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# Happy New Year

## LAIMINGU NAUJUJU METU!

### Greetings from Bishop Paul A. Baltakis

Dear Benefactors,

I would like to express my deepest thanks for your support of the Catholic Church in Lithuania through Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid during the past year.

In his farewell address to the Lithuanian people in September, the Holy Father stated, "I am grateful that this visit helped me to understand what the priorities of the Church here must be. There are many difficult tasks ahead: from catechization of children and adults who were prevented from studying their religion or examining their faith for a very long time to the preparation of priests and other pastoral leaders." Today, the Lithuanian Catholic Church is striving to address these priorities and to encourage the spiritual, moral, and social renewal of the nation. Priests, religious, and devoted laypersons work tirelessly toward these goals.

During the course of this year, Lithuanian Catholic activists worked fervently, gaining added inspiration and encouragement from the spirit of the Holy Father's visit to their land. The fruits of their labor are evident throughout the country: Catholic schools, parish-based homes for the elderly, Catholic youth groups, soup kitchens for the needy, and catechetical centers are all in operation; work is being done toward meeting the spiritual and physical

needs of institutionalized orphans and the disabled; literature on religious and ethical themes is being published. These and many, many more projects are all possible only because of the generosity and prayers of all those concerned about the future of Lithuania.

The current economic difficulties in Lithuania are especially trying for religious and charitable organizations, as they are almost exclusively dependent on public financial support. The majority of Lithuanians, struggling themselves to make ends meet and provide for their families, have very little disposable income left for charitable giving. For this reason, support from concerned Western Christians is crucial at this time to insure that the vital work of the Church in Lithuania continues.

And so I turn to you at this season of giving and ask that you consider making one of the most precious gifts of all - a contribution toward building the Kingdom of the infant Jesus in Catholic Lithuania.

I thank you once again for all of your prayers and financial support and, on behalf of the Directors and staff of LCRA, wish you a joyous Christmas and God's blessing throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Bishop Paul A. Baltakis  
President



# Florence Eckert --- "Love," TV Style

Are you old enough to remember life without television? Believe it or not, it was a beautiful world.

As a happy, carefree busy child, I knew nothing of what went on in the bedroom or delivery room.

My training in school consisted of the three "R's" plus "Music Appreciation, Health and Gym." We had recess to give us a break from studying and schools were located within walking distance. This was great for us kids. We didn't have to get up at five in the morning to be in class by 8:30 a.m.

We arrived home 5 or 10 minutes after school was let out rather than having to ride school buses for hours. Another advantage was we got home for lunch and could freshen up and be outdoors for a while before having to resume our studies for the day.

Teachers were dedicated and strikes were unheard of. Teaching was a respected profession and the teacher was the child's second Mom.

You could be sure we learned to read at school and if we didn't apply ourselves, we were kept back a year or went to summer school. We were sent to school to learn and learn we did. No parent had to buy phonics books or teach the child how to read at home. That was the job of the schools.

"After school hours" were spent outdoors playing games like "Hide and Seek," "How many steps before the King" or just

jumping rope or playing ball.

Children were children. There were problems in the world but they never became the children's problems. Adults took care of the adult world. Children were happy and carefree.

Today's world has robbed the children of their childhood. Just look around you. Where have the children gone?

Before they have learned the complete alphabet, they know all there is to know about sex. They are being raised to believe sex is the most important subject in the world.

Unless you are tuned into a religious TV channel, it is almost impossible to view one program without some sexual dialogue entering into it. If it doesn't come in the show itself, you'll see it in the commercial.

When the women libbers first appeared on the scene, they complained of women being exploited on TV. Never were women more exploited than since this movement began!

When I was maturing and began to date, the personal side of my life as a woman was just that! Personal. There was nothing shameful about nature's way of preparing a woman's body for that awesome happening of childbirth but it was very personal and private.

There is nothing shameful about defecating. It is nature's way of removing body wastes and is very natural. Yet we go behind closed doors for privacy because this is a very personal and private matter.

Never once in all my dating years did I have to worry about being embarrassed while watching a movie with my date. Sex was a very personal and private matter and there were no commercials regarding yeast infections and sanitary napkins with wings on them.

Today a young girl must squirm through these commercials plus scene after scene of what is ironically referred to as "making love."

When was the last time you made love? How many times a week do you make love? Where were you the first time you made love? These questions are asked of human beings and answered by human beings on national television practically every day of the week. Some programs go even deeper by asking "how" these people "make love."

When supposedly educated human beings engage in this kind of personal talk with total strangers, they should get down on all fours and join the animal kingdom because that is where they belong.

When two people engage in the sex act - unless they are a loving husband and wife - they are not "making love" they are fornicating.

(Continued from page 5)

## Article 74

For gross violation of the Constitution, breach of oath, or upon the disclosure of the commitment of felony, the Seimas may, by three-fifths majority vote of all the Seimas members, remove from office the President of the Republic, the Chairperson and judges of the Court of Appeals, as well as Seimas members, or may revoke their mandate of Seimas members. Such actions shall be carried out in accordance with impeachment proceedings which shall be established by the Statute of the Seimas.

Love is an intense affectionate concern for another person, hardly the feeling of a "one night stand."

A man who is truly "in love" with a woman does not treat her as his plaything.

He sees in that woman his future wife with whom he hopes to share his life. He sees a helpmate willing to bear his children sharing with him God's greatest gift to man, LIFE.

So please, Geraldo, Sally, Phil and all the rest of you, ask these guests on your shows, when, where and how often they fornicate, not "make love."

It doesn't surprise me that there are people willing to appear on National TV to relate in detail their private lifestyles nor does it surprise me that there are sponsors and networks willing to offer them a sounding board.

The sad commentary of all this pathetic mess is that there are enough people in our society who view this garbage making it highly profitable for both the TV hosts and the networks!!!

Are you one of them?

If you are, why not start the New Year right? Tune them out. Their success or failure depends on YOU!

Happy New Year

## Article 75

Officers appointed or chosen by the Seimas (with the exception of persons specified in Article 74) shall be removed from office when the Seimas, by majority vote of all the members, expresses non-confidence in the officer in question.

## Article 76

The structure and procedure of activities of the Seimas shall be determined by the Statute of the Seimas. The Statute of the Seimas shall have the power of law.

## GARSAS

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## Here and There in the Baltics

When driving a car in the Baltics, watch out for the one bad habit that Balt drivers have: they'll pass a slower car or truck on a two lane road going up a hill, with oncoming traffic suddenly forced to drive onto the shoulder to avoid a head-on collision. Many fatalities result from this careless misuse of the roadways.

Another bad habit is that of stopping anywhere, even in the middle of a thruway, for whatever reason - a habit that would be fatal if done on thruways in the U.S.

\*\*\*\*

While on the subject of cars, most automobiles in the Baltics are equipped with alarm systems. It is not unusual to hear auto alarms going off even when a car is not being stolen. Locals say that wind from passing cars may activate some of the more sensitive anti-theft systems. Also many drivers forget to inactivate the alarms when entering their cars. Because alarms go off so often for no reason, police and passer-bys pay no attention to them.

\*\*\*\*

In Vilnius and Riga, one can park a car almost anywhere. Cars are often driven onto sidewalks and parked there for the

day. But in Tallinn, parking is strictly regulated and illegally parked cars get the "boot," a device which locks into the front wheels and prevents the car from being driven. The boot is removed upon payment of a parking fine.

\*\*\*\*

Beggars are now appearing in the streets of Vilnius, Riga, and Tallin. Although few in number, usually sitting in doorways, they represent a new addition to life in the Baltics. Many of them appear to have a problem with alcohol.

\*\*\*\*

Mail is getting to and from the Baltics in about a week. When a letter is expected and does not come, it is likely that it was not written - in most cases, quality of postal service cannot be blamed for non-delivery.

\*\*\*\*

Many music concerts in the Baltics now take place in churches. Acoustics are usually good, and church officials are willing to share the space with musicians. Tickets are also low priced. ABN's editor had the opportunity to attend concerts in Vilnius and Tallinn that were held in churches.

American Baltic News

## Support Varies for Baltic Presidents and Prime Ministers

On December 18, Lietuvos Rytas published the results of a poll taken in November which revealed great differences in the extent that the citizens of the Baltic States trust their presidents. According to the poll, 75% of the citizens of Latvia trust President Guntis Ulmanis and only 8% do not. Estonia's President Lennart Meri is trusted by 44% of his people while 37% were polled as not trusting their leader. In Lithuania, President Algirdas

Brazauskas has the trust of 60% of his countrymen while 34% were polled as not trusting Mr. Brazauskas.

The poll taken for support of prime ministers showed a low level of trust. Only 39% of Lithuanian citizens expressed trust in Adolfas Slezevicius while 40% did not trust him. The corresponding figures for Estonian Premier Mart Laar were 34% and 52% and 27% and 43% for his Latvian counterpart Valdis Birkavs.

RFE/RL Daily Report

## Draft Law on Citizenship Being Debated in Lithuania

The need for a new citizenship law was pointed out to visiting Lithuanian government officials on many occasions by the Lithuanian American community, in whose mind the subject of citizenship is intertwined with rights to regain property that had been seized by the Soviets when they occupied Lithuania some 50 years ago.

Two draft citizenship laws have been introduced recently in Lithuania's Siemas (Parliament), one by Vytautas Landsbergis and another by Seimas deputy Kazys Bobelis.

At this time, neither of the draft laws appears to meet the needs of the Lithuanian community that resides outside Lithuania. For one, the issue of citizenship is being held separate from claims to former property. Should a Lithuanian from the West obtain Lithuanian citizenship, he or she would not be guaranteed any rights to former property unless he or she resettled in Lithuania on a permanent basis.

Another question not yet fully resolved in the law is what proof will be required for granting Lithuanian citizenship. One version of the draft proposes to

grant citizenship to persons who are "Lithuanians," while the other to persons who are of "Lithuanian origin."

As ABN has learned, proving one's Lithuanian ancestry may be difficult for some Lithuanians in the West. For one, Lithuania does not currently recognize as legal substitute birth certificates issued in Germany by the Vatican to refugees who fled without original documents. Persons born before June 15, 1940, must obtain original Lithuanian birth certificates from Lithuania's archives; unfortunately, many of archival documents have been lost during the war. Persons born after the above date must provide proof that their parents were citizens of Lithuania at the time of their birth - another difficulty if one's parents are dead or their documents lost.

There still remain many problems with Lithuania's proposed citizenship laws. As they are being debated and new points of view brought out, the final version may yet include the many concerns of Lithuanians in the West.

ABN

## Baltic President's Statements

Western agencies report that after a two hour meeting in Tallinn on December 15, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Presidents Lennart Meri, Guntis Ulmanis and Algirdas Brazauskas issued three joint statements. One called on democrats to "consolidate the democratic gains of the past few years on the European continent and democratic values in Europe," calling NATO "the main long-term guarantor of our security," the

presidents expressed the hope that the "partnership for peace" program to be discussed at the NATO summit in Brussels on 10-11 of January, 1994 would not be an "empty bottle" but have an adequate content. Another statement called on the Nordic Council countries to support the Baltic initiative to have regular joint meetings of Nordic and Baltic Foreign Ministers. The presidents also welcomed increased cooperation among the Baltic States to ensure the independence of Baltic energy needs.

RFE/RL Daily Report



# Understanding Lithuania's

In the June issue of Garsas, we gave you an insight into the presidency of the state of Lithuania by publishing Chapter 6 of the newly adopted Constitution.

In this issue, you will become better acquainted with the SEIMAS, the body elected by the people of the state.

## CHAPTER 5 THE SEIMAS

### Article 55

The Seimas shall consist of representatives of the People -- 141 Seimas members who shall be elected for a four-year term on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

The Seimas shall be deemed elected when at least three-fifths of the Seimas members have been elected. The electoral procedure shall be established by law.

### Article 56

Any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who is not bound by an oath of pledge to a foreign state, and who on the election day, is 25 years of age or over and has permanently been residing in Lithuania, may be elected Seimas member.

Persons who have not served their court-imposed sentence, as well as persons declared legally incapable by court, may not be elected members of the Seimas.

### Article 57

Regular elections to the Seimas shall be held no earlier than two months, and no later than one month, prior to the expiration of the powers of the Seimas members.

### Article 58

Pre-term elections to the Seimas may be held on the decision of the Seimas adopted by three-fifths majority vote of all the Seimas members.

The President of the Republic of Lithuania may also announce

pre-term elections to the Seimas.

1) if the Seimas fails to adopt a decision on the new program of the Government within 30 days of its presentation, or if the Seimas twice in succession disapproves of the Government program within 60 days of its initial presentation; or

2) on the proposal of the Government, if the Seimas expresses direct non-confidence in the Government.

The President of the Republic may not announce pre-term elections to the Seimas if the term of office of the President of the Republic expires within less than six months, or if six months have not passed since the pre-term elections to the Seimas.

The day of elections to the new Seimas shall be specified in the resolution of the Seimas or in the decree of the President of the Republic concerning the pre-term elections to the Seimas. The election to the new Seimas must be organized within three months from the adoption of the decision on the pre-term elections.

### Article 59

The term of office of Seimas members shall commence from the day that the newly-elected Seimas convenes for the first sitting. The powers of the previously elected Seimas members shall expire as from the opening of the sitting.

Newly-elected Seimas members shall acquire all the rights of a People's representative only after swearing in the Seimas to be loyal to the Republic of Lithuania.

Seimas members who do not take an oath in the manner prescribed by law, or who take a conditional oath, shall lose the mandate of a Seimas member. The Seimas shall adopt a corresponding resolution thereon.

In office, Seimas members shall act in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the interests of the State, as well as their own consciences, and may not be restricted by any mandates.

### Article 60

The duties of Seimas members with the exception of their duties in the Seimas, shall be incompatible with any other duties in State institutions or organizations, as well as with work in trade, commercial and other private institutions or enterprises. For term of office, Seimas members shall be exempt from the duty to perform national defense service.

A Seimas member may be appointed only as Prime Minister or Minister.

The service of a Seimas member shall be remunerated, and all expenses incurred from parliamentary activities shall be reimbursed with funds from the State budget. A Seimas member may not receive any other salary, with the exception of payment for creative activities.

The duties, rights and guarantees of the activities of Seimas members shall be established by law.

### Article 61

Seimas members shall have the right to submit inquiries to the Prime Minister, the individual Ministers, and the heads of other State institutions formed or elected by the Seimas. Said persons or bodies must respond orally or in writing at the Seimas session in the manner established by the Seimas.

At sessions of the Seimas, a group of no less than one-fifth of the Seimas members may interpolate the Prime Minister or a Minister.

Upon considering the response of the Prime Minister or Minister to the interpolation, the Seimas may decide that the

response is not satisfactory, and, by a majority vote of half of all the Seimas members, express non-confidence in the Prime Minister or Minister.

(The) voting procedure shall be established by law.

### Article 62

The person of a Seimas member shall be inviolable.

Seimas members may not be found criminally responsible, may not be arrested, and may not be subjected to any other restriction of personal freedom without the consent of the Seimas.

Seimas members may not be persecuted for voting or speeches in the Seimas. However, legal actions may be instituted against Seimas members according to the general procedure if they are guilty of personal insult or slander.

### Article 63

The powers of a Seimas member shall be terminated:

1) On the expiration of the term of his or her powers, or when the Seimas, elected in pre-term elections, convenes for the first sitting;

2) Upon his or her death;

3) Upon his or her resignation;

4) When he or she is declared legally incapable by the court;

5) When the Seimas revokes his or her mandate in accordance with impeachment proceedings;

6) When the election is recognized as invalid, or if the law on election is grossly violated;

7) If he or she takes up, or does not resign from employment which is incompatible with the duties of a Seimas member; and

8) If he or she loses citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania.

### Article 64

Every year, the Seimas shall convene for two regular sessions - one in spring and one in fall.

(Continued on next page)



# Siemas (Parliament)

The spring session shall commence on March 10th and shall end on June 30th. The fall session shall commence on September 10th and shall end on December 23rd. The Seimas may resolve to prolong a session.

Extraordinary sessions shall be convened by the Seimas Chairperson upon the proposal of at least one-third of all the Seimas members and, in cases provided for in the Constitution, by the President of the Republic.

## Article 65

The President of the Republic shall convene the first sitting of the newly-elected Seimas which must be held within 15 days of the Seimas election. If the President of the Republic fails to convene the sitting of the Seimas, the members of the Seimas shall assemble the day following the expiration of the 15-day period.

## Article 66

The Chairperson or Assistant Chairperson of the Seimas shall preside over sittings of the Seimas.

The sitting directly following elections of the Seimas shall be opened by the eldest members of the Seimas.

## Article 67

The Seimas shall:

- 1) Consider and enact amendments to the Constitution;
- 2) Enact laws;
- 3) Adopt resolutions for the organization of referendums;
- 4) Announce presidential elections of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 5) Form State Institutions provided by law, and shall appoint and dismiss their chief officers;
- 6) Approve or reject the candidature of the Prime Minister proposed by the President of the Republic;
- 7) Consider the program of the government submitted by the

Prime Minister, and decide whether to approve it or not;

8) Upon the recommendation of the Government, establish or abolish ministries of the Republic of Lithuania;

9) Supervise the activities of the government, and may express non-confidence in the Prime Minister or individual Ministers.

10) Appoint judges to, and Chairpersons of, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme court;

11) Appoint to, and dismiss from, office the State Controller as well as the Chairperson of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania;

12) Announce local government council election;

13) Form the Central Electoral Committee and change its composition;

14) Approve the State budget and supervise the implementation thereof;

15) Establish State taxes and other obligatory payments;

16) Ratify or denounce international treaties whereto the Republic of Lithuania is a party, and consider other issues of foreign policy;

17) Establish administrative divisions of the Republic;

18) Establish State awards of the Republic of Lithuania;

19) Issue acts of amnesty; and

20) Impose direct administration and martial law, declare states of emergency, announce mobilization, and adopt decisions to use the armed forces.

## Article 68

The right of legislative initiative in the Seimas shall belong to the members of the Seimas, the President of the Republic, and the Government.

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania shall also have the right of legislative initiative. A draft law may be submitted to the Seimas by 50,000 citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have the right to vote. The

Seimas must consider this draft law.

## Article 69

Laws shall be enacted in the Seimas in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Laws shall be deemed adopted if the majority of the Seimas members participating in the sitting vote in favor thereof.

Constitutional laws of the Republic of Lithuania shall be deemed adopted if more than half of all the members of the Seimas vote in the affirmative.

Constitutional laws shall be amended by at least a three-fifths majority vote of all the Seimas members. The Seimas shall establish a list of constitutional laws by a three-fifths majority vote of the Seimas members.

Provisions of the laws of the Republic of Lithuania may also be adopted by referendum.

## Article 70

The laws enacted by the Seimas shall be enforced after the signing and official promulgation thereof by the President of the Republic, unless the laws themselves establish a later enforcement date.

Other acts adopted by the Seimas and the Statue of the Seimas shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Seimas. Said acts shall become effective the day following the promulgation thereof, unless the acts themselves provide for another procedure of enforcement.

## Article 71

Within ten days of receiving a law passed by the Seimas, the President of the Republic shall either sign and officially promulgate said law, or shall refer it back to the Seimas together with relevant reasons for reconsideration.

In the event that the law enacted by the Seimas is not referred back or signed by the President of the Republic within the established period, the law

shall become effective upon the signing and official promulgation thereof by the Chairperson of the Seimas.

The President of the Republic must within five days, sign and officially promulgate such laws and other acts adopted by referendum.

In the event that the President of the Republic does not sign and promulgate such laws within the established period, said laws shall become effective upon being signed and officially promulgated by the Chairperson of the Seimas.

## Article 72

The Seimas may reconsider and enact laws which have been referred back by the President of the Republic. After reconsideration by the Seimas, a law shall be deemed enacted if the amendments and supplements submitted by the President of the Republic were adopted, or if more than half of all the Seimas members vote in the affirmative, and if its a constitutional law--if at least three-fifths of all the Seimas members vote in the affirmative. The President of the Republic must, within three days, sign and forthwith officially promulgate laws re-enacted by the Seimas.

## Article 73

Seimas controllers shall examine complaints of citizens concerning the abuse of powers by, and bureaucracy of, State and local government officers (with the exception of judges). Controllers shall have the right to submit proposals to the court to dismiss guilty officers from their posts. The powers of the Seimas controllers shall be established by law.

As necessary, the Seimas shall also establish other institutions of control. The system and powers of said institutions shall be established by law.

(Continued on page 2)



# Florida Couple Visits Birthplace of Ancestors

by Florence Eckert

For many years, Bill Gabriel had been dreaming of visiting Lithuania. He wanted to see the town where his parents were born. Due to Soviet occupation that longing remained but a dream.

When Lithuania regained her freedom, Bill Gabriel was able to realize his dream.

This past September, he and his wife Ann traveled to the Baltics and visited many of the places they had heard about and had longed to see.

A few of the spots they visited were: Mariampole, Balbereskis, Prienas, Klaipeda, Birstonas, Kaunas, the resort town of Palanga and many other small towns and cities.

Mr. Gabriel warns Americans planning to visit Lithuania not to expect any modern conveniences enjoyed here in the

states. He notes Lithuania is still a "backward" country like the U.S. was 30 or 50 years ago.

"It's still operating like under Communist Ways, (Stalin Days)," he says noting Democracy as we know it in America is too difficult for them to understand. He feels it will take years before they realize what "Freedom" really is.

Mr. Gabriel feels the young people will learn the democratic system faster than the older folks who lived under controlled communist rule for so many years.

When he and his wife decided to travel to Lithuania to uncover their heritage, they contacted the Lithuanian Embassy for information.

They received a list of travel agents and after looking over all the brochures selected one that advertised a Bed & Breakfast Hotel in Kaunas one of the cities they wanted to visit.

Upon arriving in Kaunas, they were anxious to get to their hotel to enjoy a hot shower and relax. Unfortunately, they didn't find things as expected. There was no hot water that day or any of the the other days of their two week stay. They were disappointed in the food noting it as all fatty dishes such as cheese, salami, butter and bread. There were no drawers for your clothes, no telephones in the rooms, and the beds were bunk beds. All in all, the Gabriels were very disappointed in their selection of a travel agency.

They warn would-be travelers to be careful of tour guides who take advantage of American tourists, noting they were charged \$75.00 American money for a trip that was worth a fraction of that amount by cab.

Mr. Gabriel suggests anyone traveling to Lithuania should contact relatives and have them book the hotels. People living in Lithuania will find you smaller hotels that are clean and com-



Pictured is one of the old homes with straw thatched roof in the area where Mr. Gabriel's parents and grandparents lived. Every home has a cross in front of the house. Ann and Bill are pictured with a relative to the right of Ann and the caretaker of the property to the left of Bill.

fortable and that have hot water and good food.

The city of Kaunas is dark at night to save electricity and crime is rampant. Saturday nights, the young people take over the hotels and restaurants. There are cover charges and there is a lot of drinking and smoking by the young people similar to what goes on in the states. It isn't safe to walk around at night. Crime is rampant.

Mr. Gabriel notes that his cousin was in church for 10 minutes and when he came out,

his car was gone. When you leave your car to go to your hotel room, ruffians demand money. They claim they were watching your car for you while you were in the hotel.

Life is difficult for the older people. They are fearful and are also being hit hard by inflation. The young people don't know what to do with themselves, they are used to receiving a check like in the old times. However, some young entrepreneurs are starting their own businesses as they begin to understand how democracy works.



A complete Bible story is carved on this statue done by Bill Gabriel's cousin pictured alongside the statue in the man's front yard. His home is in Naugardiska which is located in the area of Kaunas.



Mr. Gabriel, third from left, stands with a few of his relatives in front of a Hot Dog stand in the very modern city of Klaipeda.



## U.S. Recognizes Lozoraitis' Years of Service

Before Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis left for Italy, where he was scheduled to become Lithuania's ambassador, the U.S. State Department held a recognition gathering in his honor.

Attending the gathering in November were the Latvian and Estonian Ambassadors to the U.S. Ojars Kalnins and Toomas Hendrik Ilves, respectively. Also present was Darryl N. Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania.

Lozoraitis received a certificate of appreciation signed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which recognized the Ambassador's over half a century of distinguished service as a humanitarian and as a senior member of Lithuania's

diplomatic corps. The certificate also stated, "You fervently stirred the conscience of America and the international community in support of a free, independent Lithuania during the dark years of Soviet occupation as well as during Lithuania's triumphant reentry among the democratic family of nations."

Ambassador Lozoraitis and his wife Daniela left for Rome on November 11, 1993. On the occasion of Lozoraitis' departure, the staff at Lithuania's Embassy resigned as a group.

The new ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, arrived in Washington November 16 and will shortly present his credentials to President Bill Clinton.

## Lithuanian Women's Club members celebrate holiday season



The Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley, PA held their Christmas party at the Knights of Columbus in Luzerne. Chairman Tillie Kader was assisted by Agnes Kelly, Ann Marie Morgan and Eva Savellano.

Seated from left: Sister Mildred, CJC; Sister Amadeus, CJC, St. Mary's Villa, Elmhurst; Nellie Bayoras Romanos, Tillie Kader, Anna Stranch. Standing: Agnes Kelly, Alice Grisconis, Ann Marie Morgan, Kitty Szakalum and Verna Trusko, honorary members; Eva Savellano.

The next scheduled meeting of the group will be held at Boscov's Sophia Room, January 25, 1994.

### ADDRESS CORRECTION

Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas  
Little Flower Manor  
200 S. Meade St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Abortion stops  
a beating heart



William Shepard of Willoghby, Ohio has reached the big "90".

Bill turned 90 on November 12, 1993 and is enjoying life to the fullest.

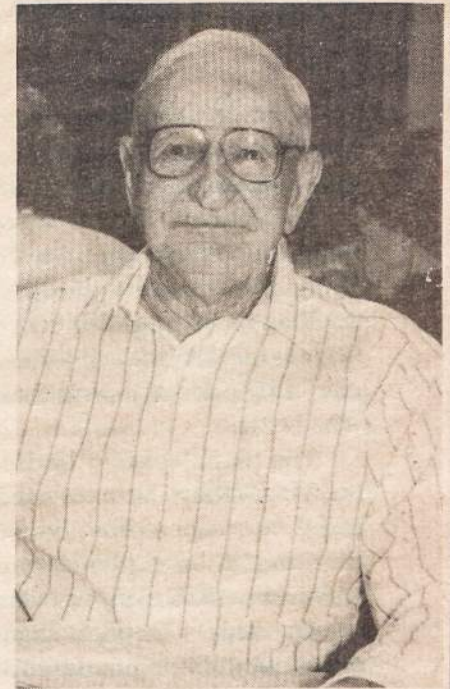
He joined the Alliance in 1947 and is a paid-up member who enjoys receiving his monthly issue of GARSAS.

Born Vincas Seporaitis in 1903 in Wilkes-Barre, PA he moved with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio in 1920.

While residing in Wilkes-Barre, he attended Holy Trinity Church and served as an altar boy.

Recently Mr. Shepard moved to the Lithuanian Center Inc., 34251 Ridge Rd. Apt. 411, Willoghby, Ohio 44094.

## 90TH BIRTHDAY



Mr. William Shepard

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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71-73 S. Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



# VALSTYBĖS MONOPOLIS SPAUDŽIA ŽEMDIRBIUS

— Kur iškeliavo Lietuvos karvės? —

Lietuvos žemdirbiai kantrūs. Žemė buvo atimta, "gražinta", dabar numatoma "kompensuoti". Sunku Lietuvos valdžiai suprasti šiandienos žemdirbių rūpesčius. Kaimo žmogus visada galvoja, kad aukščiau sėdintieji galbūt nemato, negirdi, todėl būtina atvykti arčiau prie "aukščiausiųjų" ir jiems išsakyti savo bėdas.

Tuo tikslu lapkričio 19 d. sostinė ir suvažiavo Lietuvos žemdirbiai iš visų rajonų. Prie Vyriausybės rūmų bendrovių žemdirbius ir laisvuosius ūkininkus susivienijo bendra bėda - nebepekeliamas maisto perdirbimo pramonės monopolis.

Prasidėjus piketui žemdirbių streiko pirmininkas Jonas Čiulevičius pateikė tokią statistiką: "Lietuvos laukuose liko nenupjauta apie 60 tūkst. hektarų javų, nenurauta ketvirtadalis linų, tūkstančiai hektarų nenukastų bulvių, runkelių daržovių. Rudenį liko nesuartas 1 milijonas hektarų dirvos. Šias metais vidaus rinkoje dvigubai mažiau supirkta žemės ūkio produkcijos negu pernai. Supirkimo kainos tokios menkos, kad žemdirbio uždarbis per mėnesį tėra 40-50 litų. Vyriausybė vis kalba apie rinką. Argi mūsų erzacinės rinkos nereikia reguliuoti? Kokioj normalioj valstybėj Vyriausybė lieka tik stebėtoja? Tokiu atveju geriau garbingai atsistatydinti".

Pikete Seimo narys Kazimieras Uoka pažadėjo, kad jei įvyktų visuotinis streikas ir jei žemdirbiai sumanytų pieno kombinatams paskelbti "bado dietą", darbininkų sąjungos nariai padės realizuoti pieną miestuose. Monopolinę žemės ūkio produkcijos perdirbimo pramonę gali pažaboti tik kooperatinis ryšys tarp augintojo, gamintojo ir vartotojo.

Žemės ūkio ministro pavaduotojas Vaclovas Putvinskis, nors ir buvo sutiktas nepagarbiais šūksniais, tačiau pasakė, kad Vyriausybėje sudaryta komisija, į kurią įeina žemės ūkio, ekonomikos, finansų, prekybos ministrai, ūkininkų ir bendrovių atstovai. Šioje komisijoje ir vyks derybos tarp žemdirbių ir Vyriausybės atstovų.

Kol Lietuvoje vyksta žemdirbių ir Vyriausybės derybos, užsienio verslininkai nesnaudžia

Lietuvos Vyriausybė savotiškai "išsprendė" Lietuvos žemdirbių problemą - panaikino eksporto muitus: lietuviški buliukai ir veislinės telyčaitės pajudėjo į pietus net iki Turkijos skerdyklų. Dabar jau mėsos kombinatai dairiasi: ne kažin kiek tų lietuviškų gyvulių ir belike, ypač kiaulių. Jų jau antri metai žemdirbiams auginti nebeapsimoka.

Pradėjo kilti rinkos kainos: už gyvo svorio kilogramą mokama po \$1-\$1.2 arba maždaug 4 litus, o Ūkininkų sąjunga vis dar spaudžia Vyriausybę, kad būtų nustatyta kiaulienos supirkimo kaina 3-3.4 lito. Taigi, rinka monopolistinės maisto perdirbimo įmonės gali šiek tiek palytėti tik per Vyriausybės "malonę".

Paspaudus pirmajam šaltukui, Lietuvoje karvės uždamos į tvartus. Taip būna kiekvienais metais. Tačiau šiemet pirmą kartą Lietuvoje pradėjo trūkti pieno ir jo produktų. Žemės ūkio ministerijos Mėsos ir pieno pramonės skyriaus viršininkė N. Lašienė, po ilgu patikinimų žurnalistams, kad procesas kartojasi kasmet ir kad pieno miestų gyventojams tikrai netrūks, išdavė ir svarbią paslaptį: pieno perdirbimo įmonių gamyba sumažėjusi, palyginti su praėjusiais

metais, gaunama tik 60% pieno. Galima tik spėti apie šio sumažėjimo priežastis. Žemdirbių streikas? Viršininkė sako: tai ne dėl streiko. Belieka tik viena išvada: 40% Lietuvos karvių kažkur iškeliavo - vienos, tikriausiai, į Turkiją, kitos į pagarsėjusius Lietuvos mėsos kombinatus.

Atrodytų, ko dar tie Lietuvos žemdirbiai galėtų norėti - mėsos ir pieno pasiūla mažėja, o žmonės valgyti ir pieno gerti nori tiek pat. Puiki dirva kainų kilimui. Visa bėda, kad tos kainos tik parduotuvėse ir turguose kyla. Valstybė, supirkdama pieną ar mėsą iš žemdirbių, stengiasi išlaikyti kiek galima pastovesnes supirkimo kainas ir susižeria sau į kišenes 200% viršpelni, bet ir tų pinigų patiems žemdirbiams tenka 2-3 mėnesius palaukti. Situacija nuo praėjusio rudens pinigų atgavimo iš pieno ir mėsos kombinatų ne ką pasikeitė.

Teko girdėti istoriją, kada praėjusį rudenį pridavęs į mėsos kombinatą nupenėtą jautuką, ūkininkas tik šiemet gavo pinigus, už kuriuos įmanoma nusipirkti tik "šlapios" dešros kilogramą. Kas gali paaiškinti šiam žemdirbiui, kaip jo jautukas per metus į kilogramą dešros pavirto? O paaiškinti galėtų Lietuvos vyriausybės atstovai, taip

besirūpinantys "rinkos" kūrimu. Nė joks Vakarų pasaulio rinkos specialistas tokios rinkos nesupranta.

Taigi, Lietuvos žemdirbiui belieka tik turguje sėdėti ir parduoti savo produkciją tiesiai miesto žmogui. Atrodytų, taip ir turėtų būti. Pamirštama, kad ūkininkui darbo niekada netrūksta, jeigu jis gerai tvarko ūkį. Sėdėti savaitę turguje su savo produkcija, kurios gali niekas ir nenupirkti, yra ekonomiškai rizikinga ne tik pajamų, bet ir laiko atžvilgiu.

Per pirmas dvi lapkričio savaites Lietuvos parduotuvėse pabrango jautiena ir kiauliena - vieno kilogramo nugarinė buvo brangesnė atitinkamai 1.8% ir 4.9%. Pienas irgi per dvi savaites pabrango daugiau nei 2%.

Niekas nekelia klausimo, kokia tokio brangimo priežastis. Produkto kainą sudaro išlaidos plus pelno norma. Išlaidos valstybinių įmonių atžvilgiu, t.y. supirkimo kaina iš žemdirbių nepadidėjo, vadinasi vėl buvo didinama valstybės - monopolisto pelno norma, kuriai jokia "norma" jau nebegalioja. Vakarų valstybėse yra griežti įstatymai, draudžiantys viršyti pelno normą ir reguliuojantys viršpelni. Tuo yra pažabojama nepagrįsta infliacija.

Lietuvos valdžiai toks įstatymas yra nenaudingas: būtų nutraukta dviguba Lietuvos žmonių

(nukelta į 9 psl.)



Naujasis Lietuvos Krašto apsaugos ministras Linas Linkevičius (centre) ir pulk. Stasys Knezys vizituoja personalą. Viktoro Kapočiaus nuotrauka





Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas

## ĮTEIKTI SKIRIAMIEJI RAŠTAI

Lietuvos ambasadorius A. Eidintas pas JAV prezidentą B. Clinton

Š. m. gruodžio 9 d. prof. A. Eidintas įteikė skiriamuosius raštus Prezidentui B. Clintonui. Po sovietinės okupacijos ir Nepriklausomybės atstatymo tai pirmas ambasadorius, atvykęs eiti šių garbingų pareigų iš Lietuvos.

Alfonsas Eidintas gimė Bronės ir Albino Eidintų šeimoje 1952 m. sausio 4 d. Vaiguvoje, Kelmės rajone. Domėjimasis istorija ir politika paskatino jį studijoms Vilniaus Pedagoginiame institute (dabar Vilniaus Pedagoginis Universitetas), kur jis pasirinko istoriko specialybę. 1973 m. baigęs institutą, A. Eidintas pradėjo dirbti VPI Istorijos fakultete asistentu, vėliau Visuotinės istorijos katedros vyresniuoju dėstytoju, skaitydamas naujausių laikų Europos ir Amerikos šalių istorijos kursą. 1981-1983 m. jis buvo Istorijos fakulteto prodekanas, vėliau katedros

vedėjas. Nuo 1986 m. A. Eidintas Lietuvos Mokslų Akademijos Istorijos instituto skyriaus vedėjas, vėliau direktoriaus pavaduotojas mokslo reikalams. 1990 m., netrukus po Nepriklausomybės atstatymo, Alfonsas Eidintas apgynė habilituoto daktaro disertaciją. 1992 m. jis išrinktas Lietuvos Tautinio istorikų komiteto pirmininku, Tarptautinio istorikų komiteto šiuolaikinių tarptautinių santykių sekcijos tikroju nariu. Alfonsas Eidintas yra Lietuvos Mokslo Akademijos narys ekspertas. 1993 m. Vilniaus universiteto Taryba jam suteikė profesoriaus vardą.

Naujasis ambasadorius moka anglų, rusų kalbas, gali susikalbėti lenkiškai bei vokiškai. Žmona Birutė, turinti pedagogės specialybę, bei 15 m. dukra Aistė taip pat kalba angliškai. Sūnui Donatui — 10 m.

## IŠ LIETUVOS IR APIE LIETUVĄ

-- **Lietuvos Katalikų Bažnyčios** informacijos centras pranešė, kad gruodžio 2 d. Kauno arkivyskupijos kurijoje įvyko Lietuvos Vyskupų konferencijos posėdis, kuriame dalyvavo Vatikano nuncijus Lietuvoje arkivyskupas Justo Mullor Garcia. Vyskupai teigiamai įvertino Seimo komisijos parengtą projektą "Dėl religinių bendrijų įstatymo", kuris šiuo metu pateiktas Seimui svarstyti. Nutarta pakartotinai priminti vyriausybei susilaikyti nuo bažnytinių žemių privatizavimo, kol Seimas nenuitar, kokių būdu jos gali būti gražintos arba už jas atsilyginta.

-- **Popiežius** Jonas Paulius II trim Telšių vyskupijos kunigams suteikė prelado vardus. Popiežiaus rūmų kapelionais gavo teisę vadintis Telšių kunigų seminarijos dvasios tėvas Jonas Kauneckas, šios seminarijos dėstytojas, vyskupijos kurijos teismo pirmininkas Tadas Poška ir Tauragės parapijos klebonas dekanas Petras Puzaras.

-- **Danijos karalystės** energetikos ministras Jann Sjursen lapkričio 25-29 d. lankėsi Lietuvoje. Net trylika Lietuvoje įgyvendinamų energetikos projektų finansuoja Danijos vyriausybė. Bendra šių projektų vertė - beveik 24 milijonai Danijos kronų - maždaug 3,5 milijono JAV dolerių arba apie 12 milijonų litų. Danijos energetikos ministras pareiškė, kad greitai Ignalinos atominės elektrinės uždaryti neįmanoma.

-- **Lietuvos krikščionių** demokratų partijos moterų sekcijos steigiamoji konferencija įvyko Vilniuje lapkričio 20 d. Dalyvavo 103 delegatės iš 29 partijos skyrių, įsikūrusių įvairiuose Lietuvos miestuose ir rajonuose. Konferencijoje išrinkta taryba, kurią sudaro 51 moteris.

-- **Jurgis Kairys** akrobatinio skraidymo Pasaulio taurės varžybose, kurios vyko Pompano skraidymų centre, Floridoje, laimėjo antrąją vietą. Lietuvos lakūnas, pasiekęs puikų rezultatą, lapkričio 25 d. grįžo namo.

-- **Minint Lietuvos kariuomenės** 75-metį, Marijampolės miesto naujosios kapinės atidengtas paminklas partizanams ("Tauro" apygardoje 1945-1955 m. žuvo apie 7,000 partizanų), o

Vytauto g. Nr. 29 atidarytas Partizanų ir tremties muziejus.

-- **Lietuvos vyriausybė** skyrė 200 tūkst. litų parengti memorialo Lietuvos laisvės gynėjams Antakalnio kapinėse eskizo projektą ir skulptūros darbo maketą. Memorialo autoriai - skulptorius S. Kuzma ir projektavimo firma "Numas". Manoma, kad paminklas laisvės gynėjams bus pastatytas iki 1995 m.

-- **Minint VLIKo** 50-etį, Vilniaus centriniame pašte lapkričio 25 d. šiai progai skirtu žymekliu buvo antspauduojami vokai. Lapkričio 27 d. Menininkų rūmuose Vilniuje įvyko VLIKo jubiliejaus minėjimas. Jame dalyvavo Lietuvos Prezidentas, ministras pirmininkas bei vyriausybės nariai. Minėjimą įžanginiu žodžiu atidarė K. Bobelis. A. Brazauskas K. Bobeliui įteikė Vyčio Kryžiaus 2-ojo laipsnio ordiną.

-- **Lietuvos banko** valdybos pirmininku Seimas nutarė (už 75, prieš 33, susilaikė 4) paskirti Kazį Ratkevičių. Nuo 1993 m. pradžios K. Ratkevičius dirbo Lietuvos valstybinio komercinio banko valdybos pirmininko pavaduotoju.

## VALSTYBĖS MONOPOLIS SPAUDŽIA ŽEMDIRBIUS

(atkelta iš 8 psl.)

(vieną kartą žemdirbių ir kita - pirkėju) apiplėšimo gysla. Galbūt ir bus nuspresta laikinos ramybės vardan pakelti žemės ūkio produkcijos supirkimo kainas. Tačiau tas pats žemdirbys atvažiuos į miestą pirkti duonos, kuri, pavyzdžiui, per pirmąsias lapkričio dvi savaites pabrango 5%-16%.

Pinigus Valstybė gaus atgal: pakels vėl pieno, mėsos kainas, o žemdirbiai vėl išeis į streikus, pike-tus... Užburtasis ratas negali būti pertrauktas, jei rinkos vardu diegiama ir stiprinama valstybinė monopolistinė sistema.

A. J.





Palapinėje prie Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo rūmų badauja motinos, kad Seimas priimtų įstatymą dėl žalos atlyginimo už žuvusius ir nukankintus sūnus sovietinėje armijoje. Viktoro Kapočiaus nuotrauka.

## MOTERYS BADAUJA IR DAR TURĖS BADAUTI

Nuo lapkričio 4-osios Vilniuje, aikštėje prieš Seimo rūmus badauja lietuvių kariuomenės motinos, kurių sūnūs sovietų kariuomenėje buvo nužudyti, suluošinti, dingę be žinios. Jos reikalauja, kad būtų priimtas įstatymas "Dėl papildomų socialinių garantijų asmenims ir jų šeimų nariams, kurie buvo pašaukti atlikti būtiniosios karinės tarnybos sovietinėje armijoje 1945-1991 metais ir ten neteko sveikatos, žuvo ar mirė".

Per 46-erius tos okupacijos metus iš būtiniosios karinės tarnybos negrįžo 1,205 jaunuoliai, 137 iš jų buvo nukankinti, 129 — nušauti, 14 — nudurti, 2 — sukaptoti kirviu, 14 — sudegę, 7 — dingę be žinios. Devynios Lietuvos motinos toje armijoje prarado po du sūnus. 830 kariuomenės namo grįžo suluošinti.

Lietuvos moterys buvo priverstos imtis šios akcijos, nes į jų skundus Lietuvos valdžia nekreipia jokio dėmesio. Seimas tik priėmė rezoliuciją, siūlančią vyriausybei apsvarstyti galimybę suteikti kompensaciją motinoms kaip praradusioms maitintoją. Vyriausybė rugpjūčio mėnesį ją apsvarstė ir numatė išmokėti kompensaciją, kai Rusija Lietuvai už visą tai atlygins.

Lietuvos kariuomenės motinų sąjungos pirmininkė Birutė Kairienė pareiškė: "Mes pasiryžusios nesitraukti iš aikštės, kol neatneš mus ginančio įstatymo". Taip rašo Lietuvos spauda.

Dar neteko girdėti, kad vyriausybė būtų ėmusi kokių nors žygių. Tačiau, atrodo, kad netrukus gali ir daugiau motinų prie tos akcijos prisijungti. Tuo metu, kai lapkričio 3 d. tų kariuomenės motinos tik ruošėsi protesto akcijai Vilniuje, kupiškietė Aldona Rudzinskienė jau skubėjo į Jonavą, kur ligoninėje gulėjo jos sūnus Darijus. Kad sūnus operuojamas, pranešė toje pačioje palatoje gulinčiojo ligonio dukterė.

Paaiškėjo, kad Darijus savo tarnybą jau ne sovietų, o "Geležinio vilko" motodesantiniam batalione pradėjo 25-ąją spalio, o jau spalio 30-ąją jam, kaip paliegiui, pagaliau pavyko nusi-gauti į bataliono medicinos punktą. Jį ten operavo nuo "skrandžio opaligės", kaip gydytojas tvirtino, nors tai buvo melas.

"Respublika" lapkričio 10 d. rašo, kad šis jaunuolis buvo pradėtas mušti jau antrąją dieną. "Skyrininkas Petruškevičius vis

kumščiaavo į pilvą, nes niekaip jam neįtikdavau, anot jo, dorai pasikloti lovos, o būrininkas Egidijus Gurkšnys paspardydavo per pratybas, nes neįstengdavau padaryti tiek atsispaudimų, kiek jis liepdavo", — pasakojo Darijus.

Darijaus tėvams atvykus į Ruklą, kur sūnus tarnavo, būrininkas ir skyrininkas gynėsi ir klausiami, ar tai gali atsitikti vos per keturias tarnybos dienas, šaipėsi. Lietuvos prokuratūra šiuo reikalu susidomėjo, o Lietuvos žmonės laukia pranešimo, kaip tokie dalykai gali būti praktikuojami tautinėje armijoje, vadinamoje "vyriškumo mokykla". Kariuomenėje tarnauja ir vyresnysis Rudzinskių sūnus. Ir tam pradžioje visko tekę patirti, bet tasai fiziškai stipresnis, ir "adaptacijos" išbandymus įveikęs nesunkiai.

-- Lietuvos prezidentas A. Brazauskas gruodžio 2 d. nedideliame Baltijos pajūrio mieste Nicoje susitiko su Latvijos prezidentu Gunčiu Ulmaniu. Susitikime aptarti trijų Baltijos valstybių tolimesnio bendradarbiavimo klausimai. Prezidentai svarstė ir naftos terminalo Būtingėje statybą.

-- Padirbti nauju - spausdinimo būdu 20 ir 50 litų banknotai aptikti Lietuvoje. Padirbtus litus atskirti nuo tikrų beveik ne-

## Kiek kainuoja žemė Lietuvoje?

Iki šiol žemės kaina Lietuvoje litais nebuvo nustatyta, todėl po lito įvedimo žemės išpirkimo ir pardavimo procesas sustojo.

Dabar numatyta, kad vienas hektaras valstybės parduodamų žemės ūkio naudmenų kainuos vidutiniškai 1,200 Lt. Žemė, kuri bus išperkama iš buvusių savininkų, įkainojama vidutiniškai 1 tūkst. Lt už hektarą. Nustatyta žemės kaina nėra rinkos kaina, tačiau atitinka skirtingos paskirties rinkų kainų proporcijas užsienio valstybėse. Pavyzdžiui, pigiausios parduodamos žemės hektaras kainuos 200 Lt, brangiausios - miestų centruose - 2 milijonus Lt. Išperkamos žemės 1 ha kaina svyruos nuo 1 ir 8 tūkst. Lt, jei ji bus skirta žemės ūkiui, ir nuo 6 iki 48 tūkst. Lt, jei ji skirta kitoms reikmėms.

Žemės išpirkimas bus finansuojamas iš lėšų, gautų pardavus žemę. Jeigu valstybė žemės išpirkimo metu neturės pinigų už ją sumokėti, savininkui gali būti pasiūlyta laukti arba jam bus sumokėta mišku.

Iki šiol valstybė yra išpirkusi maždaug dviejų tūkstančių savininkų žemę, o prieš metus norinčių gauti kompensacijas buvo apie 60 tūkst. Dabar tokių asmenų smarkiai padaugėjo.

imanoma. Tik paėmus juos į rankas ir paglamžius, galima pajusti, jog jų popierius, skirtingai nuo tikrųjų pinigų neturi specifinio traškesio. Šiuo metu aptikta 10 naujų būdu klastojamų litų. Specialistų nuomone, spausdinimo būdu gaminami pinigai yra rimtas pavojaus signalas bet kurios šalies valiutai.

-- Tarptautinių aviabilietų pardavimo sistemos "Aero Services group" (AEG) būstinė atvėrė savo duris Vilniuje. Jos prezidentas A. Juzukonis, 7 metus buvęs Kanados Ontario provincijos Vyriausybės patarėju, dabar dirba su Kauno aviakompanija "Lietuva".

-- Lietuvos Prezidentas Lietuvos kariuomenės vadui Jonui Andriškevičiui suteikė generolo laipsnį. Jis tapo pirmuoju atkurtos Lietuvos kariuomenės generolu.



## MAŽOSIOS LIETUVOS TRAGEDIJA NEPAMIRŠTA

Lapkričio 30 dieną sukako 75 metai nuo svarbaus istorinio įvykio, kai Mažosios arba Prūsų Lietuvos Taryba 1918 metais paskelbė pasaulio žiniai to krašto prisijungimą prie naujai atsistatęios Lietuvos valstybės, ir, kad ji pašvenčia visas savo jėgas to siekio vykdymui. To krašto lietuviniams šis jų drąsus žygis po 600 metų svetimos prispaudos buvo tolygus Vasario 16-osios Lietuvos nepriklausomybės paskelbimui Vilniuje.

Šimtmečių eigoje Mažajai Lietuvai buvo lemta patirti baisius smūgius. Šiandien esame liudininkai to krašto visuotinio genocido, įvykdyto nacistinės Vokietijos ir komunistinės Rusijos žiauriausiomis priemonėmis. Ši atkakli ir didžiai nusipelnusi gentis baigė savo egzistenciją, pasilikdama gyva tik kalbiniais bei kultūriniais paminklais ir kovotojų kapais Nemuno ir Priegliaus kraštuose.

Tas kraštas yra bendra visos lietuvių tautos gyvenimo geografinė erdvė, skirta jai istorijos ir apgyventa jos žmonių nuo neatmenamų amžių. Argi galima nuoširdžiai sielotis Lietuvos prisikėlimu, nususukant nuo Mažosios Lietuvos didžios tragedijos ir paliekant ją tyloje agresyvių valstybių grobiu? Daug girdime apie teritoriniai nuskriaustų tautų — airių, armėnų, palestiniečių, žydų — ryžtingas pastangas, palydimas gyvybės aukomis apsiungimui į savas tėvonijas.

Kas gi kalba šiandien už Mažąją Lietuvą ir jos teisę grįžti prie bendros tautos ir valstybės kamieno? Tai nėra kokia kolonija Afrikoje ir Azijoje, o tai kraštas "kur bėga Šešupė, kur Nemunas teka"! Lietuvos vyriausybės ir mūsų visuomenininkų veiksmų vykdoma nusikalstama tyła pasaulyje sukuria iliuziją, lyg tai būtų kažkokia "Terra incognita" — niekieno žemė, atvira agresorių grobimui.

Nesuvokima, kad šiai lietuvių žemei pasilikus Rusijos dalimi, būtų išrašytas mirties sprendimas visos tautos likimui. Karaliaučiaus uostas būtų išvystytas į keleto milijonų gyventojų komercinę ir militarinę bazę ir visi keliai iš milžiniško Rusijos užnu-

gario, kaip koks naujas "Drang nach Westen", eitų per Lietuvos teritoriją. Kito kelio nėra. Ne tik industriniai ir militariniai transportai, bet ir pavieniai motorizuoti turistai drauge su vagių, plėšikų ir žmogžudžių gaujomis veržtųsi per Lietuvą, sukurdami neišsprendžiamas problemas ir niekad nesibaigiančius konfliktus su Rusija? Kaip ilgai Lietuva tvirtų tokią terionę? Kuo ji baigtųsi?

Minint septyniasdešimt penkerių metų Mažosios Lietuvos Tilžės akto sukaktį, šiandien yra aiškiau negu bet kada, kad to Akto įgyvendinimas tampriai rišasi su lietuvių tautos tolimesnės egzistencijos likimu. Ši lietuvių žemė turi pereiti Lietuvos Respublikos kompetencijai, kaip neatskiriama jos dalis. Teisinimasis, kad, girdi, problema esanti per daug komplikuoja ir

nereali, tik išreiškia tingų šalinimąsi nuo istorijos šiam laikotarpiui skirtų uždavinių. Šitaip nefilosofavo mūsų tėvų ir senelių karta, dar beviltiškesnė aplinkybėse žvelgdama į Klaipėdos ir Vilniaus problemas. Jie vadavosi ryžtu ir surado kelius. Tų drąsių žygių "nerealumas" neužtemdė vizijos į to meto tautos ir valstybės ateičiai neatidėdamus įsipareigojimus.

Stoka dėmesio Mažosios Lietuvos holokostinei tragedijai ir visos lietuvių tautos į geopolitinius spąstus stumiamam likimui neišvengiamai kelia klausimą, argi mūsų karta stokoja drąsos ir noro semtis stiprybės dar iš visai nesenos praeities? Mažoji Lietuva ir jos kapuose besiilstantys ilgų amžių kovotojai ir bendro tautos gyvenimo kūrėjai šaukiasi atsakymo į jų didžią auką.

Algis Regis

— Lietuvos Vyriausybė nustatė vizų kainas NVS, Gruzijos, Azerbaidžano ir Moldovos piliečiams. Už paprastąją vizą jie moka \$3, už specialiąją, kuri išduodama ne ilgiau kaip dvejiems metams užsieniečiams, vykstantiems į Lietuvą dirbti ar mokytis - \$10. Tranzitinė visa kainuoja - \$3, kolektyvinė visa - \$3 už asmenį. Mokestis imamas tik JAV doleriais. Vizų kainos Vakarų šalių piliečiams nustatytos jau anksčiau. Naujai patvirtinta specializuotos vizos kaina - \$50. Paprastoji visa - \$20, tranzitinė - \$5, kolektyvinė - po \$10 už asmenį. Visa pasienyje Vakarų šalių piliečiams \$10 brangesnė.

— Grybų sezono metu per Baltarusijos ir Lietuvos sieną į užsienį iškeliauja apie 10 tūkst. tonų grybų. Sako, 10 Lietuvos fabrikų nespėja grybų perdirbti.



Garsusis Stelmuzės ąžuolas, kurio amžius siekia 1500 metų. Tapo vestuvių tradicija, kad jaunavedžiai su savo palyda ateina prie ąžuolo ir stengiasi ąžuolą apkabinti. Nuotr. Viktoro Kapočiaus



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## Obituaries

ANGELAITIS, John J...Lodge 307

13780 Rustic Drive  
North Royalton, OH 44133

Died: 12/17/93  
Buried: 12/21/93  
Calvary Cemetery  
Cleveland, OH

RAZWAD, Saverie Gene.Lodge 94

29 Barberry Lane  
Milton, MA 02186

Died: 11/20/93  
Buried: 11/24/93  
Calvary Cemetery  
Brockton, MA

Sincere sympathy is extended to Rev. Joseph J. Lasky on the death of his sister, Genevieve Urban, who died December 9, 1993. Father Lasky is Pastor of St. Mary's Annunciation Parish, Kingston, PA.

### Sister Mary Ferdinand Dies

Sister Mary Ferdinand, the former Mary Arzulaitis died November 22, 1993.

She was a member of the religious community of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, ILL. Sister died at the Motherhouse and was buried in St. Casimir's Cemetery, Chicago, ILL.

Prior to religious life, she was a member of St. Michael's Church in Scranton. Her parents were Joseph Arzulaitis and Margaret Novitskas Arzulaitis. She was a member of Lodge 30.

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