

I hope they have now learned their lesson and that the attitude taken this afternoon by the Leader of the Government in the Senate points to a new strategy.

[English]

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Hon. Jerahmiel S. Grafstein: Last Sunday was an historic moment in history when the Lithuanian Parliament, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic, passed a declaration proclaiming:

... the restoration of the exercise of sovereign powers of the Lithuanian state, which were annulled by an alien power in 1940. From now on, Lithuania is once again an independent state.

I believe that all members of this house were gratified by the acts taken by members in the other House yesterday in a unanimous resolution that recognized Lithuania as a fully independent and sovereign republic.

Again, I should like to commend the government for the speedy response by the Right Honourable Mr. Clark, who, in response to a question by Mr. Flis in the other place, advised:

The position of the Government of Canada, as he has correctly said—

referring to Mr. Flis' question—

has been to recognize the political sovereignty of Lithuania.

Further on in the *Debates* yesterday Mr. Clark, in response to a further question by Mr. Flis, responded:

I think all members of the House would agree that we should encourage the Soviet Union and Lithuania to move as speedily as possible toward a situation which recognizes the *de facto* and *de jure* sovereignty and independence of Lithuania.

At the same time the minister mentioned that he had received an undertaking from Mr. Shevardnadze that there would be "no crackdown."

Again, in the international press today we are gratified that Mr. Ligachev and General Gromov, who is the commander in charge of the Kiev military, have confirmed that tanks do not help in this sort of situation, that they should not use force, and that this matter should be settled by political means.

My question, therefore, for the Leader of the Government in the Senate is: What concrete steps does the government intend to take in order to facilitate full *de jure* and *de facto* recognition of the Lithuanian independent republic, having in my mind that Mr. Gorbachev and others in the Supreme Soviet in the U.S.S.R. have indicated that they do not intend to negotiate with the Lithuanian people?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I have read the statements that my friend has attributed to Mr. Clark and others on this subject. I have noted in particular that Mr. Clark indicates that the *de facto*

exercise of sovereignty may soon be a matter to which Canada can make some tangible contributions.

I would have to ask Mr. Clark whether he is ready to elaborate on that statement for the benefit of my honourable friend and others, and I shall do so in the next day or so.

Senator Grafstein: Perhaps, when the Leader of the Government is discussing this matter with the minister, he might refer to historic events where speed was of the essence. It is a very important position that the Lithuanian Parliament has taken, and concrete steps in this interim situation are very important. Any concrete steps taken by the free world certainly can facilitate a speedy and peaceful recognition of the independent Republic of Lithuania.

Senator Murray: I appreciate the point that Senator Grafstein has made. I will draw it to Mr. Clark's attention when I ask him for a full report on this matter.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

EFFECT OF FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. Lorna Marsden: Like most Canadians and, I am sure, everyone in this chamber, I am concerned about the violence and discrimination against women in this country. However, the end of funding to various publications on health research studies serving women in Canada and the cuts to women's centres, especially perhaps in the more isolated areas of Canada, seem both gratuitous and counterproductive. The new minister responsible for the status of women, a woman I personally like and admire, says we must look to the provinces for funding, and that is fair because the provinces have jurisdiction. However, when women look to the provinces they see that their budgets have also been significantly diminished by this same federal government through cuts to transfer payments to provinces in a variety of forms. So the provinces are more pressed for money than ever before.

Meanwhile those facilities for women are needed more every day. Women in Canada are still the victims of beatings and violence by their husbands. Rape continues to occur at the rate of several cases a day. Women, as illustrated by the recent case in Calgary, are humiliated by their attackers and by members of the general public; children are sexually abused and battered, as the Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee heard in testimony last week; students have been shot or, as happened this week, threatened by men with guns on campus; and women, even in the federal jurisdiction—in fact, even women working in the Senate—earn about two-thirds the wages of men.

● (1530)

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate how the government justifies these particular cuts in the budget. Can he deny that the government has singled out the women of Canada for particular abuse?