

Miles de estudiantes franceses desafían al gobierno

París, 16 mar (PL) Decenas de miles de estudiantes franceses continuaron hoy las protestas en desafío contra el gobierno por la nueva ley del Contrato del Primer Empleo (CPE), que permite a la patronal despedir a los jóvenes sin justificación.

Los manifestantes juveniles, apoyados por las principales centrales sindicales y partidos opositores de izquierda, colman las calles parisinas e importantes ciudades galas, en una jornada que se espera se convierta en una prueba de fuego para el gobierno del primer ministro Dominique de Villepin.

Según partes preliminares, en Tolouse, Marsella y otras urbes, los manifestantes se elevaron a más de 100 mil, mientras en esta capital se reportaron más de 30 mil.

El nuevo CPE es rechazado por más del 70 por ciento de los educandos al otorgar a la patronal la potestad de despedir sin justificación, ni indemnizar, en 12 meses a los jóvenes menores de 26 años.

Las demandas de los estudiantes de cancelar el CPE y de que dicten nuevas normas para poner fin a la precariedad de los jóvenes que se inician en la vida laboral, cuentan con un amplio espectro de la sociedad gala.

Precisamente, esta jornada se sumó a ese respaldo el arzobispo de Dijon, noroeste francés, Rolan Minnerath, quien consideró inhumana la reforma que pretende implantar el gobierno.

Minnerath calificó de atentado a los derechos individuales y la dignidad de las personas la posibilidad de ser dejadas cesantes sin motivo.

Por su parte, el gobierno argumenta que con el nuevo contrato de trabajo pretende disminuir el alto índice de desempleo, más del 25 por ciento, que afecta a su fuerza laboral juvenil, una de las más altas de la desarrollada Europa.

A pesar del vendaval desatado y de la determinación de los dirigentes juveniles de no desistir en las protestas hasta que el gobierno acceda a sus demandas, Villepin insiste en el propósito de llevar adelante sus planes.

Para ello dispone del respaldo del presidente Jacques Chirac, quien, no obstante, la víspera insistió en que se debe comenzar el diálogo entre las partes en conflicto.

Tal es la inflexibilidad del gobierno y la persistencia estudiantil, que algunos medios de prensa consideran bastante difícil que el primer ministro pase lo que consideran su segunda prueba de fuego, en alusión a las violentas protestas desatadas en noviembre pasado, en su mayoría por jóvenes inmigrantes.

Entonces el detonante fue la muerte de dos adolescentes que se electrocutaron cuando se escondieron de la policía en una caseta de transformadores.

Sin embargo, las demostraciones iniciadas en demanda de justicia por ese incidente se transformaron en una espiral de manifestaciones violentas para llamar la atención sobre la crítica situación de los barrios periféricos parisinos, donde escasean los empleos.

El sábado pasado las protestas contra el CPE alcanzaron el clímax al ocupar un grupo de educandos la Sorbona de París, algo que no ocurría desde 1968, con la diferencia que entonces las protestas fueron contra las guerras en Vietnam y Argelia.

Para desalojar a los manifestantes la policía asaltó el centro de altos estudios, lanzó gases lacrimógenos y se registraron fuertes enfrentamientos con los universitarios.

Pero a la movilización de esta jornada sigue otra el próximo sábado que también se augura más multitudinaria, fuertes empujes que pueden hacer tambalear el gobierno.

EL PAIS

http://www.presse-mondiale.com/europe/espagne_elpais.htm

Las protestas estudiantiles en Francia derivan en enfrentamientos con la policía

El Gobierno multiplica las llamadas al "diálogo" pero los sindicatos exigen la retirada de los nuevos contratos para jóvenes



Los manifestantes y la policía han protagonizado duros enfrentamientos en la ciudad de Rennes. (AP) as en

enfrentamientos entre los universitarios y la policía. En París han rotado las vidrieras de algunas tiendas y las ventanas de decenas de coches, mientras que en Rennes, ciudad donde se han registrado los mayores disturbios, las fuerzas de seguridad han empleado gases lacrimógenos para desalojar la sede del partido conservador UMP y la Alcaldía, que habían sido ocupadas por los manifestantes. En

Toulouse, se han registrado peleas entre los estudiantes favorables al bloqueo de la universidad y los que querían retomar las clases.

Si en París, movilización más importante, la asistencia ha sido de 30.000 personas según la prefectura, y 120.000, según los convocantes, 25.000 se han sumado en Burdeos (7.000 según la Policía), entre 7.000 y 15.000 en Marsella, entre 5.000 y 15.000 en Rennes, de 6.000 a 12.000 en Lille y 5.000 en Grenoble, Estrasburgo y otras ciudades. Todos estos cortejos han exigido la retirada de los Contratos de Primer Empleo (CPE), recién creados por el Ejecutivo, que establecen dos años de prueba en los que rige el despido libre. *Contratos Precariedad Eterna*, *Contratos Primera Exclusión*, *Contratos Para Esclavos* y *Cata Para Empleados* han sido algunos de los juegos de palabras exhibidos en los carteles y banderolas de estas manifestaciones.

Como era de esperar, los disturbios también han llegado a última hora de la tarde a la Universidad de la Sorbona, símbolo de la rebelión estudiantil de mayo del 68. Hasta allí se han dirigido las miles de personas que asistían a la manifestación horas antes. Varios centenares de jóvenes han lanzado fuego y cócteles molotov contra los antidisturbios, que han replicado con gases lacrimógenos. La plaza de la Sorbona se ha llenado de humo e incluso ha ardido una librería que se encuentra situada en la esquina con el boulevard Saint-Michel.

El presidente de la primera organización universitaria del país, UNEF, ha acusado al Gobierno de haber "multiplicado las provocaciones" y de "intentar dividir a la juventud". Al mismo tiempo, sindicatos de trabajadores como Fuerza Obrera (FO), han constatado que "el movimiento sigue ampliándose". Más de dos tercios de las universidades del país han permanecido bloqueadas, y a las protestas se han sumado por primera vez casi 100 institutos, especialmente en los alrededores de París. Los centros se han visto obligados a cerrar sus puertas por el boicot de las asociaciones de secundaria.

El CPE ha ido "muy rápido"

Esta mañana, en una entrevista con *París-Match*, Villepin ha reconocido que el CPE ha ido "muy rápido" pero se ha mostrado convencido de lo bien fundado de esa medida que "defenderá hasta el final". El primer ministro, que cuenta con el apoyo del presidente Jacques Chirac, tendrá la ocasión de renovar esta tarde su oferta de diálogo a los sindicatos, que lo consideran una institucionalización de la precariedad.

El titular de Educación, Gilles de Robien, se ha dirigido también a los estudiantes para recordarles que el CPE, que facilita el despido de los menores de 26 años en ese periodo de prueba, no les afectará hasta dentro de unos años y les ha pedido que piensen en los jóvenes que "están ahora en el paro".

EL MUNDO

MULTITUDINARIAS MANIFESTACIONES

Decenas de miles de estudiantes franceses protestan contra el contrato impulsado por Villepin

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/03/16/internacional/1142525580.html>



Una joven se manifiesta en Lyon. (Foto: AFP)

FP | ELMUNDO.ES

PARIS.- Los estudiantes franceses han echado un nuevo pulso al Gobierno de Dominique de Villepin. Decenas de miles de personas han salido a la calles para protestar por el polémico contrato para el primer empleo, el CPE, impulsado por el primer ministro. Consideran que facilita el despido y que vuelve más precaria su situación laboral.

Según los primeros datos, **la protesta de hoy ha sido la más multitudinaria de las celebradas esta semana**, con al menos 80.000 manifestantes según la Policía y más de 100.000 según los organizadores.

Sólo en París, se han reunido al menos 30.000 personas. En la marcha de la capital se han producido incidentes cuando jóvenes con la cara cubierta han lanzado proyectiles contra las fuerzas de seguridad, que replicaron con gases lacrimógenos.

En **Marsella** han expresado su rechazo a la iniciativa de Villepin entre 7.000 y 15.000 personas, incluidos profesores. En **Burdeos** (suroeste) han sido 6.800 según la Policía y 25.000 según los organizadores, y en **Marsella** (sureste), las cifras oscilan entre entre los 7.000 y los 15.000. Los jóvenes portaban pancartas en las que podían leerse lemas como "Contrato predestinado al fracaso" o "**Contrato para esclavos**".

Además, **cerca del 70% de las universidades** están bloqueadas y decenas de institutos estaban cerrados a mediodía.

Este pulso de los jóvenes al primer ministro, Dominique de Villepin, podría cambiar su destino ya que se ha convertido en el problema más grave que ha vivido desde que asumiera el cargo el pasado mes de junio. Pese a su **caída en picado en las encuestas**, no está dispuesto a dar su brazo a torcer en esta reforma laboral que él ha impulsado personalmente.

Igual de poco dispuesto a ceder se mantiene el principal sindicato de estudiantes, la Unef. **"Nada es posible sin la retirada de este contrato, al menos para los estudiantes"**, dijo hoy el presidente de la Unef, Bruno Julliard, quien se mostró convencido de que "el Gobierno no podrá aguantar en esta postura inflexible" si las movilizaciones de hoy tienen éxito, algo que vaticina.

Los sindicatos también se oponen al contrato, por considerarlo una institucionalización de la precariedad, especialmente en lo que respecta al periodo de prueba de dos años, durante el que se facilita el despido de los menores de 26 años.

La jornada central de estas protestas tendrá lugar el próximo sábado, cuando los estudiantes se unirán a partidos de izquierda y sindicatos en lo que se espera que sea una masiva manifestación.

ALJAZEERA.NET ENGLISH

Student protests erupt across France

Friday 17 March 2006, 0:32 Makka Time, 21:32 GMT



Students want a controversial labour law scrapped

French students have clashed with riot police across the country, as hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched against a new government youth employment plan.

At least 250,000 people took to the streets on Thursday in up to 80 towns and cities across France, according to police. Organisers put the figure as high as half a million.

Student leaders said 120,000 people marched through Paris's university quarter, although police said there were 30,000.

In Paris, a group of up to 300 masked protesters hurled missiles at police, who responded with tear gas and rubber pellets.

Eight officers were injured in the Paris violence and 10 were hurt elsewhere, police said.

Wave of protests

The planned First Employment Contract (CPE) allows employers to fire young people without reason in the first two years of their contracts in the hope this will encourage firms to be bolder in hiring.

Students say this discriminates against young people, and unions argue that firing employees without explanation is wrong in principle.

"You can't live with a knife at your throat," said 21-year-old film student Sophie Cojan, who joined the Paris protest.

Dominique de Villepin, the French prime minister, has championed the scheme as a key tool in fighting youth unemployment and is now facing the most serious test of his premiership as the wave of protests paralyses dozens of universities.



Protesters say the law discriminates against young people

Strikes and sit-ins have spread to two-thirds of France's 84 universities, with 21 closed and 37 others badly disrupted, according to the education ministry, with protests also reported in dozens of schools.

Not all students back the protest movement, and clashes broke out in Toulouse as dozens of youths angry at the disruption to their studies tried to dislodge protesters from a building.

Villepin has said he is open to talks with union leaders but insists the measure - passed by parliament as part of a broader law on equal opportunities drawn up after November's riots - will be implemented.

Violence

Students at the Sorbonne university, a centre of the 1968 student protests that shook France, pelted police with stones and bottles and cracked the window of a bank before the police responded with tear gas.

Outside Paris, two officers and a student were slightly injured in scuffles pitting police against some 250 school students who were heading to the Paris march from the northern suburb of Raincy.

Six youths were arrested and two officers slightly injured after a rowdy protest by students forced the closure of a main road in Vitry-sur-Seine, southeast of Paris.

Large rallies were also held in Marseille, Lyon and Grenoble in the south and southeast, Bordeaux in the southwest, Rennes and Lille in the north, Clermont Ferrand, Limoges and Angers in the centre and Strasbourg in the east.

Violence erupted on the sidelines of the Rennes protest, where police fired tear gas at youths who set litter bins on fire and vandalised cars, some chanting: "Withdraw the CPE, or watch out!"

LA LIBRE (BELGIQUE)

France

Les jeunes dans la rue contre le CPE

A Paris, le cortège a réuni au moins 30.000 personnes et des incidents ont éclaté en milieu d'après-midi lorsque des jeunes, le visage masqué, ont jeté des projectiles sur les forces de l'ordre qui ont répliqué par des tirs de gaz lacrymogène.



Des dizaines de milliers de lycéens et d'étudiants ont défilé jeudi en France contre le nouveau contrat-jeunes lors de manifestations parfois émaillées de heurts, marquant une escalade dans l'épreuve de force avec le gouvernement.

A Paris, le cortège a réuni au moins 30.000 personnes et des incidents ont éclaté en milieu d'après-midi lorsque des jeunes, le visage masqué, ont jeté des projectiles sur les forces de l'ordre qui ont répliqué par des tirs de gaz lacrymogène.

De Rennes (ouest) à Marseille (sud-est), de Bordeaux (sud-ouest) à Strasbourg (est), les manifestants ont exigé le retrait du Contrat Première embauche (CPE), accusé d'imposer la précarité aux jeunes, et que rejettent aussi syndicats et partis de gauche.

La participation globale était nettement plus importante que deux jours plus tôt, lors des précédentes manifestations d'étudiants et de lycéens : au moins 80.000 manifestants, selon la police, et plus de 100.000 selon les organisateurs.

Hors de Paris, d'autres heurts ont été signalés, comme à Raincy, en banlieue, où deux policiers et une lycéenne ont été légèrement blessés, et Nancy (est), où un policier a été atteint par un pavé. A Nantes (ouest), un proviseur et un proviseur adjoint ont été blessés.

A Rennes, des policiers ont tiré des grenades lacrymogènes et des dizaines de jeunes, certains le visage dissimulé, ont mis le feu à des poubelles et endommagé des véhicules. «Retrait du CPE, sinon, ça va péter», proclamaient certains.

A Paris, le cortège était encadré par un service d'ordre des syndicats pour éviter des provocations et d'éventuelles infiltrations de «casseurs».

La police avait de son côté pour consigne de faire preuve de «retenue», le gouvernement voulant à tout prix éviter un dérapage, comme en 1986 avec la mort du jeune manifestant Malik Oussekiné après une charge policière.

Plus des deux tiers des universités françaises étaient toujours touchées par le mouvement, grèves et blocages des campus. Des dizaines de lycées sont désormais en proie à la contestation.

Un responsable étudiant a évoqué une «*lame de fond qui traverse la jeunesse*».

Les opposants au CPE espèrent que la mobilisation va culminer samedi. Les jeunes seront alors rejoints par leurs aînés, tous les grands syndicats et dix partis de gauche appelant à descendre dans la rue.

Le premier secrétaire du Parti socialiste (PS, opposition), François Hollande, a mis en garde le gouvernement contre le «*pari risqué*» d'un «*pourrissement* » du conflit.

Sur certains campus, l'ambiance devient de plus en plus électrique entre grévistes et étudiants qui refusent les blocages des cours.

Le rejet de ce contrat est net dans l'opinion, 61,5 pc des Français, selon un sondage, considérant que les jeunes «*ont raison*» de s'opposer au CPE.

«*Certains parents pensent que le CPE, c'est mieux que rien. Mais, pour nous, ce n'est qu'un moyen de nous virer plus facilement*», a expliqué Yohann, 16 ans, à Marseille.

Réservé aux moins de 26 ans, le CPE permet à un employeur de licencier pendant deux ans sans justification.

Le Premier ministre Dominique de Villepin, dauphin du président Jacques Chirac pour la présidentielle de 2007, assure que le CPE va permettre de faire baisser le chômage qui touche 23 pc des jeunes, un des plus forts taux en Europe. Malgré la dégringolade de sa cote de popularité, il refuse de céder à la pression de la rue et de retirer le CPE.

L'issue de ce conflit, le plus grave depuis que le gouvernement Villepin a pris ses fonctions, en juin dernier, reste difficile à prédire et l'ampleur de la mobilisation de samedi sera sans doute en tout cas déterminante.

«*On attend tous de savoir si dans la rue, dans l'opinion, ça monte ou pas*», a expliqué un ministre au quotidien Le Monde sous couvert de l'anonymat. «*Villepin ne reculera pas, il va tenir jusqu'au bout. Et s'il ne tient plus, il est mort*».

France

L'opposition au CPE s'amplifie

En France, des dizaines de milliers d'étudiants ont manifesté pour exiger le retrait du Contrat de première embauche. Les jeunes contestent cette loi adoptée la semaine dernière, parce qu'elle ne leur permet pas, disent-ils, de sortir de la précarité.

Elle permet à un employeur de congédier un travailleur de moins de 26 ans durant les deux premières années de son contrat, sans avoir à fournir de justification.



À Paris, quelque 30 000 personnes ont participé à la manifestation, encadrée par un service d'ordre des syndicats pour éviter des provocations. Les policiers ont quand même utilisé des gaz lacrymogènes pour répliquer aux jeunes qui leur lançaient des projectiles.

Des protestations ont aussi eu lieu dans d'autres villes, dont Rennes, Marseille, Bordeaux et Strasbourg.

Plus des deux tiers des universités sont touchées par le mouvement de grèves et des dizaines de lycées sont en ébullition.

Les opposants au CPE espèrent maintenant que la mobilisation va culminer samedi quand les jeunes seront rejoints par leurs aînés, les syndicats et les partis de gauche.

Selon le premier ministre Dominique de Villepin, le CPE va permettre de faire baisser le chômage qui touche 23 % des jeunes, et qui est l'un des plus élevés en Europe.

RADIO SUISSE ROMANDE et LA LIBERTE

<http://www.tsr.ch/tsr/index.html?siteSect=200002&sid=6554299&cKey=1142544374000>

France: centaines de milliers de jeunes dans les rues contre le CPE

16.03.2006 22:26

PARIS - Entre entre 250'000 et 500'000 étudiants et lycéens ont défilé en France contre le Contrat première embauche (CPE). Les manifestations ont parfois connu des heurts, marquant une escalade dans l'épreuve de force avec le gouvernement.

La participation globale était nettement plus importante jeudi que deux jours plus tôt, lors des précédentes manifestations d'étudiants et de lycéens.

A Paris, le cortège a réuni au moins 33'000 personnes selon la police, 120'000 selon les organisateurs. Des incidents ont éclaté lorsque des jeunes, le visage masqué, ont jeté des projectiles sur les forces de l'ordre qui ont répliqué par des tirs de gaz lacrymogène. Huit CRS ont été blessés et plusieurs dizaines de jeunes interpellés.

Des affrontements ont ensuite suivi en face de l'université de la Sorbonne. Les manifestants ont lancé des fumigènes, des cocktails molotov et des pavés contre les policiers, qui ont à nouveau répliqué par des gaz lacrymogènes et des canons à eau. Une librairie a été incendiée. Des jeunes ont été blessés ainsi qu'au moins 35 policiers. Plusieurs dizaines de jeunes ont été interpellés.

D'autres défilés se sont conclus par des incidents parfois violents, notamment à Rennes, Toulouse, Montpellier et Chalon-sur-Saône.

Partout, les manifestants ont exigé le retrait du CPE, accusé d'imposer la précarité aux jeunes, et que rejettent aussi syndicats et partis de gauche.

Plus des deux tiers des 84 universités françaises étaient toujours touchées par le mouvement, grèves et blocages des campus. Des dizaines de lycées sont désormais en proie à la contestation.

La mobilisation devrait culminer samedi avec les grands syndicats et dix partis de gauche qui ont appelé à descendre dans la rue. La conférence des présidents d'université (CPU), réunie à Nantes, s'est montrée solidaire: "les présidents d'universités partagent l'inquiétude des étudiants sur leur avenir", a déclaré la CPU.

Le Premier ministre Dominique de Villepin, a réaffirmé qu'il était ouvert au dialogue pour "améliorer" son texte, à l'origine de deux mois de contestation étudiante et syndicale.

Le CPE est un contrat de travail réservé aux moins de 26 ans, assorti d'une période d'essai de deux ans pendant laquelle un employeur peut licencier sans motiver sa décision. Le gouvernement veut en faire un instrument de lutte contre le chômage des jeunes. (ATS)

HEUTE.DE (Allemagne)

<http://www.heute.de/ZDFheute/inhalt/1/0,3672,3907745,00.html>

Rien ne va plus

Nationaler Protesttag in Frankreich gegen Arbeitsrechtsreform

Mit Streiks und 160 Kundgebungen haben am Dienstag in Frankreich Hunderttausende gegen den Abbau des Kündigungsschutzes für Berufanfänger demonstriert. Der landesweite Aktionstag war eine ernste Kraftprobe für Premierminister Dominique de Villepin, der im kommenden Jahr zur Präsidentenwahl antreten will. Villepin machte schon vorher klar, dass er dem Druck der Straße nicht nachgeben will.



Die Gewerkschaften wollten eine halbe Million Menschen gegen die Einführung des "Vertrags zur Ersteinstellung" (CPE) mobilisieren. Villepin hatte das Gesetz mit der Vertrauensfrage verbunden und damit ohne Votum im Eilverfahren durch das Parlament gebracht.

Erheblicher Schaden für Villepin

Es sieht für Arbeitnehmer unter 26 Jahren zwei Jahre Probezeit für unbefristete Arbeitsverträge vor. Das Projekt hat Villepin politisch erheblich geschadet. Zwei Drittel der Franzosen unterstützen den Aktionstag und nur noch 37 Prozent haben vom Regierungschef eine gute Meinung.

Paris will Kündigungsschutz lockern

Die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit in Frankreich liegt weit über dem europäischen Durchschnitt: Im Januar waren rund 23 Prozent der Jugendlichen als arbeitslos gemeldet, während die französische Arbeitslosenquote insgesamt bei 9,6 Prozent lag.

Um Einstellungshindernisse für junge Menschen abzubauen, will die bürgerliche Regierung in Paris den Kündigungsschutz lockern. Der so genannte Contrat première embauche (Ersteinstellungsvertrag, CPE) gilt zwar formal als Festanstellung, sieht aber eine zweijährige Probezeit vor.

In dieser Zeit kann ein Unternehmen das Arbeitsverhältnis jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen auflösen. Zulässig ist der Vertrag bei Arbeitnehmern unter 26 Jahren und in Unternehmen mit mehr als 20 Beschäftigten.

Um eine Ausbeutung von jungen Arbeitnehmern zu verhindern, hat die Regierung mehrere Sicherungen eingebaut. So muss die Probezeit durch die Anrechnung von Praktika, Lehren und befristete Arbeitsverhältnisse im selben Unternehmen verringert werden. Mehrere aufeinanderfolgende CPEs in derselben Firma sind zwar möglich, dazwischen muss aber eine Karenzzeit von drei Monaten liegen

Die Angaben über die Beteiligung an den Kundgebungen in 160 Städten gingen weit auseinander. So sprach die Polizei in Marseille von 10.000 bis 12.000 Demonstranten, die Gewerkschaften von 100.000. Am ersten Aktionstag gegen den CPE am 7. Februar hatten nach Angaben der Polizei landesweit 218.000 demonstriert, die Gewerkschaften zählten doppelt so viele Teilnehmer.

Kritik aus Großunternehmen

Die Auswirkungen der Streiks auf das Wirtschaftsleben waren gering. Nennenswerte Störungen gab es nur in öffentlichen Betrieben vom Rundfunk über die Schulen bis zu Verkehrsbetrieben. Während in der Provinz Dutzende Flüge ausfielen und der Nahverkehr behindert wurde, lief der Verkehr in Paris weitgehend normal. Einige Universitäten blieben geschlossen.

Bildungsminister Gilles de Robien erklärte, es sei besser, die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit anzugehen und sich dafür zeitweise unbeliebt zu machen, als die Arme zu verschränken. Allerdings stößt die mit den Sozialparteien nicht abgesprochene Reform auch bei Großunternehmen auf Kritik. Sie argumentieren, eine Festeinstellung sei eine teure langfristige Investition, die nicht vom Kündigungsschutz abhängt, für kurzfristige Ziele gebe es befristete Arbeitsverträge.

Mit Material von dpa, AFP

DER SPIEGEL

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/0,1518,405628,00.html>

KRAWALLE IN FRANKREICH

"Villepin allein gegen alle"

Trotz der massiven Proteste vom Wochenende will Dominique de Villepin an seinen Arbeitsmarktreformen festhalten. "Das beschlossene Gesetz wird umgesetzt", stellte der französische Ministerpräsident klar, der durch das Projekt stark an Popularität eingebüßt hat.

Paris - "Villepin allein gegen alle" titelte die Zeitung "Le Parisien" gestern. Denn auch nach den jüngsten Krawallen zwischen Studenten und Polizisten an der Pariser Universität Sorbonne will der Regierungschef an seiner Arbeitsmarktreform festhalten. Im Sender TF 1 sagte der Regierungschef: "Das beschlossene Gesetz wird umgesetzt." Allerdings strebe er über die darin bereits enthaltenen sozialen Absicherungen weitergehende Sozialgarantien an. Diese sollten von den Tarifpartnern ausgehandelt werden.



Krawalle an der Sorbonne: Polizisten gegen Studenten

Am Wochenende hatten Polizisten die Sorbonne gestürmt und damit die am Mittwoch begonnene Protestaktion von rund 200 Studenten aufgelöst. Hintergrund der Proteste ist ein neuer Arbeitsvertrag speziell für junge Arbeitnehmer, den Villepin einführen will.

Mit diesem "Vertrag für die erste Beschäftigung", dem sogenannten CPE, könnten Unternehmen junge Menschen unter 26 Jahren mit einer zweijährigen Probezeit einstellen, bevor sie unbefristet beschäftigt werden. Nach Einschätzung von Villepin würden dadurch Firmen ermutigt, junge Menschen einzustellen.

Kritiker sehen hinter den geplanten Maßnahmen eine Erleichterung für Unternehmen, junge Beschäftigte zu entlassen. Die Zweijahresperiode sei das Maximum, sagte Villepin. Arbeitgeber müssten sie nicht voll ausschöpfen und könnten die Probezeit auch kürzer halten. Die oppositionellen Sozialisten werfen der Regierung vor, den Bezug zur Realität verloren zu haben.

Der Regierungschef hat als möglicher Kandidat bei der Präsidentenwahl 2007 stark an Popularität eingebüßt, seit er mit dem CPE das strenge französische Arbeitsrecht antasten will.

Tausende Menschen hatten im Verlauf der Woche gegen die Regierungspläne protestiert, an

zahlreichen französischen Hochschulen organisierten Studenten Demonstrationen.

An der Sorbonne setzte die Polizei Tränengas ein. Einige Studierende bewarfen Polizisten daraufhin mit Flaschen, Stühlen und Feuerlöschern. Zwei Menschen wurden leicht verletzt, darunter auch ein Fotograf, der von Wurfgeschossen der Studenten getroffen wurde. Es waren die größten Unruhen in Frankreich seit den Vorortkrawallen im November.

Die Studenten hatten die Traditionsuniversität, die 1968 ein wichtiges Zentrum der Studentenproteste war, am Mittwoch besetzt. Innenminister Nicolas Sarkozy brach wegen der Krawalle eine Kurzreise in die Karibik ab. Die Studenten kündigten für die kommenden Tage weitere Proteste an.

International Herald Tribune

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/03/15/news/edpfaff.php>

William Pfaff: When a young Frenchman's fancy turns to revolution

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

Governments in France are unwise to launch initiatives affecting students and the young when springtime approaches and the sap rises.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has put himself in a difficult situation at a moment when the French already suffer depression connected with unemployment, a sense of economic vulnerability and what seems like political futility.

This week, Villepin confronts street demonstrations of students flush with revolutionary enthusiasm, backed by union demonstrators with lifetime jobs at state corporations, and opposition politicians. This is supposed to culminate in vast gatherings across France on Saturday, all to protest a modest change in the country's complicated employment laws, meant to help unemployed young people lacking school or other job qualifications.

France is a certifications culture. Even simple jobs demand formal diplomas indicating a level of school achievement. If you don't have the right certificate, you are usually out of luck.

The certifications game works at all levels and lasts a lifetime. The obituaries of France's greatest men and women all but invariably begin by saying that the deceased was a graduate of the École Polytechnique or École Nationale d'Administration or some other of the "grandes écoles."

Only after that does the obituary add that the deceased was also president of the French Republic, a leading scientist, head of a great corporation or winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. It's the school that counts. I exaggerate only slightly.

The youth unemployment problem is connected to this. The poor, unemployed immigrant youth of the ghetto suburbs of France's cities are often, as you might imagine, school dropouts. The problem has been worsened in recent years because of well-intentioned efforts blocking "selection" in schools so that everyone will follow a curriculum leading toward a baccalaureate. The result, naturally, is that even more drop out of baccalaureate courses they don't

understand and don't want.

One of the important responses of the Villepin government to last fall's disorder in the ghettos was to restore, re-emphasize and lower the age of entry to apprenticeships in the trades and crafts.

The continuing demonstrations, and the break- in and occupation last weekend of part of the Sorbonne in emulation of Paris 1968, are all about a new job contract meant to encourage businesses to hire young people lacking the right credentials, and teach them on the job, with the prospect of a regular job contract to follow.

It offers advantages but also provides that if things don't work out during the first two years, or the business ceases to be able to afford him or her, the new employee can be fired with proper notice but without being given formal cause.

This is called "marginalizing" and undermining young people. I am a biased American, of course, but I never dreamed that the first job I found would carry a lifetime guarantee.
International Herald Tribune

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

PARIS Governments in France are unwise to launch initiatives affecting students and the young when springtime approaches and the sap rises.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has put himself in a difficult situation at a moment when the French already suffer depression connected with unemployment, a sense of economic vulnerability and what seems like political futility.

This week, Villepin confronts street demonstrations of students flush with revolutionary enthusiasm, backed by union demonstrators with lifetime jobs at state corporations, and opposition politicians. This is supposed to culminate in vast gatherings across France on Saturday, all to protest a modest change in the country's complicated employment laws, meant to help unemployed young people lacking school or other job qualifications.

France is a certifications culture. Even simple jobs demand formal diplomas indicating a level of school achievement. If you don't have the right certificate, you are usually out of luck.

The certifications game works at all levels and lasts a lifetime. The obituaries of France's greatest men and women all but invariably begin by saying that the deceased was a graduate of the École Polytechnique or École Nationale d'Administration or some other of the "grandes écoles."

Only after that does the obituary add that the deceased was also president of the French Republic, a leading scientist, head of a great corporation or winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. It's the school that counts. I exaggerate only slightly.

The youth unemployment problem is connected to this. The poor, unemployed immigrant youth of the ghetto suburbs of France's cities are often, as you might imagine, school dropouts. The problem has been worsened in recent years because of well-intentioned efforts blocking "selection" in schools so that everyone will follow a curriculum leading toward a baccalaureate. The result, naturally, is that even more drop out of baccalaureate courses they don't understand and don't want.

One of the important responses of the Villepin government to last fall's disorder in the ghettos was to restore, re-emphasize and lower the age of entry to apprenticeships in the trades and crafts.

The continuing demonstrations, and the break- in and occupation last weekend of part of the Sorbonne in emulation of Paris 1968, are all about a new job contract meant to encourage businesses to hire young people lacking the right credentials, and teach them on the job, with the prospect of a regular job contract to follow.

It offers advantages but also provides that if things don't work out during the first two years, or the business ceases to be able to afford him or her, the new employee can be fired with proper notice but without being given formal cause.

This is called "marginalizing" and undermining young people. I am a biased American, of course, but I never dreamed that the first job I found would carry a lifetime guarantee.

Villepin argues that without the new contract the unqualified unemployed are likely to stay unemployed. In addition to promoting apprenticeships, he has already sponsored a plan by which small companies can hire new employees and be initially dispensed from onerous social charges. This seems to have been a success. The new two- year tryout plan was supposed to be the next step. Instead, it could cost Villepin himself his job, and his crack at the French presidency next year.

For years, student demonstrations have for better or worse been the most exciting part of the political education of young people in France, exploited (usually cynically) by politicians. The quarreling Socialists and Communists now have their big issue for next year's elections.

A knowledgeable analyst of Le Figaro, Bruno Jeudy, says Villepin should have stuck with the success of his scheme for small businesses. If he insisted on going further, he should have called in the unions for talks in which he could have won some support. He never should have overridden parliamentary opposition. School holidays seemed to offer Villepin a chance to get the change through quickly, while opposition was scattered. Now it's back, fully mobilized, and Villepin's allies are edging away from him. Jeudy says he has shown the qualities that have damaged him before: impetuosity, and a taste for solitary decisions.

He may well survive. Student opinion is divided, and many are angry about the excesses of a student fringe. If the demonstrations peak this week and then decline, and if the new employment measures actually push youth unemployment down in coming months, Villepin will have passed the test of the streets, which has broken the career of more than one prime minister.

If that happens, he is allowed to dream seriously of the presidency.

[PARIS](#) Governments in France are unwise to launch initiatives affecting students and the young when springtime approaches and the sap rises.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has put himself in a difficult situation at a moment when the French already suffer depression connected with unemployment, a sense of economic vulnerability and what seems like political futility.

This week, Villepin confronts street demonstrations of students flush with revolutionary enthusiasm, backed by union demonstrators with lifetime jobs at state corporations, and opposition politicians. This is supposed to culminate in vast gatherings across France on Saturday, all to protest a modest change in the country's complicated employment laws, meant to help unemployed young people lacking school or other job qualifications.

France is a certifications culture. Even simple jobs demand formal diplomas indicating a level of school achievement. If you don't have the right certificate, you are usually out of luck.

The certifications game works at all levels and lasts a lifetime. The obituaries of France's greatest men and women all but invariably begin by saying that the deceased was a graduate of the École Polytechnique or École Nationale d'Administration or some other of the "grandes écoles."

Only after that does the obituary add that the deceased was also president of the French Republic, a leading scientist, head of a great corporation or winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. It's the school that counts. I exaggerate only slightly.

The youth unemployment problem is connected to this. The poor, unemployed immigrant youth of the ghetto suburbs of France's cities are often, as you might imagine, school dropouts. The problem has been worsened in recent years because of well-intentioned efforts blocking "selection" in schools so that everyone will follow a curriculum leading toward a baccalaureate. The result, naturally, is that even more drop out of baccalaureate courses they don't understand and don't want.

One of the important responses of the Villepin government to last fall's disorder in the ghettos was to restore, re-emphasize and lower the age of entry to apprenticeships in the trades and crafts.

The continuing demonstrations, and the break-in and occupation last weekend of part of the Sorbonne in emulation of Paris 1968, are all about a new job contract meant to encourage businesses to hire young people lacking the right credentials, and teach them on the job, with the prospect of a regular job contract to follow.

It offers advantages but also provides that if things don't work out during the first two years, or the business ceases to be able to afford him or her, the new employee can be fired with proper notice but without being given formal cause.

This is called "marginalizing" and undermining young people. I am a biased American, of course, but I never dreamed that the first job I found would carry a lifetime guarantee.

Villepin argues that without the new contract the unqualified unemployed are likely to stay unemployed. In addition to promoting apprenticeships, he has already sponsored a plan by which small companies can hire new employees and be initially dispensed from onerous social charges. This seems to have been a success. The new two-year tryout plan was supposed to be the next step. Instead, it could cost Villepin himself his job, and his crack at the French presidency next year.

For years, student demonstrations have for better or worse been the most exciting part of the political education of young people in France, exploited (usually cynically) by politicians. The quarreling Socialists and Communists now have their big issue for next year's elections.

A knowledgeable analyst of Le Figaro, Bruno Jeudy, says Villepin should have stuck with the success of his scheme for small businesses. If he insisted on going further, he should have called in the unions for talks in which he could have won some support. He never should have overridden parliamentary opposition. School holidays seemed to offer Villepin a chance to get the change through quickly, while opposition was scattered. Now it's back, fully mobilized, and Villepin's allies are edging away from

him. Jeudy says he has shown the qualities that have damaged him before: impetuosity, and a taste for solitary decisions.

He may well survive. Student opinion is divided, and many are angry about the excesses of a student fringe. If the demonstrations peak this week and then decline, and if the new employment measures actually push youth unemployment down in coming months, Villepin will have passed the test of the streets, which has broken the career of more than one prime minister.

If that happens, he is allowed to dream seriously of the presidency.

PARIS Governments in France are unwise to launch initiatives affecting students and the young when springtime approaches and the sap rises.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has put himself in a difficult situation at a moment when the French already suffer depression connected with unemployment, a sense of economic vulnerability and what seems like political futility.

This week, Villepin confronts street demonstrations of students flush with revolutionary enthusiasm, backed by union demonstrators with lifetime jobs at state corporations, and opposition politicians. This is supposed to culminate in vast gatherings across France on Saturday, all to protest a modest change in the country's complicated employment laws, meant to help unemployed young people lacking school or other job qualifications.

France is a certifications culture. Even simple jobs demand formal diplomas indicating a level of school achievement. If you don't have the right certificate, you are usually out of luck.

The certifications game works at all levels and lasts a lifetime. The obituaries of France's greatest men and women all but invariably begin by saying that the deceased was a graduate of the École Polytechnique or École Nationale d'Administration or some other of the "grandes écoles."

Only after that does the obituary add that the deceased was also president of the French Republic, a leading scientist, head of a great corporation or winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. It's the school that counts. I exaggerate only slightly.

The youth unemployment problem is connected to this. The poor, unemployed immigrant youth of the ghetto suburbs of France's cities are often, as you might imagine, school dropouts. The problem has been worsened in recent years because of well-intentioned efforts blocking "selection" in schools so that everyone will follow a curriculum leading toward a baccalaureate. The result, naturally, is that even more drop out of baccalaureate courses they don't understand and don't want.

One of the important responses of the Villepin government to last fall's disorder in the ghettos was to restore, re-emphasize and lower the age of entry to apprenticeships in the trades and crafts.

The continuing demonstrations, and the break-in and occupation last weekend of part of the Sorbonne in emulation of Paris 1968, are all about a new job contract meant to encourage businesses to hire

young people lacking the right credentials, and teach them on the job, with the prospect of a regular job contract to follow.

It offers advantages but also provides that if things don't work out during the first two years, or the business ceases to be able to afford him or her, the new employee can be fired with proper notice but without being given formal cause.

This is called "marginalizing" and undermining young people. I am a biased American, of course, but I never dreamed that the first job I found would carry a lifetime guarantee.

Villepin argues that without the new contract the unqualified unemployed are likely to stay unemployed. In addition to promoting apprenticeships, he has already sponsored a plan by which small companies can hire new employees and be initially dispensed from onerous social charges. This seems to have been a success. The new two- year tryout plan was supposed to be the next step. Instead, it could cost Villepin himself his job, and his crack at the French presidency next year.

For years, student demonstrations have for better or worse been the most exciting part of the political education of young people in France, exploited (usually cynically) by politicians. The quarreling Socialists and Communists now have their big issue for next year's elections.

A knowledgeable analyst of Le Figaro, Bruno Jeudy, says Villepin should have stuck with the success of his scheme for small businesses. If he insisted on going further, he should have called in the unions for talks in which he could have won some support. He never should have overridden parliamentary opposition. School holidays seemed to offer Villepin a chance to get the change through quickly, while opposition was scattered. Now it's back, fully mobilized, and Villepin's allies are edging away from him. Jeudy says he has shown the qualities that have damaged him before: impetuosity, and a taste for solitary decisions.

He may well survive. Student opinion is divided, and many are angry about the excesses of a student fringe. If the demonstrations peak this week and then decline, and if the new employment measures actually push youth unemployment down in coming months, **Villepin will have passed the test of the streets, which has broken the career of more than one prime minister.**

If that happens, he is allowed to dream seriously of the presidency. (:D)

New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/16/international/europe/16cnd-france.html?hp&ex=1142571600&en=cac62ef8ee593472&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

French Protests Against Labor Law Heat Up

By [ELAINE SCIOLINO](#)

Published: March 16, 2006

PARIS, March 16 — Once again, there is high anxiety in [France](#). Not revolution. Not 1968 revisited. But a great deal of political drama.



Protesters clash with riot police officers in Paris.

Students have shut down universities and are taking to the streets. Police officers are using tear gas to quell protests in the heart of Paris. Teachers, workers, labor union leaders, the jobless, even retirees are joining in the protests nationwide against a new labor law.

While President [Jacques Chirac](#) and his ministers are pleading for dialogue, opposition politicians are fanning the flames of discontent. With their eyes on presidential elections next year, they have been galvanized by the general dismay over the new employment regulations that will allow employers to hire and fire young workers more easily.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters filled the streets today and marched in cities throughout France. An even larger nationwide protest aimed at bringing more than a million marchers into the streets is planned for Saturday.

The protests have begun to invade middle-class city life. A fringe group of masked protesters in the 7th Arrondissement of Paris hurled rocks at antiriot police from the small park in front of the chic Bon Marché department store.

The police fired back with shots of tear gas. The fringe group lobbed tear gas canisters at the officers. Security guards barred people from entering the store, which is just blocks from Matignon, the building that houses the offices of Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin. Across the street, the newspaper kiosk opposite the Hôtel Lutetia was set on fire.

"Resistance! Resistance!" protesters chanted.

The organizers of the demonstrations have insisted that they remain peaceful, and the acts of violence raise the specter that the protesters have been infiltrated by spoilers.

"These are not students, they're vandals," said Marevna Redjala, a 20-year-old woman who works for a recreation center, as she witnessed the violence. "They came only to confront the police. Those who came with good intentions have left."

In Rennes, police officers used tear gas to neutralize youths who set garbage cans on fire and vandalized cars. In Bordeaux, protesters disrupted rail traffic. In Nancy, youths threw stones at the police, injuring an officer. In Toulouse, the university was closed following clashes between students who wanted it shut and others wanting it to stay open.

Large protests were also held in Marseille, Montpellier, Lyon, Lille, Clermont Ferrand, Limoges, Angers, Nantes and Strasbourg.

It is a moment of street theater and fierce debate, with sweeping commentaries about watersheds and crossroads and references to the unrest that shook Paris in May 1968.

Certainly, the images of cheering students last Friday night occupying the 17th century Sorbonne — the birthplace of the 1968 revolt — evoked memories of that exhilarating, romantic youth movement 38 springs ago.

But May 1968 this is not. That was a time of student dreams and of student revolt aimed at transforming an authoritarian, elitist system. It pushed 10 million workers to go on strike in France and came close to forcing General de Gaulle from power.

"Sixty-eight was a mass revolutionary movement to create a socialist society," said Henri Weber, now a member of the European Parliament, who was a Communist leader of the 1968 revolt and whose photo protesting in front of the Sorbonne appeared in Paris Match. "We had an idealistic vision."

The students' goal this time is dramatically more modest. They want the abolition of a new law known as the "First Employment Contract" that would allow employers to fire new workers without cause after two years. The government argues that the plan is necessary to reduce the chronically high rate of unemployment among the country's youth.

"We're not back there in '68," said Nadjat Boubakeur, a 26-year-old history major at one of Paris' public universities and a leader of the student union movement L'Unef. "Our revolt is not to get more. It's to keep what we have."

The union headquarters in a gritty section of northeast Paris reflects the disparate nature of the student movement in France. The walls are lined with posters advocating causes such as the opening of new schools, an end to the war in Iraq, the boycott of McDonald's, a ban on smoking. The air is filled with smoke.

The motto on their fliers protesting the new labor law is hardly a call to action. "Against Precariousness," it reads.

But the students have succeeded in creating an open-ended standoff between the government and a large swath of the people. Both sides seem to be driven by fear.

The French government appears to fear its people; the French people demonstrate fear of change.