

S. O. 31

Prairie farm families are distraught. Their very survival hangs in the balance while the Deputy Prime Minister and his provincial counterparts continue to wrangle behind closed doors about who should pay what.

We call on the federal government to set aside its differences with the provinces over this issue and make an immediate payment before seeding to ensure farm families have a chance of survival.

* * *

[*Translation*]

LITHUANIA

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, the recent events in Lithuania are causing much anxiety and raising a great many questions among the Canadian people. The men and women of Lithuanian descent in my Outremont riding are no exception and they have asked me to appeal to the Canadian Government and people and urge them to support the stand taken by the Lithuanian Government over the past few days.

Apparently, the independence of the country is at stake.

• (1410)

[*English*]

Canada's recognition of that government will have a profound effect at this crucial time and will be fully consistent with Canada's proud international record.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add that the Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed the very deep concern of the Canadian people over the increase in military activity during the past few days in an official letter which was addressed and delivered today to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

[*English*]

In concluding his letter, Mr. Clark urged that a process of constructive and peaceful dialogue be established, one which would reflect the legitimate aspirations of the Lithuanian people.

MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, as a New Brunswicker and an Atlantic Canadian, I was pleased and proud that a fellow traveller, Premier Frank McKenna, seized the initiative to deal with the despairing difficulty of holding our nation together.

Premier McKenna understands full well the dangers currently besetting our frail confederation and the sickening consequences should the confederation crumble. It is unfortunate that another in the region is prepared to risk—for questionable motives—the country.

Surely all Canadians of good will, worthy of the name, will fervently pull together to ensure that the prejudice and intolerances of yesterday will be discarded and buried today so this magnificent country will continue to thrive, reinforcing our determination to honour the trust placed in our hands by our forefathers to pass on intact to our children and theirs.

* * *

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, this House and Canadians everywhere have been most critical of the government's job-creation policies, and with great justification. Now we have further proof of the illog that is so pervasive in this Cabinet.

Over the next three years, 50 positions, primarily clerical, will be transferred from the Veterans Affairs office in Toronto to Kirkland Lake. The alleged reason is the difficulty in attracting qualified people to the Toronto office. But the only people who will qualify for those jobs in the north are precisely those people who occupy the jobs today. There are no new jobs being created. The people who hold them do not want to lose them.

New jobs are not created in town A by depriving people in town B. Equally important is what will happen to the level of service in the Toronto region office and the 87,000 veterans it serves. Many ask how their services will be maintained by an office that will now be several hundred kilometres away. Veterans will suffer extreme hardship.