

VALIANT LITHUANIA

MR. FOGARTY:

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join with my colleagues here in the U. S. House of Representatives and pay tribute to a valiant nation which on February 16th celebrates the 40th anniversary of its independence. Lithuania, with great traditions of national sovereignty going far back in time, proclaimed its independence on February 16, 1918, ending generations of oppression by the Russian Czars. Today after another world war against tyranny and in defense of freedom, Lithuania again finds herself under the iron heel of the oppressor.

It is a sobering thought to realize that for the people of Lithuania, this day cannot be other than a day of sadness. We, in America, who so rightly cherish our own Independence Day can well understand the feeling of sorrow that all Americans of Lithuanian ancestry must have at the realization that that great nation has been denied the very right to exist as an independent nation under a government of its own choosing.

The regime imposed on Lithuania by communistic Russia has violated every man's individual freedom. It has persecuted religion, enslaved labor, and destroyed every democratic principle. It has endeavored to instill hatred in the hearts of the Lithuanian people toward the western democracies. That they have not been successful is due only to the strong inborn love the Lithuanian people have for the cherished principles of freedom and liberty.

It is a good number of years since tragedy struck Lithuania but history will assuredly show that this valiant nation cannot long remain in subjection. Tyrants can destroy men and institutions, but



they can never destroy the love of liberty which springs eternally in men's hearts. The Lithuanian cause is a matter of concern for freedom-loving people throughout the world.

The future freedom of the Lithuanian people will surely come.. We know it because we know something of the spirit of Lithuania and we know it will not be trampled underfoot forever. We know that Lithuania will one day be free - if only she can survive this terrible enslavement - and we know that she will survive it for we know her will to survive it. We must, however, let her know that she does not fight alone. We, in America, must pray for her and incessantly work for her eventual freedom.

Let men who cry "Peace" also cry "Justice" - the two are inseparable. Let the voices of honest men everywhere shout their loyalty to the cause of brave Lithuania and we can have justice. Those who pay lip service to peace, yet ignore the plight of our sister country in distress, do a disservice to that goal which they claim to seek..

Our honor must be maintained. It can be maintained by "Remembering Lithuania."