



MY TWO CENTS

What “Quiet” Revolution are you referring to Mr Prime Minister?

Martin Pender, May 2018

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this article are my own. As freedom of speech is still recognised as a fundamental right, and everyone joins in singing the modern mantra “everyone has a right to his or her opinion”, I give no apologies for articulating “the right to my own opinion”. In a real democracy where sound academic principles are applied, tolerated and encouraged, where proper and honest debate is promoted, the results will always be for the betterment of society at large. You may not agree with the opinions expressed here, but please remember the phrase (wrongly attributed to Voltaire): “Je ne suis pas d’accord avec ce que vous dites, mais je me battrai jusqu’au bout pour que vous puissiez le dire” – I do not agree with what you say, but I will fight to the end for your right to say it.

PURPOSE

When the Republic of Ireland held a referendum on abortion (25 May 2018), it became apparent during the day, even before the final result was known, that an overwhelming majority had voted yes to changing the country’s constitution and so enabling the government to introduce legislation legalising abortion in the country. Without any attempt to conceal his elation at the result, the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Leo Varadkar, stated that the victory was the “culmination of a quiet revolution”. Without any exaggeration on my part, the appropriateness of such a statement is not only questionable, but I also find Mr Varadkar’s statement most disagreeable, distasteful and disrespectful. In this short reflection, I would like to analyse the broader aspects of this statement and so reveal the shocking content of this Machiavellian utterance.

CULMINATION

The word “culmination” basically means the end or final result of something. However, clandestinely concealed in what might appear to be a rather “innocent” little word, we find a not so neutral nuance, but rather a sombre subtlety – the desired result does not happen accidentally or by chance! It implies implicitly that behind the scenes something has been done on a continuous basis in order to achieve the preferred result. I find this insight decidedly distasteful and fundamentally frightful.

For the past fifty years or so, the liberal left has been promoting a lifestyle that is racially opposed to the traditional Judeo-Christian understanding of the human person, the family and sexual morality. Under the fraudulent guise of “liberalisation”, the nations of the West have become slaves in a political system that imprisons the mind of people with a counterfeit set of “values”, if that honourable word could be used in such a context.

Even though the word “liberal” has noble origins, indicating a person of free birth, today it has come to mean broad-minded, especially when it comes to not being bound by authoritarianism or traditional forms. Another shift in meaning has taken place in recent times. “Liberal” can now mean something obsolete, someone lacking moral restraint, or licentiousness.

The result of this so-called liberalisation on the nations of the West is that the human person has neither been liberated nor emancipated, but contracepted, sodomised, adulterated, aborted and euthanised. Despite the significant advances in the sciences and technology in recent years, the liberalisation of humanity has resulted in a human tragedy.

However, the ugly face of liberalism did not suddenly enter the stage of human history in recent years. Liberalism, as we know it today, began in the 17th century. Politically, the British liberal tradition has always emphasised expanding democracy while French liberalism has always had the rejection of authoritarianism as its central theme. However, philosophically, liberalism emerged into the West through Martin Luther (1483–1546). Luther’s central teaching coheres around individualism, immanentism and voluntarism. Eventually, liberalism expressed itself fully: the central factor for the human person is freedom; the essence of freedom being choice.

During the past fifty years or so, this “freedom of choice” mantra has been promoted by all liberal institutions and advanced by left-wing governments. This mantra has proved highly successful in destroying the most fundamental building block of any society – the family. As the family is the place where most of us learn unselfish love – the most important of all life-lessons – the family has become the target of continuous and sustained attacks. By ripping the seams that hold marriage together – sexual fidelity – and endorsing the sexual revolution, the “liberal” world, supported by the media,

has propagated generations of people who no longer tolerate any form of restriction being placed on their sexual expression. This is the unsavoury reality hidden in Mr Varadkar's use of the word "culmination".

Mr Varadkar (together with all liberals) would perform a noble service to Truth if he (together with all liberals) were to come clean, be honest and say things as they really are, not clothing their views in the soiled garments of barren words and empty promises. Abortion is not about control over bodies, but control over babies. If abortion had nothing to do with sex, it would never be legalised.

QUIET

It is incredibly ludicrous that Mr Varadkar would even venture to use the word "quiet" in his statement. There has been nothing "quiet" about the struggle the people of Ireland have faced in recent years. Ridiculed in the Western media for being too traditional, Ireland has been targeted by liberal institutions and politicians in an attempt to overturn Ireland's "draconian law", to use the expression uttered by Latanya Mapp Frett, the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Global. Planned parenthood even described Ireland as "the jewel in the crown" for them. It also seems to be the case that people like George Soros have been funding pro-abortion groups like Amnesty International Ireland, the Irish Family Planning Association – an affiliate of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) – and the Abortion Rights Campaign (ARC).

Methodically, systematically, and insidiously, the deafening voices of liberal advocates have resounded throughout the country both on radio and television. Amplified by the newspapers and liberal press, the cacophony of their noxious anthems has been heard unremittingly. Vociferously they have ridiculed anyone who disagreed with them, and yet Mr Varadkar dares to call this attack "quiet". It was never a case of "All Quiet on the Western Front". The soldiers in this war were fighting in the muddy trenches of the battle fields, and when the attack whistles resounded throughout the trenches, the armies attacked to the sound of the roaring cannon and the heavy-calibre guns firing the explosive shells of falsehood. It was not "all Quiet on the Abortion Front".

The public campaign pursued by the advocates of the "yes" crusade has been anything but quiet. With their skilful use of public relations and propaganda, they managed to distort the emphasis of the vote from abortion to women's rights. Their propaganda machine resounded loudly throughout the country with their slogan "Trust Women".

The philosophical fallacy inherent in this slogan is that all women, without exception, are of one mind, sharing the exact same opinion about abortion. What a

degrading insult to women, especially to those women who, conscientiously, have examined the issue with honesty and integrity and reached the opposite conclusion. Who gave the abortion campaign any mandate to speak on behalf of all women, and how dare they even presume to do so? However, the lamentable thing is that, by extension, the corollary of the slogan "trust women" is also placed on the pedestal of unquestionable truth. In other words, if you do not vote for abortion, you are against women, you do not trust them. In my innocence, I honestly believed that such nefarious propaganda campaigns only belonged to the annals of the Third Reich. How mistaken I was.

In the light of the so-called concern for women's health, another question needs to be raised here. How does the government even dare to mention the issue of "women's health" when for years the health department has deliberately and knowingly deceived women who turned to the health system for assistance in their time of need (in this case cervical cancer) but due to the financial stinginess of health officials money was deemed more important than a woman's health? There were no traces of stinginess, however, when it came to remunerating these officials with substantial salaries. All at the taxpayers' expense, of course.

In the resulting uprising provoked by this scandal, and due to the perturbation it caused many women in this country, the government and its propaganda machine have even exploited this tragic situation to their advantage! Seizing a free ride on the genuine health concerns of women, the government promoted abortion as a woman's health issue – somewhat devious tactics to put it mildly. The question should also be asked, "Why did this scandal only emerge during the abortion campaign?" This question needs to be answered honestly and truthfully. Using a scandal of their own making as a shield, the government and pro-choice activists succeeded in deflecting the central question of abortion, turning it into a campaign for women's health, and, by extension, proclaiming in loud exclamations that those who do not vote for abortion have no compassion for women and are not concerned about women's health. In the language of boxing, this tactic is called "hitting below the belt", unfairly targeting people in their weakness or vulnerability. Shameful.

Now that the "victory" has been won in the Republic of Ireland, and with the jubilant cries of the "victors" still resounding throughout the country, the battleground for the next thunderous attack has been chosen – Northern Ireland. Using the same weapons of ridicule and deception, the propaganda machine has directed its full arsenal at the only "enemy" left. Very soon Northern Ireland too will have to succumb to the bombardment unleashed upon them, forcing them to capitulate. No Mr Varadkar, the "revolution" as you call it, was anything but quiet. It was boisterous, vociferous and dissonant.

REVOLUTION

Of all the words used by Mr Varadkar, the one I find most distasteful is his employment of the word “revolution”. The word itself is usually defined as the overthrow of a government or social order in favour of a new system, frequently using force. Anyone sensitive to the tragic history of Ireland and its people, would not even dare to use such a word. Words like “revolution”, “uprising” or “revolt” are very emotionally charged in this country, as they are laden with a history of persecution and oppression. Equating the question of abortion with the centuries-long and genuine struggle of the Irish people for freedom is a scathing injustice to this country and its people.

How can Mr Varadkar essentially imply that up to our present day, unborn children have been a source of persecution and oppression for the Irish people? I find this attitude unworthy of Ireland’s Prime Minister, who enjoys his position as the country’s political leader thanks to the genuine sacrifices of those brave souls whose deeds and sacrifices still honour the pages of Irish history. Mr Varadkar owes an apology to the Irish nation for his insensitivity to and his serious lack of respect for the real heroes of this country.

In one of my favourite films, “The Scarlet Pimpernel” from 1982, the “bloody” story of the French Revolution is depicted for what it was – a reign of terror. Even though the film itself is not always historically correct, even romanticising the adventures of the protagonist Sir Percy Blakeney, it does highlight the eerie truth of this period in world history. In one particular scene we find the following dialogue between Marguerite St. Just (the woman Sir Percy loves) and Paul Chauvelin (the minister in charge of executions, Marguerite’s former lover).

Marguerite: You’ve executed men for less.

Chauvelin: Revolutions are never bloodless. This brief Reign of Terror will purge the land of all corruption and take us to new heights –

Marguerite: Be careful where it takes you, Paul.

Chauvelin: To a new order, to the Day of Glory.

“Les révolutions ne sont jamais exsangues” – *Revolutions are never bloodless*. Thank you, Mr Varadkar for being honest for once and using the word “revolution” in describing your “victory”. The truth – spoken at last. When speaking to the nation after the result of the referendum was announced, Mr Varadkar said, “Today I believe we have voted for the next generation.” Be careful Mr Varadkar where this revolution of yours takes you and the generation of people spawned by it. It will not “take us to new heights”, but to the shadowlands, not to “the Day of Glory” but to an age of nefariousness. Your “compassion” is misguided and your error discernible. Be aware that every error conceived in the mind, manifests itself in the terrifying tendencies currently at work in our society – an alarming increase in the rate of teenage suicides, rapes executed by under-age children, murders committed by young children. The false compassion and liberal views promoted by the Left will not be the dawn of a new enlightenment, but the rise of a wraith-like endarkenment.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), a Swiss-born philosopher, writer, and political theorist whose treatises and novels inspired the leaders of the French Revolution, once said, “L’homme n’obéit à personne sauf à lui-même” – man obeys no one but himself. This mantra has re-echoed throughout the Western world for the last three hundred years, and on this falsehood, we have built our theories of democracy. The liberal democracy promoted by Mr Varadkar is based on the simple sentimentality of Rousseau, whereby man obeys only himself. Be assured then that by following this path, we are heading for total anarchy. Total conflict will be built into the human situation and becomes its essential element. What a revolution Mr Varadkar!