

Portuguese living in Quebec. It is an unpretentious case study based on data collected from 255 Portuguese households interviewed in 1984 in the Montreal region. It documents that the Portuguese community has chosen French as its second language, primarily because they have found employment in the francophone sector of the economy. But the members of this francophone (and francophile) ethnic community have sent their children to English schools and, as a result of this, Portuguese youth, while trilingual, tend to integrate into the English-speaking community. In noting this phenomenon, the authors attempt to demonstrate that the situation has changed drastically with the enforcement of provincial language legislation (in particular Law 101) that has put a rein on this tendency and that, at present, most young people of Portuguese origin are moving towards French. In positing this, Veltman and Paré tell us that this aspect of language policy must be interpreted in the light of political choices made in the larger system and seen as what could be a consequence of shifting political alignments.

Through the use of questionnaires, the authors bring out the role of the immediate social context in the choice of language and the shortcomings of the concept «langue d'usage unique» used by the Canadian census. According to Veltman and Paré, «on peut notamment reprocher à cette notion subjective et globale de véhiculer une réalité disparue.» Thus, their study shows that, even if the language spoken by the Portuguese is Portuguese, among members of the same generation, they speak French or English. None of these questionnaire replies offers startling new insights, but they do illustrate clearly that the census question reflects the language of intergenerational contacts and is not particularly suited to the study of language shifts.

This working paper could be profitably read in the context of two available books on the Portuguese in Canada (i.e., Anderson, G. and D. Higgs, *L'héritage du futur*, and Alpalhão, J.A. and V. Da Rosa, *Les Portugais du Québec*), that document different socio-economic aspects of the Portuguese communities in Canada. To our surprise, these two monographs are absent from the bibliography.

While this is not a publication for the beginning student, it is deserving of attention by those interested in new research on linguistic shift in Canada. Thus, the study fills a gap in our knowledge of immigrant groups in the province of Quebec. While it can never be considered as a definitive work on the topic, it probably will be of some use to students seeking basic data on language choices made by immigrants in Montreal. As stated before, what would have enhanced its utility is a broader and more comprehensive description of the socio-economic niches occupied by the Portuguese communities of Quebec.

A final note: It would have been appropriate, for the sake of precision, to make reference to Montreal in the title. As a matter of fact, the findings may or may not apply to other

«Québécois d'origine portugaise» living in Hull or Quebec City, for instance.

Victor M.P. Da Rosa
Department of Sociology
University of Ottawa

Helman, Claire. *The Milton-Park Affair: Canada's Largest Citizen-Developer Confrontation*. Montreal: Vehicule Press, 1987. Pp. 183. Illustrations. \$12.95.

Ratepayers and residents operate under serious disadvantages when fighting developers. The money is always concentrated on the other side and the city politicians, all too often, believe that their bread will be buttered better by the developers, not the voters. It takes time and effort to mobilize a community, endless hours attending meetings at City Hall and raising funds, hours that could be more usefully spent doing a job or simply playing with the kids. Staying power, in other words, is not the notable characteristic of a citizens group. And yet, sometimes it all comes together; sometimes the residents can defend themselves and emerge out of the fire as a stronger and more viable community.

Milton-Park is in Montreal, located just to the east of the McGill University campus. In the late 1960s, the housing stock in the area was slightly run down, but still sound. The residents were a bilingual mix of working class and middle class, hippies, professors, and workers, all of whom enjoyed living within a fifteen minute walk from the centre of town. But that very advantage attracted developers, ironically in this case two lapsed communists who had split with the party in 1956 and set out to make money. The developers put together a proposal, attracted funding from private and public sources and declared themselves ready to clear the slums.

Aided by a mole within the Montreal planning department, aided not at all by the politicians, the tenants and owners began to organize. Newsletters poured out; marches set off for City Hall; street festivals brought the wider community into the neighbourhood; the media was pressed into service; and the developers' spies were rooted out. Given the population of the area, there were political agendas being played out as the Maoists jostled with activists of various hues. Inevitably a core group of twenty developed, led by a McGill professor. Who else, after all, had the time to spend fighting City Hall and the access to mimeograph and xerox machines?

Milton-Park lost some of the early battles as its disorganization hurt it. The developer cleared a great tract of land for a hotel-apartment complex. But then the cost of money began to rise, the October Crisis hurt Montreal's image and