

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 18, 1986

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

REVISED TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE TABLED

The Hon. the Speaker, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, tabled the committee's revised twenty-fourth report, approving the supplementary budget of the Special Senate Committee on Youth.

(For text of revised report see today's Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate).

LITHUANIA

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAMATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

Hon. Rhéal Bélisle: Honourable senators, for many years it has been the custom of Senator Paul Yuzyk and Senator Stanley Haidasz to call to the attention of the Senate an important anniversary celebrated by Lithuanians living in Canada.

Honourable senators, February 16, 1986, marked the sixty-eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the Restoration of Independence of Lithuania. The establishment of the Lithuanian Democratic Republic is widely celebrated by Lithuanians in Canada, the United States, Australia and many European countries.

After a remarkable period of statehood and empire established by King Mindaugas in 1251, Lithuania was subjugated by the Russian tsarist regime from 1795 until 1915. But on February 16, 1918, at the end of World War I, by the will of her people, Lithuania again became a free country with an advanced democratic constitution.

This freedom, however, came to an abrupt end when the Soviet Union, after the signing of the Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact in 1939, occupied the three Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, in June 1940 and forcibly incorporated them into the U.S.S.R. as "Soviet republics."

We must remember that the western powers and Canada promptly gave *de jure* recognition to the Baltic states when they regained their freedom, and have never at any time agreed to the *de facto* occupation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia by force in June 1940.

On the occasion of the sixty-eighth anniversary of Lithuanian independence, we pay tribute to Canadian citizens of

Lithuanian origin. Their contributions to our country are many and significant. By preserving their cultural heritage, they are enriching the treasure-house of the Canadian multicultural heritage. Above all, their wholehearted dedication to the principles of freedom, democracy and human rights makes Canadians more conscious of these highest principles of humanity and of the fact that we, each of us, can do more for our great country and for humanity in every respect.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—STATUS OF
CANADA-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government which relates to the Philippines, to the situation in that country at the present time and to the procedures and methods which were followed during the recent election. I ask him whether the relationship between the Government of Canada and the irregularly and unduly elected government of the Philippines has changed in any way since February 7.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I have to tell my honourable friend that I am not aware that any formal change has been announced to date. I do not think there has been any such change, but I can tell my honourable friend that the situation is under review in case such a change should be indicated.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, I believe it fair to say that President Reagan has changed his official position in light of the process used in the elections in the Philippines. Indeed, he has questioned the legitimacy of that election. Does the Government of Canada accept it as having been an honest election?

Senator Roblin: I think it fair to say that the United States has a special relationship with the Philippines, while Canada does not; ours is quite a different situation. I, too, have noted Mr. Reagan's apparent change of mind. I am sure that that will be taken into account when we consider our own policy in the matter.

Senator Graham: In view of the fact that President Reagan has sent a special ambassador, Mr. Habib, to the Philippines to interview all parties concerned, I ask the Leader of the Government whether the Government of the United States has