

Nya Pressen, 23.12.1968

Veijo Baltzar visited a Gypsy family in Stockholm and has noted that the Swedes have solved their Gypsy issue almost completely. There, one specifically has the privilege of effective schooling - something that we seem to struggle with.

'The compassionate Samaritans are sanctimonious'
The work towards Gypsies is lacking a unified front!
-By Veijo Baltzar-

While in Stockholm I noticed that they had solved their Gypsy issue almost to the perfect degree. Firstly, there is the possibility to study. There, the need to go to school while living in hunger and misery on the side of the road or in a cottage with twenty other people does not exist.

I visited a Gypsy family which, fifteen years ago, left Finland in search of better prospects. They were three brothers and two younger sisters who left for Stockholm. They tried to create a future here in Finland but the only thing that came as a result was the memory of the police, who always hung around the corner of their street, situated in the village outskirts.

According to the youngest brother: -I remember very well how, when I was a little boy, the police forcefully took my older brothers to the police station, where they were subsequently beaten. The police forbid them from relocating – just stay where you belong, they said.

At the time, our father made a living through buying and selling horses. He didn't have to sell spirits or take part in criminal activity to get our bread, says the youngest brother.

- Back then it wasn't common to sell spirits. Most of the Gypsies made their means through horse businesses, but then business died down, so they needed to find another source of income.

Our second home

- We were always taken to the police station and beaten if someone in the village was robbed, or had some other crime committed against them. It felt like the police station was our second home during our time in Finland, explained the youngest brother.

After moving to Sweden, the sisters visited their parents who still live in Finland.

- We have noticed that things in Finland are very much the same as they used to be. We get stopped by the police every time, even if they have no reason to justify checking our travel papers. One time we were taken to the police station because our passport didn't look the same as the Finnish version.

Apartments and work

- Why is it that the police look down at our actions when they don't understand any of them? Asks the youngest brother.

The Gypsies in Sweden have made their way just fine. They have their own shared premises going over about 100m². There, everyone has work and none of them have had anything to do with the police.

But they are still Finnish citizens. Why? because their home land has seen to it that all the world's

crimes were their fault. They don't have clean papers.

Their children now attend school, the future is secure. The Gypsies in Sweden have their schooling organised so that anyone who wishes to can go to school. Social security is not needed there.

Support the whole family

Schools and social authorities support both the student and their family. Support is dependent on how big the family is and how many in the family go to school. A student gets approx. 45kr in school support and about the same in social support. That amount pays the rent if the family is large.

When will the Gypsy children's school attendance be organised in Finland? Will misery continue for those who don't know what the next day will bring them, or will they be rescued – don't blame the politicians.

It is not worthwhile to turn to politicians in time of need. One must believe them when they say they cannot help one person after another, they aren't lying.

Instead, one must turn to the directors who steer Finland, there aren't more than twenty. They decide on everything in Finland. The politicians are their pawns who bring forth the ideas.

Is Virolainen uninterested?

The children's school attendance and development are like tears to me. It surprises me how teaching minister Johannes Virolainen isn't interested in the Gypsy children's education. Of course it revolves around a small group and obviously there aren't many votes that will come from it.

But if there should be at least one person interested in the education of Gypsy Children, who sees to it that every child in Finland has the opportunity to go to school, should it not be him who does it?

I have seriously considered minister Virolainen to be someone who is interested in both the small and large issues and to be a progressive person. But I have waited in vain on some actions in question about the schooling of Gypsy children. Year after year the same thing repeats itself.

Promises are made, but there is no time to solve the issue. That is what is suggested in any case.

Easier said than done

To those who suggest this and to those who say: - The Gypsies must themselves be more involved, one must lift oneself out of their own crisis and drive ones' own interests, I would like to say:

Of course you are correct, but it is easier said than done. I would like to give you a concrete example.

Firstly, when a white person sticks a microphone in the face of a Gypsy or shows some interest for the Gypsies he is immediately an expert. Someone picks out a position or an otherwise paid service for him to do. If someone examines the Gypsy issue they receive support, or if they find an association that works in the Gypsy people's interest, the state gives a means for the purpose and all members gain salaries.

But how does it go when a Gypsy begins to do the same thing, and then possibly makes even more progress than the whites?

My own example

I'll use myself as an example. In over two years I have been working for the Gypsy people's well-being. I have undertaken minor investigations, given information on the Gypsies that should not have gone elsewhere. I have helped the white who are busy with this problem, those who get paid for their work.

I have devoted myself completely to this project. I have dropped everything. What have I to gain from this? Under the whole time I have gained 1400 marks.

I have counted out how much I have gained per day on certain articles. I have come to the conclusion that I have gained about the same that I did while I was in the military: About one mark a day. But not even this is pure income. I have been forced to make a few trips - those were paid by myself, and if I also note other costs, it come up to about three marks per day.

The result is that I have managed to influence people's attitudes, both the white and the Gypsy's.

White folk help each other

But I think that those who ask why the Gypsies are not willing to help themselves now understand why they don't. It is impossible. No one helps the Gypsies in their work. White people only help one another.

The people who work to help the Gypsies only do it to look their best. A unified front is missing, and it is just that which we need.

The most ridiculous things to come from my experiences during the elections are in regards to those who are against active work for the Gypsies and those who support such people. At first we all agreed that we should try to develop a society through politics but then it got to the elections and I noticed how compassionately they supported different parties.

A party bound in naivety

For me this comes off as very naïve. When such people decide to devote their life's work towards the betterment of the Gypsies situation, and in addition to receiving wages for the work, they should not support different parties that could obstruct the work they do in the name of the betterment of the Gypsy people.

But apparently that isn't the case, for they have just done a simple service, a service that could have been achieved in a different circumstance. To put it mildly, I cannot help but laugh at their hypocrisy and actions made in the name of being a good Samaritan.