

S. O. 31

It is also disheartening to see that the Minister of Employment claims that the unemployment rate for these students is at 4.7 per cent when Statistics Canada tells us that it is at 10.2 per cent.

If there was any doubt that university and college students have the lowest disposable incomes of any segment of society, the government, through its actions has made this very clear. Students do not want handouts. All they want is a decent summer job.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

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[*Translation*]

FILM INDUSTRY

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate Montreal cinematographer Denys Arcand for the success of his latest production, *Jésus de Montréal*, which ranked him among nominees for best foreign film at the 62nd Oscar awards presentation last night in the United States.

After walking away with last year's Cannes Festival Jury and Ecumenical Prizes and recently receiving 13 of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television Genie awards, Mr. Arcand has gained international recognition as a result of his film being among finalists at the American Oscar presentation.

The competence, excellence and creativity of the artist extend beyond our borders. We stand very proud, as do all men and women who work in the Canadian film industry. These awards inspire young Canadian film producers and encourage them to strive for international appreciation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Denys Arcand.

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[*English*]

LITHUANIA

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I hope I speak on behalf of all members when I say that in Lithuania, President Gorbachev is teetering on the edge of forfeiting his most valuable asset, which is his reputation as a man of peace.

The people of Lithuania, in a free and fair election, elected a government, many of whom are communists,

that seeks to re-establish Lithuanian independence. Instead of calling this process invalid, which it is not, President Gorbachev should sit down with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and begin to negotiate the implementation of independence.

This will take time, and Lithuania should be prepared to take the time to accommodate Soviet economic and security interests in return for recognition. But they cannot negotiate with someone who does not recognize their right to declare their independence in the first place. Instead, they are forced to demonstrate rather than negotiate their independence, which only provokes the Soviet Union. Yet this provocation is of Mr. Gorbachev's own making by his refusal to negotiate.

I therefore call on the Soviet Union to negotiate, to respect the democratic will of the Lithuanian people, to renounce the use of force, to give full freedom to the international press in Lithuania, and to declare an end to arrests of Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet Armed Forces, as it is well known that Lithuanian conscripts were often in fear of their lives even before recent events, and would be even more so now.

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on the airwaves of Radio-Nord in Noranda, a journalist discussed regional development with the Liberal Member for LaSalle—Émard who was visiting Noranda on March 12 last. In reply to the journalist's comment: "When we are told that a lot of money is being spent in regional development, we remain quite sceptical", the Liberal Member said: "You have every reason to be sceptical with Tory Governments which never keep their words."

Mr. Speaker, this Liberal Member is unaware of the progress made in the Canada-Quebec Subsidiary Agreement on Regional Economic Development which was signed on June 9, 1988. I should like to emphasize that on March 12, the Conservative members respected this agreement and that this Government had already spent under this agreement \$259.3 million, or 58.9 per cent, and the Quebec Government \$7.6 million, or 2 per cent. As to the Abitibi-Témiscamingue area, it has already received a portion of that budget.