

for Global Action who have been introducing this motion for serious discussion in Parliaments around the world. I want also to commend the executive cross-party lines who have been encouraging a discussion within the foreign policy initiatives of the Canadian government on this issue. Let me also thank the hon. member who is the international president for introducing the motion and speaking to it today.

In the two minutes that remain let me suggest to you, Sir, that this motion comes at a time when we have had an historic week in Ottawa. It could not be more appropriate to the changing times. Here we had Minister Shevardnadze before the Standing Committee of External Affairs and International Trade who said specifically that the Soviet Union supports the ending of underground testing. He reaffirmed the Soviet position in support of a total test ban.

• (1500)

Here we have a motion which encourages the Canadian government to give leadership and to find new ways of leadership. The Prime Minister has said the cold war is over, but I believe that the cold war cannot end until we have stopped the international situation where one nation seeks to move ahead of another in modernizing nuclear weapons.

Even after the superpower pledge in 1987 to gradually reduce testing schedules to zero, they have reneged on even this slowest of motions. The suggestion that somehow the comprehensive test ban which we are encouraging our government to support might be a final test does not ring true to Canadians who in recent polls have said by some two-thirds majority they want some leadership in peacemaking. They want to see defence expenditure directed to peacekeeping and peacemaking.

In thanking the member for introducing the discussion, I encourage our government and our officials to renew a determination to stop modernization and to press at the same time as we echo that concern for a comprehensive test ban.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have new common ground. Open Skies is also an opportunity for open

communication on these subjects. We are on the verge of a new day, and I trust that Canada can give renewed leadership in this area.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise on this issue and to show appreciation as well to the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grace for introducing such a motion and to those speakers who have spoken on behalf of this motion. It is certainly most momentous in terms of where this country is going to set a direction for not only its foreign policy, but for a policy that is integral to the way that we see ourselves and in the way that we see Canada's role in the world.

In that context, it is a little disappointing to have had to listen to some of the members opposite address the issue in a way that suggested there was something wrong with the method that was being employed to achieve a most notable and most honourable objective, an objective I might add that this country has supported since 1963. Twenty-five years later, we are on the verge of being able to accomplish a comprehensive test ban and we see that the government is becoming intransigent in the face of an opportunity that shall not and should not be allowed to pass.

I regret that members opposite appear to be favouring a position of waiting and seeing, of waiting and abiding by the decision of the American government and not taking a look at that which is before us right now. We have an opportunity to turn a partial test ban treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty by simply indicating that we too want to show leadership and we too have learned something from the events of this last week.

I know that it is not yet three o'clock. I will resume my seat and allow the rest of the time for the calling of the vote, if that is appropriate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hour provided for consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.