫小說也流行起來,「推廣普通話不是要消滅方言」的宣傳到處出現,我國自古以來尊重方言的傳統初步恢復。

馬克思說:「社會意識落後於社會存在。」情況雖然改變了,人們的思想未變。上述的情況出現了,仍有人認為說方言的仍然要挨批挨罵。孔慶東教授,不過是這類人中的一個而已。

誰都知道用普通話比用方言更易消除隔閡,促進和諧。但同樣要知道,普通話不是「生而知之」,是要學的。不懂普通話的大有人在,對這些人講他們熟悉的母語,是應有之義,也是國人幾千年的生活傳統,誰也不容蔑視。香港人講的粵語有近億人分佈世界各地,這也不能忽視。我國在兩個國際人權公約上簽字。香港許多學中文的學生,對上述情況都知道,在北京大學教中文的孔慶東教授如有未知,是否應該趕上,以免有忝厥職呢?

容若

觸景立畫

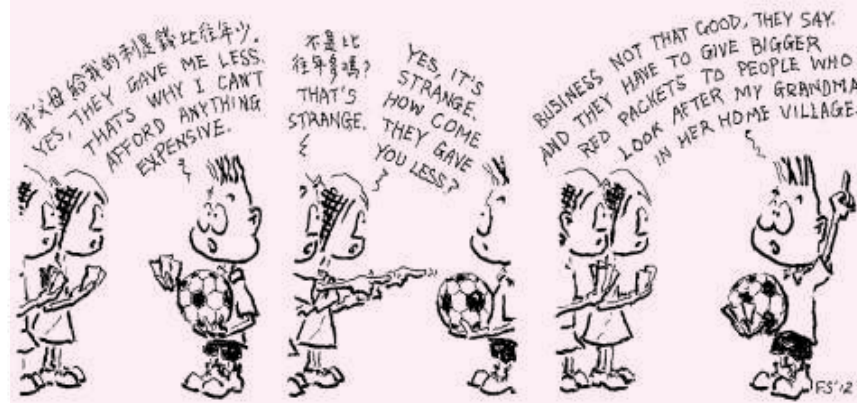
開心行 Catwalk



兒童是明天的主人,活潑好動,盡情地跳,開心地笑,望之令人莞爾。這是「毛織時裝匯演2012」一景,

新丁

SOHO DIARY



Lucky Money (3)

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

The term "lucky money" sometimes bears some not so positive or even negative meanings. When we say someone is asking for "lucky money" (also known as "red packet"紅包), it usually means that he/she is asking for money that is not legally allowed.

I was once told such a story: someone went to a backward country and wanted to do business there. He was introduced to an official. According to the customs of that place, "lucky money" had to be given to that official. The man thought it was a tradition of minor importance and just put a small amount into the packet. The official opened the packet, had a look and threw it onto the floor. The "lucky money" offered by the man did not bring him good luck.

As someone from Hong Kong, I

heard the story and understood it without asking any questions. However, I wonder if a westerner would understand the story. In the West, the idea of "lucky money" does not exist at all.

In most parts of the world, people understand the idea of good luck. It seems people from nearly all cultures accept that there is something called "good luck". If a person is lucky, he/she will have better chance to achieve something that cannot be done easily.

The idea of good luck is so universal that whenever we say "good luck" to people, they would accept that as good wishes (祝福). Even my students say "good luck" to each other before their examinations.

However, offering and asking for "lucky money" is not a common practice in many cultures.

禍港元兇公民黨「雙非」孕婦實無辜

有關內地「雙非」孕婦來港產子之問題,近日仍是城中熱議焦點,有要求全國人大「釋法」或修改基本法,有建議特區政府不給「雙非」嬰發身份證,甚至有區議員建議用直升機把衝急症室的孕婦即時送走……大有「如臨大敵」、火水不容之勢。



▲「雙非」孕婦來港產子潮是公民黨種下的禍根

毫無疑問,「雙非」孕婦來港產子,眼前佔用醫院床位,日後分享社會資源,港人社會的確有權提出異議,要求特區政府應該認真重視,予以解決,包括公營醫院的內地孕婦分娩名額是否有必要由今年的三千四百名再進一步降低以至停收。然而,在採取一系列限制措施的同時,對「雙非」問題的由來以及一些提法,則大有進一步釐清的必要,以免以訛傳訛、因果顛倒、是非不分,兩地民衆產生對立情緒,那些「始作俑者」的政客則在一旁暗笑。

首先,內地孕婦來港產子,「單非」者不能被拒,因父或母一方已是港人,嬰兒當然有權在港出生;至於「雙非」,可質疑者是其不應、無權佔用本港公共醫療資源,因父母雙方均非本港居民;但「雙非」光顧私家醫院則是另一回事,如果一雙外國夫婦都可以在私家院生仔,為什麼「雙非」就不可以?只要他們付足高昂的費用就是。

因此,近日在一些傳媒、市民、議員甚至官員口中出現的要如何如何「打擊」「雙非」孕婦,說法就是大堪商榷的;「雙非」孕婦不是罪犯,來港產子不是為了要挑戰、衝擊本港的法治,為什麼要「打擊」她們?如果一定要「打擊」,那麼,該「打」的也不是她們,而是那些乘機從中大做生意、大撈一筆的中介人公司。而且,即使打擊中介人公司,要打的也不是他們「為他人作嫁衣裳」,

身份證,為什麼「雙非」要不可以?如此想不出現「司法覆核」也難矣。

更重要的是,今日一些政客包括「公民黨」在那裡嚷嚷只有「釋法」、或「修改」基本法才能解決。這是睜大眼睛說瞎話!在香港永久性居民定義、即基本法第二十四條第一款上,「在香港出生的中國公民」是指出生時父或母一方必須已經是香港永久性居民,全國人大早在N年前「歐嘉玲案」已經應特區政府之邀作出再明白、清晰不過的解釋了,還有什麼可以含糊或需要再解釋的?但「人大」釋法了,「公民黨」一夥大狀發起「黑衣遊行」,宣告「法治已死」,拒不接受全國人大的釋法,其後出現「莊豐源案」,莊豐源阿爸阿媽來港旅遊探親生下了他,名副其實的「雙非」,但「公民黨」代為出頭「打官司」,終院判了個「得直」。如此無數「莊豐源」才大量湧至。

今天有人說要「打擊」「雙非」孕婦、「打擊」中介人公司,要打擊的不是他們,而是公然抗違全國人大釋法的罪魁禍首「公民黨」!

對此,食物及衛生局局長周一嶽昨天在立法會書面回答議員提問時白紙黑字說得很清楚:「根據香港法律,非本地孕婦由中介公司安排來港接受產科服務,並不屬於非法活動」,要打的只是偽造假預約文件、假產前檢查報告以至用未經申報批准載客的過境車輛把「雙非」孕婦偷載到香港來,這些才是要「打擊」的非法行為。

至於說用「雙非」嬰不獲發身份證的辦法以作堵截,這一提法本身就有違法之嫌;假如一個金髮碧眼的「番鬼仔」在港出生可以有「出世紙」、可以有

身份證,為什麼「雙非」要不可以?如此想不出現「司法覆核」也難矣。

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員律師黃鶴鳴代表出庭,阻撓港珠澳大橋工程開展。

2011年7月

公民黨憲制及管治支部副主席李志喜大律師協助在香港連續工作滿7年的外籍家庭傭工提出司法覆核,尋求推翻《入境條例》的限制,爭取成為香港永久性居民。亦有評論指,若外傭成功取得居港權,符合資格的外傭再加上其親屬來港定居,公民黨將等同穩拿了幾十萬張選票。

到今年仍鬧得滿城風雨的小城大事——「雙非」孕婦來港產子也與公民黨脫不了關係:公民黨在2001年代出頭為莊豐源一案入稟法院、為他爭取居港權被判得直,今天因「莊豐源案」所引起的問題,公民黨認為無須請人大釋法。說到「人大釋法」,公民黨曾在1999年及2005年發動「黑衣遊行」,以「維護法治」為由,抗議人大就居留權案及補選特首任期進行釋法,由此宣告香港「法治已死」。

通識記憶體

鼓動司法覆核 公民黨屢次「禍港」

從去年到現在,公民黨「禍港」新聞不斷:

2011年2月底

財政司司長發表年度財政預算案後,公民黨表示失望,又在中環收集市民簽名反對預算案;後於3月6日與其他泛民團體舉辦「反對短視預算案」遊行。

2011年4月初

就反地產霸權參與「千人刷街在美孚」;青年公民(公民黨其中一個支部)又舉行「無殼蝸牛齊刷街活動」,連同一群聲討地產霸權的年輕人及團體在長江中心外抗議地產霸權,影響民生。

2011年4月

居住東涌的66歲婦人朱綺華2010年申請法律援助入稟高等法院,指港珠澳大橋工程的兩份環評報告不合法和不合理,令大橋工程頓時癱瘓。特區政府在港珠澳大橋環評評估報告司法覆核案敗訴後,有評論指責公民黨在事件中幕後操控,利用一名老婦申請法律援助後,由「民主大狀」戴啟代為入稟提出司法覆核,再由公民黨成