



*CHRONICLE OF THREE
YEARS OF STRUGGLE OF
THE SOCIALIST DEPUTIES*

CONFERENCE SPEECHES

BY VALÉRIE RABAULT, ON 13 .03 .2019
AND BORIS VALLAUD

CHRONICLE OF THREE YEARS OF STRUGGLE OF THE SOCIALIST DEPUTIES: DISCOURS CONGRESS

BY VALÉRIE RABAULT, ON 08 .07 .2018

Mr. President of the Congress, Mr. President of the Senate, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the Government, ladies and gentlemen, my dear colleagues, last Friday, for the first time in our history, the Constitutional Council enshrined the "principle of fraternity" to declare an article of the Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum contrary to the Constitution.

For the first time, he thus recalled the significance of fraternity at the heart of our Republic in an explicit manner: "It emerges that fraternity is a principle with constitutional value. "For the first time, a decision of the authority that guarantees our Constitution is rendered in the name of the fraternity.

Yes, fraternity is a constitutional principle. Yes, it has been inherent in who we are, the French people, since here in Versailles, on July 9, 1789 - two hundred and twenty-nine years ago to the day - the National Assembly proclaimed itself the National Constituent Assembly. Our rights are based on a triptych unique in the world: liberty, equality, fraternity. To shake one of these three pillars is to shake the entire republican edifice.

Within our republican triptych, fraternity structures the relationship of the French among themselves, beyond their place of life, their social class and their origins. It is the link of the French model, its backbone in a way. Fraternity is at the heart of our republican identity. Those who would like to ignore this principle will, in fact, place themselves outside our republican model.

However, the choices made over the past year by the President of the Republic and his majority in the National Assembly lead us to question the place really given to fraternity.

The first "anti-fraternity" measure taken by the President of the Republic and the presidential majority was the increase in the CSG, which affects 8 million French retirees, with an average annual drain of 200 to 400 euros. 400 per year on average.

missing from the State, the Government has not hesitated to break the fraternity between generations. Ask the merchants in your territories, my dear colleagues: they will all tell you that they are seeing a drop in consumption by retirees, which is leading to a decline in their own sales. The reality is that the spiral of the economic slowdown has begun.

Another example, this time of anti-fraternity towards the territories: the dizzying rise in fuel taxes, which is hitting rural areas hard. This increase will hit first and foremost those who do not have public transportation services, i.e., rural residents.

Mr. Prime Minister, let's do the exercise together: let's take the example of a household composed of two parents and two children, which fills twenty 50-litre tanks a year and heats itself with domestic fuel oil - because there is no access to city gas everywhere in the countryside. The majority, your majority, has increased the taxes to be paid from 800 euros in 2017 to 945 euros in 2018 - to which VAT must be added - and these will reach 1,476 euros in 2022! This is an unprecedented impoverishment that is taking place in rural areas, whether for households or businesses.

The anti-fraternity towards the territories was also exercised at the expense of the overseas territories, which have not benefited from any measures for the past year.

Yet another example of an anti-fraternity against our youth: Parcoursup. The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation stated on March 17: "No candidate for university will receive a "no". "Unfortunately, a few days later, the denial came from her own ministry's website, which announced that some high school students would not receive a positive response.

Since then, the reality has surpassed our fears: as of July 4, only 400,000 out of 665,000 high school students have made their choice, and 150,000 have not received any proposal. Among those who have received positive responses are those who have been subjected to assignments. We also note that university courses, which had no problem with space , were forced to select their students, often using opaque algorithms denounced by the teachers themselves. In the Île-de-France region, one criterion of the algorithm was to ensure that high school students from the suburbs were excluded from certain courses given in Paris.

As for the professional bachelors, they are the big losers of the operation, since a large number of them are on the sidelines for the start of the 2018 school year. Finally, Parcoursup was a terrible instrument for destabilizing baccalaureate candidates ("C'est faux!" on several benches): they found themselves on the floor on the exams without the slightest prospect of a future in the short term, even for those with good grades in their files. As a result, Parcoursup has become the emblem of anti-fraternity in the world of higher education.

Another example is the ELAN law - on the evolution of housing, development and digital technology - which is becoming the anti-fraternity in terms of diversity. Your only objective was to allow lessors to sell 40,000 social housing units a year, even if it meant unravelling all the tools of social mixing. This risks seriously aggravating the ghettoization of certain neighborhoods, in defiance of our common objective of social cohesion.

Finally, what about the "asylum and immigration" law, which sanctions the confinement of minors in administrative detention centers and ratifies the anti-fraternity towards asylum seekers? What can we say about France's lack of solidarity with its European partners in welcoming refugees and the shipwrecked of the Aquarius?

One year after the arrival of President Macron and the presidential majority in power, it must be acknowledged that the fraternity has frayed, in defiance of campaign promises and despite the impetus of fraternization thanks to the World Cup soccer tournament. What we have been experiencing for several months now looks like betrayal.

During his speech in Lyon on February 4, 2017, in the middle of the presidential campaign, the man who would become President of the Republic declared: "Our people are united by an invisible institution: fraternity. »

Candidate Macron was right: the French people are united by fraternity, but President Macron betrayed this promise by making this institution truly invisible.

Fraternity is not to be confused with angelism. It is a voluntary, ambitious and complex act. If Jaurès said that for the Republic, trust and audacity were needed, we could say the same about the implementation of fraternity.

A nation that has confidence in itself and projects itself boldly is not afraid of fraternity, quite the contrary! If fraternity is suffering today, it is perhaps because France has lost confidence and audacity.

My dear colleagues of the presidential majority, since your arrival in office, your leitmotiv has been freedom, whatever the cost: you want to liberate, liberate savings with the abolition of the ISF, liberate work with the Pénicaud ordinances or liberate housing.

We too love freedom. We love it with the strength that the triptych of our republican motto gives it. We love it for everyone. But by forgetting fraternity, you deviate from freedom: you reserve it for a small number of French people.

This congress of Versailles will be useful to our country only if it allows a start around fraternity to ensure the cohesion of our nation. Because here, in Versailles, we feel, perhaps even more than elsewhere, that we are the heirs of those who have

created the France we know today, of those who broke with the power of one who decided for all. It is our absolute responsibility to translate for the destiny of our country these values of freedom, equality and fraternity, which are constitutive of who we are.

My dear colleagues of the majority, do not take your orders from a power that wants to be monarchical. Take direct inspiration from our republican triptych. May the brotherhood be at the heart of your decisions and your votes. France has been built on a complex model over the years! It is this model that has made it great and "effective," to use a term you particularly like. Unravelling this model in the name of the quest for simplicity may reassure you, but it won't get us anywhere. Above all, it will destroy France.

In The Politics, Plato equates the art of good politics with that of the weaver capable of uniting threads of various textures. Mr. President of the Republic, be inspired by Plato's weaver by rediscovering the taste of brotherhood that unites the French!