

Beat: Politics

## FRANCE IS FACING A POLITICAL & SOCIAL CRISIS OVER PM BORNE'S DECREE 49,3

### TWO MOTIONS OF NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

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**USPA NEWS** - France is going through a political crisis combined with a social crisis, following the announcement by PM Borne to pull the trigger "decree 49.3" the legal tool to force the law of pension reform. The trade unionists, as well as the public opinion which still supports them at 63%, have already announced a forthcoming demonstration on Thursday 24 March. Young activists wanted to express their anger in spontaneous movements yesterday in the streets, with violent clashes, because they believe they have not been listened to by the government, despite the many peaceful demonstrations and consider for some that "so much that we don't break anything and don't use violence "we won't be listened to" (testimony of Maria, 19-year-old protester)

#### THE TEXT OF THE REFORM HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION

The text of the pension reform was adopted yesterday by the Joint Joint Commission, which was composed of seven senators and seven deputies (therefore four from the presidential majority). Although she was part of the commission, the deputy NUPES (LFI) Mathilde Panot, the President of the NUPES Group, and therefore of the opposition, emerged euphoric about the vote on nuclear power, during a hearing at the Commission of the National Assembly. To this is added the arrival of union leaders, Laurent Berger and Philippe Martinez at Place Bourbon opposite the National Assembly, where they organized an improvised press briefing, as a symbol, during lunch time. A strong symbol and loaded with messages addressed to deputies preparing to vote for the pension reform "Remove this unfair and unnecessary pension reform"

To this end, an extraordinary police force had been deployed around the National Assembly on both sides of the Quai d'Orsay and Place Bourbon. Unless you were a resident or an accredited journalist or a member of Parliament, no one could access this square, a hyper-secure and high-voltage VIP (protesters chanted songs and with banners from the rue de l'Université....

All this is explained by the presence of two former presidents of the republic, demonstrators and trade union leaders. The current President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron having also been present, a few steps from the Assembly, i.e. at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he had come the same morning, presented the results and congratulated the ambassadors and diplomats on the subject of the reform of French diplomacy, which began in 2020.

#### THE PM WAS BOOTED AND BOOED FOR 30 MINUTES BY OPPOSITION MPS AND STARTED 49.3

The PM, Elisabeth Borne tried to read her text, at the Hemicycle, hoping to get the pension reform voted, thanks to last-minute arrangements with LR deputies (Republicans) in vain. The PM hoped she could find a majority to support her controversial law, that was controversial from Day 1. The operation of rescuing the majority was at high risk, and the stakes were nearly inaccessible, because, it needed the approval of an absolute majority in French parliament, i.e. at least 289 (> half of 577 seats) votes. This is why, Elisabeth Borne, also used the French Parliament by using the decree 49,3, about ten times already. That might saturate the MO's as well, because it weakens their role and minimizes their power of voting laws in French National Assembly.

Indeed, the NUPES deputies (Ecologists, Socialists, Communists, far left LFI) prevented the PM from passing its law and even speaking out, booing and singing the national anthem, "la Marseillaise", during throughout the period of his speech, and displaying banners saying "DEMOCRACY" RESIGNATION "" 64 YEARS IS NO " while majority deputies were standing to applaud, and RN deputies, rather wise, knocked on their offices. The din was so deafening that we could not even hear the PM Borne. The members of the government were booed when they arrived and left. It was an unprecedented and apocalyptic session of questions to the government, of great violence, by the obvious boos and the humiliation suffered by the members of the current government. There were no insults, no lack of respect towards the PM, but a violent opposition muscled by a din so deafening that the PM was forced to be silent... The situation was incredibly shocking in a great democracy that is France.

In reaction to the 49.3, some opposition MPs said they would put forward a vote of no confidence. The opposition deputies finally seemed to take their revenge "in the name of the people" to impose their word against a government which does not "listen to them" and "despise them" as chanted by the banners of the demonstrators, since January 19. Some staff of the National Assembly explained

that they had never seen this during their career. It was perhaps a historic moment in the National Assembly. The French government Borne faces a political crisis as opposition groups press for a probable vote of no confidence allied by the public opinion supporting the withdraw of the pension reform, as they protested for at least 1 to 3,4 Million, weeks after weeks.

The rest of the world, and specifically the European leaders are eying the French Political crisis and might pay even greater attention, in the coming days.

#### CONSEQUENCES OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PENSION REFORM IF VOTED THANKS TO DECREE 49.3

Mrs, Elisabeth Borne, the Prime Minister, had no choice but to force the vote by resorting to 49.3.

In the event that the law passes, because of this decree 49.3 this will imply:

- Gradually raise the legal retirement age from 62 to 64 in 2030. according to Article 7 (the most controversial) f
- Certain special regimes which allow people to leave before the legal age will disappear (RATP, EDF, Engie, Banque de France, notary clerks).
- Those who started working between the ages of 20 and 21 will be able to leave at age 63. As for those who worked at the age of 16, they are not concerned by this device...for the moment.
- An experimental senior CDI (Permanent Contract) is envisaged, (Following the vote of the Senate,) in order to boost the hiring of the over 60s, via social exemptions.

#### SO CALLED « IMPROVISED » DEMONSTRATIONS WITH VIOLENCE AND MIN FIRES FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECREE 49.3

Hardly had the announcement by the Prime Minister, Elisabeth Borne, of the use of decree 49.3, of the young people as well as the team of deputies of LFI (Far Left) wearing their Blue White Red scarf, symbol of the French Republic, made demonstrations at Place de la Concorde. Place de la Concorde is symbolically the place where the head of Louis 16 and his wife had landed during the French Revolution that led to his beheading.

It is the place which historically symbolizes the class struggle and the popular revolts of the hundred parties of the 19th century.

This choice was strategically chosen because the Place de la Concorde

is a stone's throw from the National Assembly and on the other side of the Palace of the Presidency of the Republic, Elysee.

Outside of Paris other spontaneous mobilizations took place (> 150), more or less violent broke out in the late evening. Firefighters arrived on motorbikes to put out the mini fires, triggered by the angry crowd who burned the garbages that have been piling up since March 7, following the greedy garbage collectors and odor incinerator

At 3:35 p.m., the leader of the RN Group, Marine Le Pen, denounced the "vice of democracy, which is decree 49.3" and announced a motion

of censorship (no confidence vote) against the government. "This is a total failure for the government, and a total failure for Emmanuel Macron," she said.

Twenty minutes later, it was the turn of the LFI group (far left), which announced the same approach (no confidence vote) against the government. The LIOT group (Free, Independent and Overseas territories) said they were considering doing the same thing. As for Aurelien Pradie, LR Republican leader (recently fired by Eric Ciotti, from his post of Vice President for having dared to oppose the order of President LR to vote for the reform of retirement)...To be continued

President Emmanuel Macron, should address the people in a short and clear speech, like the Grand General de Gaulle, former President of the Republic who is often unanimously appreciated in France, whether from the right and left wing. This historically legendary icon has inspired more than one politician, since 1958. He had then pronounced this speech of June 4, 1958, loud and remain in posterity, with his famous key phrase "I understood you" pronounced from Algiers, on the balcony of the General Government, in front of the crowd, gathered on the Place du Forum

The current President Emmanuel Macron, would gain height if he pronounces a speech marking as well by its form as its depth, given the gravity of the current situation. The rejection of the French vis à vis the current government is too strong, for hoping to continue as such. Some of the ministers have even gone on a trip to New York in the midst of a political and social crisis, when they are in charge of the Solidarity Economy portfolio.... This is seen, in an antagonistic way, more than indecent, even contemptuous of those of the French who suffer the most from material and psychological malaise in this complicated condition of inflation, energy crisis, and lack of love for work.

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