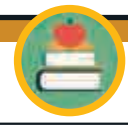




市民不應繼續替「拉布」買單



中英社評

昨日有數千名建造業工人遊行，強烈譴責反對派的「拉布」行爲。這已是三個月來的第二次，足以反映問題的嚴峻性。反對派議員在立會無休無止的「拉布」，已經嚴重拖累香港的發展步伐，危害到城市的整體競爭力。而經濟下滑導致的失業率迅速攀升，極有可能增加社會不穩定的因素。少數政客惡意行爲，最終要以全社會利益受損爲代價。

「拉布」已經成爲香港的政治頑疾，市民縱使對此感到深惡痛絕，但苦無有效應對方法。然而，立法會所審議的撥款動議都有滯後效應，過去一年來幾近瘋狂的「拉布」，其惡果日後才一一顯現出來。

第一，基建工程嚴重受阻。目前有近60項工務工程撥款嚴重受阻。據香港建造業大

聯盟的數據，本年度立法會財委會目前只批出76億元的新工程撥款，這一數字在上一年度是850億元，而工務委員會目前只剩下七次會期，可批出的新撥款必定難以達標。一個城市的基建若未能如期推進，受影響的不只是建造業本身，而是整個香港的核心競爭力。

第二，失業率正迅速攀升。據政府統計處數據，今年第一季建造業失業率高達百分之四點九，較去年同期增加了近一個百分點。業內人士認爲，數字或未必反映實際情況，因爲許多工人都無登記失業的習慣。而隨着立會會期的結束，數字必定會逐月上升，情況若得不到改善，可能會重演2003年失業率超過兩位數的惡劣情況。香港約有三至四十萬建造業相關行業的從業員，他們的「飯碗」被打破，由此可能出現的動盪與惡劣影響絕不可低估。

第三，公帑被嚴重浪費。建造成本年年增加，延誤所要增加的成本往往數以億計。例如已於去年八月招標，原希望今年上半年

動工、2020年完成的將軍澳一藍田隧道工程，其最新造價已由82億元飆升至150億元，增幅近百分之八十。僅一個工程就令公帑浪費68億元，若「拉布」再阻撓撥款，60項工程又將造成多大的損失？這數十億甚至上百億元的公帑，原本可以用在更多的民生福利政策，但最終要爲反對派的「拉布」買單。

香港的整體經濟形勢已經十分嚴峻，剛公布的零售業總銷售貨值連跌13個月、行業信心指數持續下跌等等，若再加上更多基建工程的「難產」，香港恐將進入衰退的邊緣。

因此，眼下應是各界團結一致克服難關的時候，但反對派的所謂「民意代表」仍在繼續做着損害香港市民利益之事，揮霍着數以億計的公帑開支。

要阻止這一情況的惡化，靠反對派政客「收手」已經無可能，九月立法會改選，市民用手一票趕走這批侵害香港利益的「蠹蟲」，是唯一有效方法。基建等不起，失業的「打工仔」更等不起，爲己爲公，市民已別無選擇。

2016-05-09



▲數千名建造業工人遊行，強烈譴責反對派的「拉布」行爲

大公報記者何嘉駿攝

WORDS AND USAGE

Aftereffect, after-effect (noun)

● An unpleasant effect that follows an event or accident, sometimes continuing for a long time or happening some time after it. (滯後效應)

Examples:

1. Headaches are an aftereffect of this sort of accident.
2. He was suffering the after-effects of the drug.

In a row (idiom)

● One after another without a break. (接連，連續)

Examples:

1. She's been voted Best Actress three years in a row.
2. I haven't had a good meal for three days in a row.

On the brink of sth (idiom)

● If someone or something is on the brink of a situation, that situation is likely to happen soon. (瀕於，接近，處於...的邊緣)

Examples:

1. Scientists are on the brink of a major new discovery.
2. We are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

Stick together (phrasal verb)

● If people stick together, they remain close together and support and help each other. (團結一致，互相支持)

Examples:

1. If we all stick together, we can succeed.
2. The country's foreign minister said that it was important for small nations to stick together.

Infringe on/upon sth (phrasal verb)

● To encroach on something. (侵犯，侵害)

Examples:

1. These restrictions infringe upon basic human rights.
2. I'm not infringing on your property. I'm in my own yard.

Citizens should no longer pay the price for filibustering

Several thousand construction workers yesterday took to the streets to strongly condemn the opposition's filibustering activity. This is the second street protest against filibustering in three months, which is sufficient to show how serious the problem is. Endless filibustering by opposition lawmakers at the Legislative Council (Legco) has seriously slowed down Hong Kong's development and endangered the city's comprehensive competitiveness. Economic slowdown leads to the rapid rise of unemployment rate, which is very likely to fuel social instability. In the end, the price paid for the malicious behaviour of a handful of politicians is damages to the interests of whole society.

Filibustering has already become a political ineradicable disease in Hong Kong. Although citizens detest it bitterly, they suffer from having no effective means to deal with it. Nevertheless, all funding proposals deliberated at Legco have **aftereffects**. The bad effects of the nearly crazy filibustering over past year will show up one after the other some time later.

First of all, infrastructure projects are being seriously halted. At present, nearly 60 funding proposals for public works are being blocked. According to figures provided by the Construction Industry Alliance, the Legco Finance Committee this year has so far just granted \$7.6 billion for new public works, about by comparison \$85 billion was granted last year. And the Public Works Subcommittee only has seven sessions left this year as scheduled, so approval of new funding surely won't meet the target. If a city fails to advance its infrastructure construction, affected won't be just the construction industry but the core competitiveness of whole Hong Kong as well.

Secondly, unemployment rate is rapidly going up. According to statistics from the Census and Statistics Department, unemployment rate of the construction industry hit 4.9% in the first quarter of this year, an increase of nearly one percentage point compared with the same period of last year. And insiders of the industry think the figure may not reflect the reality, because many worker do not have the habit to register for unemployment. With the conclusion of the Legco session, the figure is bound to rise month after month. If the situation

won't improve, unemployment rate would hit a two-digit number like in the year of 2003. There are about 300,000 to 400,000 workers in construction and related industries. If their "rice bowls" are broken, turmoil and bad affects possibly caused should not be underestimated.

Thirdly, public funds are being seriously wasted. Construction costs grow year after year, with the extra costs caused by delays being in hundreds and millions of dollars. For example, the latest construction cost for the Tseung Kwan O - Lam Tin Tunnel project, which called for bids in August of last year and originally was planned to start construction in the first half of this year and complete construction in 2020, has jumped to \$15 billion from \$8.2 billion, up nearly 80%. A single project already wastes \$6.8 billion of taxpayers' money. If filibustering continues to block funding applications, what a loss in total would be caused for all 60 projects? Such public funds of billions of dollars could otherwise be spent on people livelihood and welfare measures but in the end are wasted for the opposition's filibustering.

The overall economic situation in Hong Kong is very tough already. Latest statistics show the value of total retail sales has dropped for 13 months **in a row**, and confidence index for the industry continues to decline, etc. If more infrastructure projects become difficult of fulfilment, it is afraid that Hong Kong would be **on the brink of** recession.

Consequently, while it is now a time for all sectors to **stick together** to overcome difficulties, the so-called "elected representatives" from the opposition camp continue doing things to damage Hong Kong people's interests throwing away public funds in hundreds of millions of dollars.

To stop such a situation from getting worse and worse, it is absolutely impossible to rely on opposition politicians to hold their hands. The only effective way is for citizens to cast out with their votes this bunch of vermin **infringing on** Hong Kong's interests in the Legco election in September. Infrastructure construction can't afford waiting. Jobless wage-earners can't afford waiting. For their own and public interests, citizens have no other choice.

09 May 2016

相片雖真 解讀可誤

詹姆斯一開始表示震驚 (shocked)，但後來也說他相信已去世的父親不是相中人。

19世紀中照相術開始流行，隨之出現英語諺語：The camera does not lie (照相機不會騙人)，認爲照片能忠實再現情景 (a faithful representation of a scene)。英文媒體隨後也流行這樣的信念：A picture is worth a thousand words (一張相片勝過萬言文)，即新聞照片比文字更能打動讀者，讓其直觀地了解真相。因此西媒在使用新聞照片時往往不吝版面。而本港中文報章近二十年來，才逐

漸流行「做大照片」。

不過，插旗照趣聞給我們帶來啓示：照片雖真，人們的解讀則可能出現偏差和錯誤。正如美國當代作家保羅·奧斯特 (Paul Auster) 所說：「照片不騙人，但它們也不能告訴我們全部真相 (The pictures do not lie, but neither do they tell the whole story)。」

當然，現在有了數碼相機和Photoshop，也就有了各種「造假騙人」的照片了。

亦然



▲六名海軍陸戰隊士兵在硫磺島的摺鉢山插上美國國旗的瞬間，成爲二戰的經典照片

網上圖片

與自然融合的日本



走出校園

中華文化在歷史上重視自然，從生活、飲食和建築的範疇可以看出來。日本的工業發展雖然過了幾十年頭，但是對於喜歡自然景觀的遊客來說，日本的自然保育非常好。環顧亞洲地區，可以發現日本人是融合自然的民族之一。

魚生壽司最有名

提起日本旅行，最令人興奮的指定動作是品嚐美食和泡溫泉。在日本料理中最有名的是魚生和壽司。美味的魚生最重要的是食材，即是新鮮的魚類和海產，配以師傅優秀的刀工，使新鮮的材料變成美食。

其中的重點是，即使師傅的功夫如何厲害，沒有好的食材就無法做好這道料理。就是說，料理人的工作只是把大自然本身的美味保持到最高的層次。

又如日本的建築文化，該國寺廟非常多，尤其是京都。筆者在京都留學時已經把大大小小的寺廟遊遍。日本的寺廟除了建築物本身，還有庭院和花園。

雖然沒有中國庭院的氣派，但是多了幾分恬靜。有時坐在寺廟看着庭院的石頭和草木，可以上看幾個小時也不覺得沉悶。日本有很多天然溫泉，其實就是因爲日本有很多火山，日本人在享受火山的安靜自然。

與自然風險共存

千百年來日本國土與地震共存，日本人在面對地震這種大殺傷力災害時的心態與行爲很值得我們佩服。多次重大災害中，日本人總是能有序地疏散，在危難中不失冷靜。

在心態上，很多人接受了日本人需要與這種自然風險共存的習慣。筆者重溫了幾十年前一套經典的日本電影：《日本沉沒》，故事中心科學家發現了可以引發毀滅日本的深海地溝。他向日本政府報告了這個可怕的發現而引出了三個可行性：一是日本向外國借債，重建日本；二是分散移民外國；三是博士的選擇：日本人隨着日本國土消失。選擇表明了如果日本人不能再生活於日本國土上，他們寧讓整個民族隨自然而消失。這結論雖傷感，卻代表了一種生活態度，更是一種與自然融合的思想。

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時事英語

近日一則趣聞是：一幅第二次世界大戰的標誌性照片 (iconic photograph) 被懷疑認錯相中人。

1945年2月19日至3月26日，美軍經過慘烈戰鬥攻克日軍固守的硫磺島 (Iwo Jima)。一名隨軍記者拍下了六名海軍陸戰隊 (Marine Corps) 士兵在該島的摺鉢山 (Mount Suribachi) 插上美國國旗的瞬間，此相成爲二戰經典照片廣爲流傳，並被用於繪畫、雕塑和郵票。相中六名士兵的身份隨後被官方確認，幾十年來被視爲美國英雄式人物。其中一位是約翰·布拉德利 (John Bradley)，他的兒子詹姆斯 (James Bradley) 後來據此寫了一本名爲《父輩的旗幟》 (Flags of Our Fathers) 的暢銷書 (best-selling book)，並被拍成電影。

但兩年前，美國兩名業餘歷史學者在《奧馬哈世界先驅報》 (Omaha World-Herald) 撰文列舉證據表示，布拉德利是被誤認，他並不是插旗的六名軍人之一。美國海軍陸戰隊最近已下令調查。