

poverty as a priority. The Minister refused to meet with anti-poverty organizations during the pre-Budget consultations and his callousness shows.

Eighty-three cents a day on July 1, and 83 cents a day on December 1, will take a single elderly pensioner in Toronto less than one quarter of the way from the current level of benefits up to the poverty line. It is meagre and unjust. Pensioners need substantial increases now, not next July when the Liberals have their leadership convention, or next fall when an election campaign may be in high gear.

Not only has the Government turned its back on current pensioners, but it has also abandoned future pensioners by refusing to expand the universal Canada-Quebec Pension Plans. Hundreds of Canadians participated in good faith in the deliberations in the Task Force on Pension Reform. But it was just a ruse. The gurus in the Department of Finance already decided that tax subsidized savings which benefit the rich disproportionately should be implemented, and universal coverage should be forgotten.

There is no fairness or equity in the Budget. In fact it does a great disservice to the pensioner, and the government should be totally ashamed of itself.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LITHUANIA—INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, 66 years ago today, the restoration of the independence of Lithuania was proclaimed. The establishment of Lithuanian independence in 1918 is widely observed by Lithuanians in Canada, the United States, and many European countries.

Lithuania succeeded in re-establishing its independence in 1918, at the end of World War I, but was occupied again in 1940 when Soviet armed forces invaded the independent countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The peaceful, western-oriented Baltic nations were crushed by the force of arms of their hostile neighbour. Under the cynical arrangements of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Agreement, the Soviet Union forcibly and ruthlessly incorporated the three Baltic republics into its empire.

Today, the Baltic peoples continue to struggle to attain the freedoms that we enjoy. The Baltic peoples suffer harsh imprisonment, banishment, and persecution for their political and religious beliefs. Brave Lithuanian men and women still seek to exercise their human right to think, speak, and believe as their conscience directs them.

One of the hopes for Lithuania's future lies in the fact that a new generation now stands in the forefront of resistance against the Soviet drive to destroy the Lithuanian nationality.

I urge the Government of Canada to continue not to recognize the forced incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. I also take this occasion to pay a warm tribute

to the many human rights activists in Lithuania, and the Lithuanian people who are continuing their struggle for freedom and democracy.

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[Translation]

OLYMPIC GAMES

TRIBUTE TO TRIPLE MEDAL WINNER, GAÉTAN BOUCHER

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to last week's visit by the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mr. Olivier) to Sarajevo where he made certain statements concerning the structure of the Olympic Games and amateur sport. He took that opportunity to chastise the Canadian Olympic Association officials and their International Olympic Committee pals who have remained aloof in their ivory tower, as the Minister said. Given those circumstances, I sincerely hope the Minister will follow up on those statements here in the House. Naturally, he would have liked to see more Quebecers take active part in those Olympic Games. Mr. Speaker, you will be as happy as I am to learn that our hockey team did very well in the Olympic Games.

Moreover, how could anyone refrain from being enthusiastic about the accomplishment of a Quebecer who became one of the greatest Canadians this morning, and I am referring of course to Gaétan Boucher who has won three olympic medals.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Canadians and all Quebecers who are justifiably proud of that performance, I would like to say quite simply—as you and Hon. Members feel the need to do—Well done, Gaétan!

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● (1410)

THE ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF GROWTH ZONES ON NORTH SHORE

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, this morning, I met with Mr. Angelo Forte, chairman of the Schefferville Employee Reclassification Committee, whom I can now see in the gallery, and we looked at the situation with respect to the reclassification of Schefferville workers. I wanted to ask if it would be proper at this point to re-evaluate the designated zone of Port-Cartier/Sept-Îles/Schefferville in the light of certain new developments. We have learned that, since this zone has lost its designation more people have been laid-off by the Iron Ore company than during the two years when it was designated.

I therefore believe, Mr. Speaker, that to be fair to all the North Shore people, it is important for the Ministers respon-