

TO YOUR GOOD HEART

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Here is the official communiqué that has been published by the town councillor in Montélimar at the conclusion of the visit by the train with the yellow coins.

Bernadette Chirac came to Montélimar to make a show of collecting some pennies. 200 kilos of coins have been collected (corresponding to about 10000€). I questioned the Lord Mayor (UMP) of the city to find out how much this project had cost.

Without counting the cost of the special chartering of TGV, the diversion of several trains in the Ardèche area, the cost of technical services personnel and of the municipal police etc..., the town has spent 80.000€ (taken from our local taxes, of course).

Even more shocking : rooms and meals at one of the best hotel-restaurants in the area, for 'The First Lady of France' and her committee of 130 people, have been paid for with a cheque from the association 'Operation Yellow Coin', (Opération Pièces Jaunes).

When you think that little children have broken open their money-boxes to help advertise for Lady Chirac and the Mayor of Montélimar, and pay for these banquets !

Comment of the commission

It is in fact astonishing that this kind of publicity stunt, costing more than it earns, has been allowed to happen on the pretext of charity.

We salute the Town Councillor for his act of bravery in condemning this unacceptable act which has made use of local taxes.

It is the inhabitants of Montélimar who should question the mayor. He is the one accountable for what is done with their taxes.

We hope that at the next municipal elections there will be someone to ask the right questions and that residents will make the right decisions.

As a reminder , 'charity begins at home'. If an idea happens to be a good one and indeed commendable, the way it is implemented should be reviewed in order to give it a real national legitimacy and to confirm the use which it is supposed to have.