

Translation of the article by Vytautas Bruveris on pages 1 and 5 of *Lietuvos rytas* (14 October 2010). The online version of the Lithuanian original is available at the *Lietuvos rytas* website at:

http://www.lrytas.lt/?data=20101014&id=akt14_a2101014&sk_id=99&view=2

The newspaper article starts on page 1 with the right sidebar headline “Are the Jews Pushing It?”

Stumia žydai?

Dvigubą Lietuvos pilietybę numatantis įstatymas labiausiai reikalingas ne lietuviams, o žydams, todėl jie dėl šio teisės akto labiausiai stengiasi. Tokį netikėtą atradimą padarė užsienio reikalų ministras A. Ažubalis. **1 p. 5**



Are the Jews Pushing It?

A law providing for dual Lithuanian citizenship is needed mostly by Jews, not Lithuanians, and so they are pushing the hardest for this legislation. This incredible discovery was made by foreign minister A. Ažubalis. See Page 5.

Internet text of the entire article that follows on page 5 of the hard copy newspaper:

Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Strategist Sees Jewish Conspiracy

by Vytautas Bruveris

Lietuvos Rytas correspondent in parliament

October 14, 2010

A law providing for dual Lithuanian and foreign citizenship is mostly needed by Jews, not Lithuanians, Lithuanian foreign minister Audronius Ažubalis has discovered.



photo: P. Lileikis. “Foreign minister Ažubalis (right) is told off by parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Zingeris.”

The foreign minister's statement that Jews are pushing hardest for adoption of the law on dual citizenship shook up his fellow party members.

Ažubalis shared his thoughts at a meeting of the parliamentary faction of Homeland Union (Conservatives) and the Christian Democrats.

Arguments Arise within Faction

While the faction was considering the agenda for Tuesday's general session of parliament, an argument arose on legislation amending the law on citizenship, to which the parliament was preparing to give its blessing that day.

Some faction members were concerned that the Constitutional Court would again strike down the law if parliament adopted it.

Passionate discussion centered on the clause allowing citizenship to people of Lithuanian [ethnic] origin who left after independence as well as their offspring, rather than just to people who had been deported or left during the Soviet occupation.

The majority of faction members, including party leaders, argued that the legislation needed to be adopted.

Colleagues Stunned

Ažubalis began his statement rhetorically, saying "everyone knows so well" who needed the law most of all.

A tense silence overcame the faction, and faction alderman Jurgis Razma was the first to break its spell, asking the minister to explain more specifically what he was thinking.

Then Ažubalis did explain, saying that Jews of Lithuanian origin were the primary pushers of the legislation.

The politician also hinted clearly that they were expecting to regain former property here in this manner.

Some faction members began disputing their fellow traveler and expressed surprise over his discovery.

Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Emanuelis Zingeris, however, was the most angered by the statements.

He began castigating Ažubalis for “such speeches” and ground his insights to dust.

Adoption Postponed

The proposed legislation that caused such passion on the right was in any case not adopted at the parliament’s general session.

Ažubalis didn’t cast a vote but his faction was in disarray even without him: during the vote on the left’s proposal to postpone adoption of the legislation, the right split into three seemingly equal parts.

The largest ruling power was unable to order its ranks regarding this legislation later, as well.

One of the right's leaders, parliamentary chairwoman Irena Degutienė said that it might be necessary after all to change the constitution to institute dual citizenship.

Keeping Promise

Meanwhile, the foreign minister told *Lietuvos rytas* he didn't want to explain further his insights on the forces pushing this legislation.

Ažubalis would only say that he is keeping a pledge not to comment on what is said behind closed doors at faction meetings.