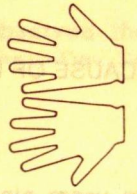


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Lithuanian-American
Community
of U.S.A., Inc.



BRIDGES



Lithuanian-American
NEWSLETTER

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VOL. I. No. 2



MAY 1977

IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

Since its appearance last month among Lithuanian-Americans and other interested readers. BRIDGES has received many favorable comments. Among letters received were requests for information about where to obtain books, records, and handicrafts. By now our readers are familiar with such Lithuanian organizations as **Bendruomenė** (Lithuanian American Community, Inc.), **VLIK** or **VLIKas** (Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania), and **BALF** (United Lithuanian Relief fund of America). Apparently there are other terms which lead to confusion. BRIDGES will attempt to clarify some of these terms. BRIDGES will give tips where to obtain Lithuanian books and records.

Some of our readers would like to know beforehand about concerts, conferences and convetions. BRIDGES will comply because it is our purpose to provide timely information. July and August are the months for youth camps, seminars, conventions and outings. This issue will devote space to forthcoming activities.

The violation of human rights in Lithuania remains a key issue in Lithuania's fight for national independence and freedom. Noncompliance with the human rights provisions of the HELSINKI ACCORDS by the Soviets and the forthcoming BELGRADE CONFERENCE have sharpened the focus on Lithuanian dissidents and their plight. BRIDGES will continue to point out instances of callous disregard of basic human liberties in Soviet-occupied Lithuania as well as the activities of free Lithuanians to rectify the situation.

June was traditionally the month of youth. Young people celebrated the Eve of St. John (JONINĖS) with hilltop bonfires and midnight searches for the mythical "fern blossom." Today Lithuanians the world over observe the so-called "Terrible June Days." June 15, 1940 large Red Army formations invaded the Republic of Lithuania which led to forcible incorporation of the country into the Soviet Union on August 3, 1940. June 1941 witnessed the callous mass deportation of 45,000 Lithuanian men, women and children to Siberia. These June 1941 deportations were a prelude systematic Soviet genocide resulting in the deportation and annihilation of 500,000 Lithuanians. The "Terrible June Days" are observed at public gatherings of mourning among Lithuanians of the free world.

There are many requests from our readers for write-ups about prominent Lithuanians. In future issues BRIDGES will try to give more coverage. However, one major problem is that we still lack a network of local correspondents. For this reason, BRIDGES invites readers to submit news items or leads for stories. By the same token, we are interested in news about local Lithuanian events.

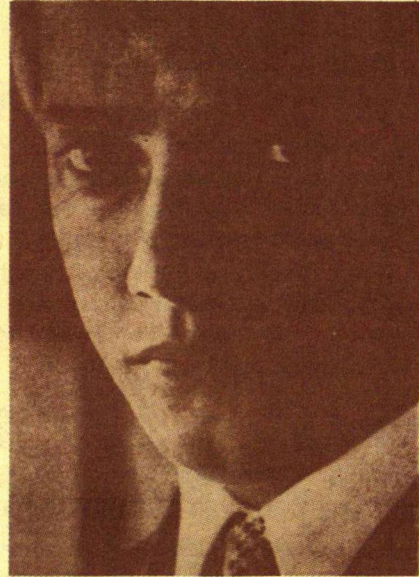
THE EDITORS

THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY

May 14th marks five years since 19-year old **Romas Kalanta**, in a park near the Music Theatre of Kaunas, poured inflammable liquid on himself and flicked a match to set himself aflame. His last words were "Laisvė! Laisvė Lietuvai!" — "Freedom! Freedom for Lithuania!" The youth of Kaunas responded to his protest with two days of rioting, which was brutally put down by Soviet police troops. The protest of Kalanta and Kaunas' youth received worldwide attention. It is believed Kalanta was a member of Lithuania's hippie movement. Long hair among Lithuania's youth is still popular as a sign of protest against authorities (and it is not restricted to hippies). Otherwise Lithuanian hippies are quite different from the West's. According to writer **Vytautas Alantas**, Kalanta himself described hippies as those who wear longer hair, practice poverty, avoid doing wrong to others, and draw inspiration from St. Francis of Assisi. According to a recent emigre, Lithuania's hippies, compared to the West's, are "models of elegance" in appearance. If the postwar partisans are a source of inspiration for older Lithuanians, Kalanta is the hero of Lithuania's youth. **S. G.**

Letters to Lithuanian political prisoners in the USSR boost prisoners' morale, and even if a prisoner never gets letters sent to him from the West, the authorities learn that the West knows and cares about the prisoner. This aids the prisoner, for the Soviets are very image-conscious. Letters to prisoners may be written in any language; they should be personal, friendly (concerning everyday events, holidays, birthdays) regular (say, every month), and nonpolitical (anti-Soviet remarks may endanger the person you wish to help). Once you start writing, don't stop; it would be heartbreaking for the prisoner. Number your letters, so the prisoner can tell if some do not get through. Make photocopies of your letter and envelope, and send them air mail and "registered return receipt requested." If you do not receive a receipt in 90 days, you can begin a procedure to collect a \$15.76 indemnity from the U.S. Postal Service, which in turn will demand payment from the USSR. Don't expect a reply from your prisoner; your letter will have its effect. Lists of prisoners are available from many agencies, including: Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc., 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207. There is one general post office address in Moscow for all prisoners whose exact address you do not know: SSSR. Moskva, Ucrezdenie 5110/1 Zch. (Name of prisoner) USSR. **S.G.**

According to recent testimony by **Tomas Venclova**, people who do not agree with the official way of thinking in Soviet Lithuania are subjected to various forms of persecution. One of these is known to us as "the case of the boys". In 1976, **Vytautas Bogužis** and four of his friends were expelled from the senior class of high school for being interested in religion, Lithuanian history, and Russian dissidents. They were expelled by order of the school director who took his orders from the KGB. Now these boys are in a difficult situation and are being pressured by the organs of the KGB.



Romas Kalanta, the 19 year old student, who set himself aflame in protest against the Soviet suppression of basic rights in Lithuania. On May 14, 1972 in a park in Kaunas he died shouting for freedom for enslaved Lithuania.

On March 13 representatives of Lithuanian political institutions met in New York to expand the **Lithuanian Human Rights Commission** set up by VLIK. This extraordinary conference was attended by the chairman of ad hoc Lithuanian Human Rights Committee, prof. Domas Krivickas; representatives of VLIK — Dr. J. K. Valiūnas, J. Valaitis, A. Vedeckas, B. Bieliukas, and J. Audėnas; Lithuanian World Community representative K. Jankūnas; Lithuanian American Council representatives T. Blinstrubas and Dr. J. Genys; Rev. C. Pugetičius of the Lithuanian American Catholic Services; and Prof. B. Nemickas of the Committee for a Free Lithuania. Aušra Zerr, Daiva Kezys, and Bronius Vaškaitis represented the Lithuanian American Community of the US, Inc. J. R. Simanavičius represented the Lithuanian Community of Canada. Prof. Jonas Balyš was spokesman for BALF.

The Lithuanian Human Rights Commission was expanded to include Dr. D. Krivickas, Rev. C. Pu-

gevičius, Prof. J. Genys, Mrs. D. Kezys, Mrs. A. Zerr, Prof. J. Balyš, Simas Kudirka, Jonas Jurašas, Aušra Jurašas, and J. R. Simanavičius. Dr. Krivickas noted that the commission's will document and classify all information about human rights violations in Lithuania and will present this material to appropriate international human rights groups and officials of countries, which have signed the Final Act of the European Security Conference. The commission's first task is to prepare documentation for the approaching Belgrade Conference, scheduled to take place in June. "However," Prof. Krivickas said, "since it is unlikely that human rights violations in Lithuania will cease in the near future, the commission's work will continue beyond the framework of the Belgrade Review Conference."

Thirty-nine Congressmen are still waiting for Brezhnev's reply to their letter asking for the release of **Nijolė Sadūnaitė**. The letter sent on February 10, 1977, protested the arrest and the subsequent treatment of the Roman Catholic woman, who was sentenced to three years of hard labor for her association with the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church of Lithuania." She was arrested on August 27, 1974, because a partly typed copy of the "Chronicle" was found in her apartment during a police search. **ELTA**.

POLITICAL ACTION

Expanding its facilities, the Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) recently created the **Lithuanian Information Service**. Headed by Mrs. Daiva Kezys, English language director of the "Laisvės Žibūrys" radio program in New York, LIS will service the media with timely news releases about the situation in Lithuania. The first LIS news release, dated March 28, 1977, dealt with the formation of an ad hoc Lithuanian Human Rights Commission. It was accompanied by Congressman D. B. Fascell's news release on the Statement of Tomas Venclova to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The address of the Lithuanian Information Service is 217-25 54th Ave., Bayside, N.Y. 11364.

The Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania conferred with the **Lithuanian American Council** on April 23 in Cleveland.

Women's Plea for Human Rights, a joint committee of New Haven Lithuanians, Jews, and Ukrainians, sent a letter of thanks to President James Carter for speaking out against the negation of human rights in the Soviet Union. Copies of the letter were sent to Connecticut Senators A. Ribicoff and L. Weicker.

The **U.S. Congress** observed the **59th anniversary** of Lithuanian Independence Day: Senator Charles Percy tallied the violations of human rights in Lithuania. The formation of the Lithuanian Group to Monitor compliance with the Helsinki Accords was welcomed by Senator Clifford P. Case, himself a member of the Helsinki Commission. Representative Samuel S. Stratton urged that the United States press the USSR on human rights in Lithuania during the Belgrade meeting in June. Many speakers referred to the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" and to the case of Nijolė Sadūnaitė, a woman dissident.

The following members of the U.S. Congress made statements on the occasion of Lithuanian Independence Day: **Senators:** Abraham A. Ribicoff (D. CT), Birch E. Bayh (D. IN), Harrison A. Williams (D. NJ), Charles Mathias, Jr. (R. MD), Charles H. Percy (R. ILL), Harrison H. Schmitt (R. NM), Richard S. Schweiker (R. OA), H. John Heinz, III (R. PA), Donald W. Riegele, Jr. (D. MI), Edward Zorinsky (D. NB), Clifford P. Case (R. NJ) and Richard G. Lugar (R. IN).

Representatives: James J. Delaney (D. NY), Frank Annunzio (D. IL), Peter W. Rodino, Jr. (D. NJ), Joshua Eilberg (D. PA), Floyd J. Fithian (IL), William M. Broadhead (D. MI), Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D. NY), Samuel S. Stratton (D. NY), Adam Benjamin, Jr. (D. IN), James C. Corman (D. CA), Edwin B. Forsythe (R. NJ), Edward J. Patten (D. NJ), Robert N. Giamo (D. CT), Stewart B. McKinney (R. CT), Tom Corcoran (R. IL), Glenn M. Anderson (D. CA), Robert McClory (R. NJ), Paul G. Rogers (D. FL), James J. Blanchard (D. MI), Marty Russo (D. IL), John J. Rhodes (R. AR), Joseph J. Minish (D. NJ), Robert A. Roe (D. NJ), Edward J. Derwinski (R. IL), Millicent Fenwick (D. NJ), Barbara Mikulski (D. MD), Joe Moakley (D. MA), and Ronald A. Sarasin (R. CT).

Rev. **Casimir Pugevičius** of Baltimore took charge of **Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid** in New York. He is continuing as director of **Lithuanian American Catholic Services**, a national organization he began in Baltimore in 1974. He replaced Rev. Stasys Raila, head of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid since its inception 16 years ago. Father Casimir heads an organization that provides "everything from food and clothing parcels to theology books for the Catholics in Lithuania." Father Casimir says religious materials are sent more often to Lithuania than food and clothing. Few people are starving there, but occasionally a priest will be without financial support for a time and Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid intervenes.

One item which is to be shipped to Lithuania in limited quantities is a translation of the Jerusalem Bible version of the New Testament, originally printed in Lithuania. The Soviet government allowed 15,000 copies to be printed but took back 5,000 for distribution to foreign visitors "for propaganda purposes," Father Casimir says. That left "about one page of

Scripture for each Catholic," he said. So the New York-based organization is having it reprinted and shipping it back to Lithuania. Much of the work of the two organizations Father Casimir heads overlap. A recent translation of the First Communion catechism can be used by both Lithuanians and Lithuanian-speaking Americans. The purpose of Lithuanian American Catholic Services, he said, is "to provide auxiliary pastoral and catechetical services that are needed." So far that has included publication of a national directory of Lithuanian priests and parishes, a homiletics series and a monthly missalette for Lithuanian-American Catholics. The new address of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid is 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207.

THE HOMELAND

According to the August 1976 issue of "Mokslas ir gyvenimas" (Science and Life), a magazine published in Lithuania, **Vilnius**, the capital of the country, has **447,000 inhabitants**. 87% of the inhabitants had water, 68% even hot water; 83.5% — gas; and 78% — central heating. In 1976 there were more than 30,000 motor vehicles in Vilnius, of which 19,000 were cars (lengvieji automobiliai). Of these 19,000 a total of 15,000 were private cars (individualūs automobiliai). It was believed that by the end of 1976, the number of private cars could reach 18,000 or 19,000. It is estimated that by 1980 Vilnius' population will grow beyond 500,000. **SG**

The concept of a "national communism" has gained numerous adherents among Lithuania's younger intellectuals. Its advocates, notably college-educated professionals and technocrats born after World War II, feel that it was largely through the efforts of indigenous Lithuanians, rather than Russian aid, that Lithuania has made economic and cultural progress, and who believe that their present subordination to Moscow hinders rather than promotes socio-economic development. Hence, they seek a modicum of national autonomy. They feel that the assumption of leadership positions within the existing "republican" framework would permit local decision-makers rather than Moscow directives to decide public policy matters affecting Lithuania's future growth. Their goal is, of course, to invert Lenin's dictum so that Lithuania would become "socialist in form, national in content." Convinced that existing political realities preclude Lithuania from being anything but "socialist," the "national communism" of Yugoslavia, or even Poland, which they view as "sovereign socialist" states, holds great appeal for Lithuania's burgeoning young intellectuals. **Algis P. Matiska**

Ričardas Daunoras, Lithuanian bass now living in Paris, was included on the rolls of **international operatic names** at the Le Theatre Royal de la Monnaie

and will sing the role of the king of Egypt in a new production of Verdi's **Aida**.

Commenting on **Lithuanian architecture** in the **New York Times** on October 20, 1976, journalist Christopher S. Wren wrote: "Without any particular architectural heritage to point to, the architects find it hard to explain why Lithuania has led the rest of the Soviet Union in imaginative housing design. Some Lithuanians would say that it is part of a national creativity that becomes even more boldly apparent in the Republic's flourishing modern art and sculpture."

The **national underground** in Lithuania has **differentiated** into the rudiments of future political parties. This process can be discerned from Lithuanian dissident publications. These clandestine periodicals are the **Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania**, **Aušra**, **Varpas**, and the **National People's Front** (Nacionalinis Liaudies Frontas). Copies of these periodicals have been smuggled to the West. The contents show political divergence. The **Chronicle of the Catholic Church** defends Church matters within the framework of the Soviet constitution. It registers violations of the Soviet constitution. Its contributors and supporters are the nucleus of a Christian Party Bloc. To date the **Chronicle** has not announced a party program. Four issues of **Aušra** have appeared. The contributors of **Aušra** have a full-blown party program. It represents the middle-of-the-road. Two issues of **Varpas** has surfaced. **Varpas** ideologically could unite peasant populists and socialdemocrats.

The National People's Front remains an enigma. **Liaudies Frontas** has issued its political manifesto. Some feel that this samizdat paper is a creation of the secret police, the KGB, in its effort weed out underground activities. This theory does not hold up because the organization is extremely to the left. Only a centrist party would woo dissidents from the rights and left, thus enabling KGB agents to capture them. It appears that the People's Front was organized by Marxist Communists who are disillusioned with the Soviet Union. They wish to break away from Moscow and establish an independent communist Lithuania. Lithuanian emigre political groups should pay more attention to these clandestine manifestations of Lithuania's present day attempts to shake off the Soviet yoke. **Jonas Kedys**

Issue 4(44) of the **samizdat journal AUŠRA** (The Dawn) has been received in the West. The typewritten publication has 61 pages and is dated October 20, 1976. AUŠRA is the second oldest continuous samizdat publication in Lithuania. Its first issue appeared in October 1975. The second one was dated February 16, 1976. The new issue of AUŠRA includes the following articles: "The Lithuanian Golgotha," two letters by Liudas Simutis, in his 22nd year in a Mordocian labor camp (Mr. Simutis was recently released).

"The Loss of Independence — Tragedy of the Lithuanian Nation," a 36-page essay on the disastrous effects of the Soviet occupation. "To J. Aničas, Head of the Science Division of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian CP." A rebuttal of the Party line on Lithuania's sovietization was presented in this controversial article. AUŠRA also contained numerous news items.

In the **Canadian House of Commons**, Ottawa, on March 9, Parliamentarian **R. Stanbury** asked Foreign Affairs Minister Jamieson to press the Soviet Union to permit the unification of Baltic families with relatives in Canada. Jamieson replied that Canada has often raised the question of reunification with Soviet officials.

COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

The Bendruomenė is the only national organization to undertake so-called **Lithuanian press subscription drives**. In keeping with its established precedent, the National Executive Committee of Bendruomenė urges its 10 districts and 68 chapters to conduct a subscription drive for the major Lithuanian-language newspapers in this country. The subscription drive lasted from February 16th through April 30th.



Present day leaders of the Lithuanian - American Community of U.S., Inc. with its founder. From l. to r. Raymond Kudukis, Chairman of the Council S. Algimantas Gecys, President, Msgr. Jonas Balkūnas, organization's founder, and Stepas Zabulis, President of Hartford, Conn., chapter.

During its January 24 meeting, the National Executive Committee of the **Lithuanian-American Community** confirmed the new **Committee for Public Affairs**. Mrs. Aušra Zerr, Madam Chairman of the new Committee, introduced the following members: Rimas Česonis, Algimantas Gureckas (liaison officer with official Washington), Mrs. Dalia Jakienė, Daiva Kezys (radio director of "Laisvės Žiburys" in New York), Linas Kojelis (Lithuanian Youth Association Executive officer), Violeta Kuncaitis (information director of the National Council for Urban and Ethnic Affairs), Anthony B. Mažeika, Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, Vida Roberts, Miss Ann Wallash, and Dr. Anthony Novasitis. The Committee is charged with the dissemination of information about the situation in Soviet-occupied Lithuania among American political, civic, religious and information circles. **A. B.**

The **Public Affairs Council** of the Lithuanian American Community held its first council meeting on April 3, 1977 in Philadelphia. The agenda included 1) preparations for the Belgrade Conference, 2) Commemoration of "Terrible June Days," 3) Definition of the political action objectives of **Bendruomenė**, and 4) Liaison with U.S. political parties. In attendance were Aušra Zerr, A. Gečys, A. Gureckas, Rev. C. Pugevičius, Daiva Kezys, L. Kojelis, A. B. Mažeika, R. Česonis, V. Kuncaitis, A. Novasitis, Miss B. Zdanys, Miss D. Muraškaitė, B. Vaškaitis, and Mrs. D. Jakienė. Materials will be prepared for the Bendruomenė chapters and U.S. media.



Public Affairs Council of the Lithuanian - American Community of U.S., Inc. met in Philadelphia on April 3, 1977. Front row (l. to r.) Ms. Violeta Kuncaitis, Mrs. Daiva Kezys, Ausra M. Zerr, chairperson, Mrs. Dalia Jakas. Second row: Rimas Cesonis, Linas Kojelis, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Algimantas P. Gureckas and Anthony B. Mazeika. Members of council who were not present are Ms. Vida Roberts, Ms. Ann Marie Wallash, Esq., and Anthony W. Novasitis, Esq.

Bronius Juodelis, chairman of the **Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the US, Inc.** recently formed the composition of this body for the next three years. The following persons consented to serve on the Educational Council: R. Mičiulis — vicechairman, R. Černius — secretary, P. Pupius — treasurer, A. Kareiva — curator of the bookstore. The following sections were created: Special Lithuanian Schools and courses to be headed by Rev. J. Vaišnys, SJ, Higher Schools — J. Masilionis; Elementary Schools — Mrs. I. Pemkus; Preschool Education — Mrs. J. Juknevičius; Musical Training — F. Strolia; Folkdance Choreography — Mrs. J. Matulaitis. The educational magazine "Švietimo Gairės" will be edited by Mrs. D. Bindokas. J. Bagdonas will be managing editor.

The Educational Council of Bendruomenė set up a Commission for Education Publications comprised of J. Plačas (Chairman), A. Dundžila, R. Černius, Mrs. L. Germanas, Mrs. S. Jonynas and Mrs. S. Petersonas. The Council also set up an information commission comprised of V. Būtėnas, J. Janušaitis, and A. Juodvalkis.

The Educational Council plans to sponsor a teachers conference in Dainava, Michigan on August 14-21. Enrollment fees for these Lithuanistic courses are \$70 for adults and \$50 for student teachers.

A new chapter of Bendruomenė was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana. The first officers of the new chapter are: Rimas Guzulaitis — chairman; Ann Hilton — secretary and treasurer; and Jim Murphy — vice-chairman. The first civic activity was the broadcasting of the February 16th radio program, prepared by prepared by Bendruomenė, over the local Indianapolis radio.

EVENTS

The **64th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania** will take place on August 17 - 21 at the Marriott Inn of Providence, Rhode Island. The convention coordinators are Rev. Vaclovas Martinkus, pastor of St. Casimir's Church; Bertha R. Stoskus; John Stoskus; and Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., National Spiritual Adviser. Additional information may be obtained by writing to Knights of Lithuania, National Convention Committee, 350 Smith Street, Providence, R.I. 02908.

The Lithuanian Ethnic Heritage Committee of Providence presented the **Čiurlionis Ensemble** of Cleveland in concert in Veterans Auditorium, Providence, R.I. on Sunday, April 24. The Čiurlionis Ensemble consists of 85 singers and dancers, and a kanklių (zither) group.

An Estonian, a Latvian, and a Lithuanian sat in the **diplomatic gallery of the Canadian House of Commons** on March 9. The presence of these Balts emphasized the fact that while Canada acknowledges that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have been seized by the Soviet Union it does not accept the seizure as legal. In the gallery as acting honorary consuls or consuls-general for their countries were Jonas Žmuidzinas (Lithuanian), Edward Upenieks (Latvian), and Ilmar Heinsoo of the Estonian Central Committee of Canada. Robert Stanbury (L. York Scarborough), who pointed out the presence of the trio to External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson in the Commons, said later he believes it was the first time the consuls of the three countries have sat in the diplomatic gallery. Actually, of the three men, only **Jonas Žmuidzinas** has official recognition from the external affairs department as a consul. In 1962, the Diefenbaker government agreed to list Žmuidzinas as acting consul.

The **Sisters of the Immaculate Conception** will organize and supervise three camps for children of Lithuanian Catholic background. Camp Neringa in West Brattleboro, Vermont will admit children and teenagers for a group program of nature study, Lithuanian, folk dance and folksongs, sports, and handicrafts. The first camp will be for boys, ages 7-14. This camp lasting from June 26 to July 9th will be conducted in Lithuanian. The girls camp will follow from July 10 to 30. Its camp language will also be Lithuanian. A camp in English for children of Lithuanian descent (ages 7 to 16) will be held from July 31 to August 13. Further information about the camps may be obtained by writing to Camp Neringa, Immaculate Conception Convent, Putnam, Conn. 06260.

The **Ninth Congress** of the Lithuanian Catholic Student Association **Ateltis** will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on September 1-4, 1977. The ateitininkai are observing their organization's 66th anniversary. The Congress Committee is chairmanned by Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, SJ.

The frequent appearance of the word "Taryba" (council) has led to confusion among readers. The **Valstybės Taryba** (Lithuanian State Council) promulgated the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence on February 16, 1918. In ordinary parlance when Lithuanian Americans refer to **Taryba** with a capital "T", they mean the Lithuanian American Council (ALT). To complicate matters, representative bodies of the Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) and the Lithuanian American Community of the US, Inc. (JAV Lietuvių Bendruomenė) are also known as Taryba. The communist Lithuanian press refers to the Soviet Union as "Tarybų Sąjunga", trying to equate the concept of council or deliberative body with that of the Soviet.

Another Lithuanian civic term which has led to confusion is "fondas" (fund or foundation). Lietuvių fondas refers to the Lithuanian Foundation or the so-called million dollar trust set up for cultural purposes. Tautos fondas is the financial vehicle of the Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania (National Fund). Another fondas is BALF or the Lithuanian American Relief Fund. The Lithuanian Alliance of America has a Tautinė Fundacija or National Fund of the SLA.

Lithuanian American **Michael Kidzus** of Matawan, N.J., recently gained attention in the **Asbury Park Press** as a **collector of minerals**. A collector of rocks for 34 years M. Kidzus has opened his own Ravine Mineralogical Museum displaying 2,000 specimens of the 2,500 known minerals of the world. An avid mineralogist and trader, he has swapped samples with such faraway places as Iceland and Australia.



On April 24th the Lithuanian Folk Ensemble "Čiurlionis" performed in concert at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium of Providence, R.I. Viewed by 2,000 New England Lithuanians the concert marked the Bicentennial Observances of the Rhode Island Lithuanian-Americans. Under the direction of Alfonsas Mikulskis, the Čiurlionis ensemble numbered 78 performers.

PERSONALITIES

Tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis, who failed to appear for his first-round match in the \$100,000 Monte Carlo International on April 5, was fined \$10,000 for his "irresponsibility." Gerulaitis reportedly flew home to New York without notifying Monaco officials of his intentions.

Thomas Kudaba, a Lithuanian from Toronto, Canada, is rising lineman in Canada's professional football league. Kudaba was named the "Most Inspirational Player of the Year."

The city council of Los Angeles presented a citation to **Jurgis Gliuda** for his literary accomplishments.

Argentine-born **Adriana Jocyte** recently toured Lithuanian centers here, singing popular Lithuanian, American, and Argentinian songs. The 17-year-old soloist gave performances in New York on January 23, 23, in Chicago on February 3, and in Cleveland on February 13.

Lithuanian soloist **Stasys Citvaras** returned to New York at the end of March after a six-month concert tour with the world famous Don Cossack Choir. Citvaras took part in 150 concerts in Europe during this six-month period.

Underground film maker **Jonas Mekas** opened Collective for Living Cinema's winter season in New York with a showing of his "Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania." This film was made in 1971 when Mekas visited his aged mother in Lithuania.

Adolfas Čampė, Lithuanian civic leader of **Waterbury, Conn.**, was made **honorary mayor of Waterbury** in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day.

The **Lithuanian Opera Company** of **Chicago** presented two full productions of Charles Gounod's opera, **Romeo and Juliet**.

The **Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute** will sponsor courses for folk dance instructors at Dainava (Manchester), Mich., on August 21-28, 1977.

NEW BOOKS

Persons interested in the Lithuanian culinary arts will be pleased to learn that Izabelė Sinkevičius has written a 316-page cook book, **LITHUANIAN COOKERY**, which gives various Lithuanian recipes in simple to follow instructions. **LITHUANIAN COOKERY** has a rollback plastic cover which permits its use in the kitchen. This seven-dollar book may be obtained from the book store of **Darbininkas**, 341 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207.

Manyland Books, Inc., a publishing house primarily dedicated to presenting translations of foreign works by

authors of little-known countries, has published a **new catalogue** listing 241 titles. The catalogue listed deal with Lithuanian subjects or are Lithuanian works by Lithuanians. Among such titles are "Lithuanian Folk Tales," "Daumantas' "Fighters for Freedom," and Landsbergis' "Five Posts in a Market Place." The catalogue may be obtained by writing to: Manyland Books, Inc., 84-39 90th St., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421.

VLIK has commissioned Mykolas Drunga to prepare a 400-page encyclopedic work in English about Lithuania and Lithuanian topics. This **one-volume Lithuanian encyclopedia** would serve as a handy reference source.

The Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community has just published Rimas Černius' **Lithuanian language handy glossary**. Entitled "Namų ir artimiausios aplinkos žodynis," this 96-page handbook sells for \$2.50. The English-Lithuanian part begins with the word "absent" and concludes with "zoo." The Lithuanian-English part begins with "abažūras" and ends with the word "žvirblis." The handbook is a must for those interested in mastering everyday Lithuanian. It may be obtained by writing to: Antanas Kareiva, 7030 S. Rockwell St., Chicago, Ill. 60629.

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