

FRAGGING THE FROGGIES

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What's wrong with pay TV, jet, jingle, discount and such words? Plenty, says the French government. They represent the invasion of pure French by Franglais, as do long-established words from English such as **smoking** and **weekend**. M. Mitterand's government now wants to fine Frenchmen the equivalent of seven dollars each time one of these words is used; it has legally banned some 126 of them in all. *Sacre bleu!* Howard Smith (of "Scenes" in *The Village Voice*, 8 Mar 1983) suggests we retaliate by weeding out of English such French words as *laissez-faire* and *café* and such expressions as *c'est la vie* ("tough titty"). He would replace *raconteur* with "big mouth," *femme fatale* with "killer bitch," and *cinéma vérité* with "black and white films made without a tripod." I see (as the French would say) him coming with his big wooden shoes ("where he's coming from, what he's up to") and wonder what *Word Ways* readers would suggest we substitute for the French words and expressions given below. There are no right answers in the back of the magazine this time - use your imagination!

accouchement	cabaret	cinema
adieu	camaraderie	coiffeur
agent provocateur	canapé	comme ci, comme ça
à la carte	carafe	comme il faut
armoire	carte blanche	concierge
avant-garde	cause célèbre	connoisseur
belles-lettres	chacun à son goût	consommé
bête noir	chaise longue	contretemps
bistro	chalet	coquette
bonbon	chanteuse	cordons bleu
bon mot	chargé d'affaires	corps de ballet
bon voyage	chef d'oeuvre	coup d'état
boutique	cherchez la femme	
bric-à-brac	chignon	