

Dear Readers!
I promised in the January Newsletter
Finlandia Foundation Florida News
that I will translate the Finnish articles in the Newsletter
into English for Web site and Facebook.
Now I have done it. Enjoy !
Kaarina Langeland, President

We Were Proud of Our Independence

Pekka Aukia

The Independence Party in Seinäjoki, Finland, was a rare event this year. Our beloved vicar Tapio Luoma, who had been chosen to be the Espoo Bishop created a festival speech which will be unequalled for a long time. I am perhaps not the only one who on this Independence Day (December 6, 2011) has been worrying about where The EU is going to when the veto right of an independent country will be taken away and they will start to vote. Can we still speak about independence when we are little by little becoming the northeast corner of the Federal State? From now on France and Germany will decide which Mediterranean spendthrifts we have to support. Should we elect Väyrynen or Soini to be the President? Could we still find our discarded marks? Or in which swamp we are sinking?

In this smoggy situation our bishop was able to focus the light beam of understanding, which eased us in the church. We understood that independence is not isolation, but rather wise cooperation in taking care of common matters. At the evening coffee table we realized that until now we have picked from the

EU all kinds of advantages as one might pick raisins from the Finnish pulla as we used to say.

It has been nice not to need to change money on our vacation trips. If we get sick we have been able to enjoy all the same advantages of health care as the others. Finnish companies have no difficulties with the European customs when crossing European borders. While the interest rate was before over ten percent, it is now at the highest two or three percent. There are a lot of other similar advantages. When seeking our own advantages we have been driven into so many dependencies that our concept of independence has been shrinking to an almost zero level. We are like in a common-law marriage, in which we own our common home, a car, summer place and a child is on the way too. According to all rational thinking one should start reserving a place for a midsummer wedding. The illusion of bachelor life or the life of a free woman are just plain illusion. The real independence should have been decided at that moment, when at the end of the evening the couple was wondering if they should go over to spend the night "at your place or my place." When a child is also on the way, we are in praxis already married.

The Vice President of the EU Commission, Olli Rehn, was right in saying that it's worth it to keep the euro and also the profitable Union and to restore with Germany and the other three AAAs the whole area with discipline and order. In the future we can preserve the Mediterranean market for our export products and equally they will benefit from the Northern European order and efficiency.

As noted, the wise Bishop Tapio Luoma got us to think about and see new dimensions of the European Union.

Edited by Bill Aho