

Human Rights

Crown in exercising control over the RCMP. That whole issue has, in the view of myself and every person in this country who is concerned with liberties—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The Minister of State (Multiculturalism). (Mr. Cafik) on a point of order.

Mr. Broadbent: I would debate—

Mr. Cafik: It is a point of order, not a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hon. member rose on a point of order. The Minister of State (Multiculturalism).

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take away from the time allotted to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), but he said that I said that the rule of reason ought to replace the rule of law. If I recall the context of my remarks and my remarks, I was really saying that the rule of reason is the rule of law. It is defined in many legal corners historically that law is the rule of reason, and that was what I was talking about. I would have thought the hon. member was intelligent enough to know that.

An hon. Member: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Broadbent: The hon. member has certainly demonstrated in the clearest possible way his attitude of having the rule of reason replace the rule of law, for if ever there was a non-point of order, that was it. There is no one, Mr. Speaker, who misunderstood the minister's remarks at the time, and I say that not as a cheap shot to a particular minister in this instance, but the whole ministry, as at the time—the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais), the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) and the minister for multiculturalism (Mr. Cafik)—it showed at the peak period of the debate about the mishandling of internal security matters by this government a shoddy respect for the whole principle of the rule of law, a shoddy neglect of the importance of preserving civil liberties. I have no intention of documenting that today, because we are on another matter.

I am saying that in any democracy one way of demonstrating clearly your own commitment to the principles of liberty is to practise that at home, and that is not what we have had in an unequivocal fashion from this government.

I would like now to shift to the other part of the motion which makes specific reference to the Soviet bloc countries. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will deal with what I think are severe limitations in a nation state having an effect on the liberty of other countries. One of the things that we can do and should do from time to time, not in any state of self righteousness but hopefully because it reflects our commitment to the age old notion of human liberty, is bear witness to what is actually going on in other countries in the world.

● (1642)

Every speech about freedom should not merely be political rhetoric of a self-serving nature. From time to time world

leaders, prime ministers and others, have an obligation—as I think President Carter has demonstrated in the past couple of years—to speak out about liberty beyond the borders of their own nations and to give visible evidence of its denial, to show visible concern to the people within other states and to say that the situation ought to be rectified.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Helsinki Accord, which was ratified by the heads of 35 states three years ago, has been violated in a serious way by countries in the Soviet bloc. The expectations that were generated at the outset of the revolution in the Soviet Union at the conclusion of the first world war were for the emancipation of people in that part of the world in the fullest possible way. What we have seen is a regime, from Lenin on, that has imposed perhaps the most restrictive and coercive set of bureaucratic, to use a euphemism, practices which have denied human liberty.

There has been vivid demonstration of that in the works of Solzhenitsyn, and recently vivid and disturbing evidence has been brought forward that psychiatric practice even in the Soviet Union today is being used and perverted to equate discontent and criticism of the Soviet regime as visible demonstration of schizophrenia. It is being actively pursued by people who call themselves psychiatrists in the Soviet Union. It is a clear and utter abuse of the principles of human health sciences if there ever was one, Mr. Speaker.

There has been in the Soviet Union, of course, the persistent repression of cultural minorities. The Ukrainians stand out, perhaps, in our country as the largest group numerically. Many of us have been involved in individual cases of men and women who have dared to speak out simply for the right to emphasize their own cultural distinctiveness, their own uniqueness as part of the Soviet bloc. There is the case of Valentyn Moroz which is an outstanding example, but there have been many others. The reality is that the Soviet Union, preceding the Helsinki Agreement and post Helsinki, violates human rights in a way that is not acceptable to men and women anywhere who believe in the principles of freedom.

In the context of this motion I want to do what I think politicians in free societies ought to do from time to time, and that is to talk about a particular event that is going on that demonstrates the perversion of the principles of human liberty. In this particular instance I want to talk about that beautiful, exciting, creative country on the one hand, but also sad and deeply disturbing country on the other, namely, Czechoslovakia.

There have been few countries in modern history that have had the opportunity for the complete flowering of human liberty in all its aspects, including human equality, that compare with Czechoslovakia. It is a small country in the heart of Europe, highly industrialized, highly creative in the arts, highly developed in all the early principles of liberal democracy. In cycles beginning in 1938, then 1968—and I think in 1978 we are going to witness it again—it has had experiences of a particular cataclysmic nature that have denied the flowering of human liberty in that country. This is what a lot of us, experiencing and watching the development of mankind in this