

*Government Orders*

My time is coming to an end, but let me say that there are other organizations in Europe as well that might be looked at. There are the European Community, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and the Western European Union. None of those has the same potential as the CSCE. The CSCE is more broadly based and does include the North American countries, Canada and the United States.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, we encourage our government to go to the conference in Europe on November 19 and put forward proposals which will assist in the development of the CSCE as a more effective and new security institution for all of Europe to deal with the threats I referred to and to take the place in due course of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

• (1300)

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the House for their indulgence.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Take the full 20 minutes.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I understand the qualification that you are not saying I have to, because we are now beginning to work through lunch period. On the other hand, I am sure you will find even a full 20 minutes for me is more than fascinating.

On behalf of our party, I would like to confirm our support for this important resolution and motion before the House. The motion calls for the support of the House for the CSCE, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a key Pan-European and trans-Atlantic forum within which a new co-operative security framework can be built. This can be done so through the maintenance and development of its comprehensive approach to security, political, economic, environmental and human dimension issues, and strengthened by the development of the structure of the CSCE process, including the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly.

The CSCE grew out of the Helsinki Accord and was a process of discussion involving not just the members of NATO or the Warsaw Pact, but also other countries in Europe. It began its life when the cold war was at one of

its low spots and when tension between the superpowers was at a height. It continued through the Reagan years. The early Reagan years were also years in which the Americans were building up arms and rattling their sabres and missiles. The prospect for peace seemed dim.

Now, CSCE begins to reach into its full power at a time of momentous changes in Europe, changes that are brought about by the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the whole communist regime in eastern Europe and the arrangements that had prevailed since the end of the Second World War. Those arrangements, depending a bit on one's point of view of history, could be said to have been in response to a perceived threat from the west or, as evidence of the threatening intentions, particularly of the Soviet Union, against the west. Whichever view of history one maintains, both in my view have something to be said for them.

Walter Lippmann, for example, a noted American commentator, has argued very forcefully for the proposition that the Soviet Union never had adventurous intentions toward western Europe and that in fact, NATO was developed in large part to provide a vehicle for the military industrial establishment, particularly in the United States, as an outlet for its energies and resources. Whichever view is taken, the fact remains that today that whole structure is now falling apart. No longer can it be said that NATO has any military purposes because it no longer faces any military threat from the Warsaw Pact countries, including the Soviet Union.

One of the key countries in the Warsaw Pact, East Germany, is now no longer. It has been absorbed within West Germany as part of, in effect, a new country. Other countries such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland are, for all practical purposes, allies. They certainly have no forces aimed in our direction. The Warsaw Pact, it may be said, is under liquidation. The Soviet Union is facing internal turmoil, terrible economic problems and clearly has no capacity or will to launch any kind of invasion against the west. The prospect of a war in Europe that was the fundamental basis for the spending of billions of dollars by the western economies in maintaining troops in Europe is now gone. The threat is now gone. This is a view that is shared by virtually everyone from all political persuasions.