

through and got rid of whoever it wanted to get rid of, using the excuse of war. Then the Communists started their system of torture and imprisonment to the point where Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the rest of eastern Europe had imposed on them the Communist system with its understanding of those words.

We have to keep all of that in front of us when we deal with something like the Helsinki Final Act. We just celebrated Black Ribbon Day in many centres across Canada. We also have to remember the events of 1939 to 1941 and all they mean to the denial of human rights and self-determination. We have to remember the way in which three states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, were simply annihilated by the Soviet Union. Many people were killed and others taken forcefully to the Soviet Union. Then Soviet citizens were brought in so they could say that those three states do not exist any more. That is the way it stands today.

I could go on to give many more examples, but in spite of all that, the Final Act is nevertheless a modest beginning which I think we must support. It is a product of compromise. Together the states involved determined they must come to some understanding and work out an agreement concerning the recognition of the events which had taken place. They came together in a climate of understanding and *détente*. The Soviet Union wanted the West to accept the fact that they now control all of eastern Europe and it was their sphere of influence. We of course were not going to war to change that. Therefore, we saw an opportunity not to recognize and accept all of that but simply to say, "Yes, that is the reality. If you want us to recognize this simple reality and not go to war to change it, we insist upon other human rights and the recognition of the right of free movement of people. We can at least start building some measure of *détente*".

In that way an agreement was signed which met the needs of the peoples and states that met together at this conference.

Let us look at what happened this past year in one small country, the Baltic Republic of Latvia. There a small group was formed to monitor the Final Act. By passing this motion today we would be saying to those people who have risked their freedom that we are with them. We stand with all the people throughout eastern Europe. We stand with all those who are denied the rights we have. In passing this motion what we are doing is more than symbolic. We are saying that we stand with those who are in prison in Poland today because of their work with Solidarity.

In conclusion, I want to move two amendments to the motion before us. First, I move:

That Motion 119 be amended. That the year 1987 be deleted from line 3, so that it will read, "designating August 1st as 'Helsinki Human Rights Day'."

I also move:

That Motion 119 be amended in lines 5 and 6 by deleting the words "of the twelfth anniversary of the signing".

Helsinki Human Rights Day

The effect of those two amendments is that we will celebrate this agreement every August 1. The amendments are very simple and I am sure Members will understand and support them.

In conclusion, I want to say that one of the most effective ally for those in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union who would deny the human rights and many other things that we enjoy is our silence. By doing this we are saying, "we stand with you". By doing this we keep chipping away at the denial of human and political rights. We are showing that we recognize that although there is a huge gulf between us, we have to work at that and eliminate all of the rhetoric and the differences so that we can have at least a measure of peace and security.

• (1310)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair was in some difficulty having received two amendments. However, after studying them carefully we realize that the second amendment is consequential and the two amendments could become one. Therefore, I am sure the rewriting of the amendment will be done by the Table Officers as long as we all accept the substance of what is being done.

Shall the amendment carry?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Reimer) agreed to.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to speak in support of designating August 1 as Helsinki Human Rights Day. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park (Mr. Witer) for having brought forward this motion, which we support.

In his comments the Hon. Member said something to the effect that silence never helps the victims but always the perpetrators. Yet it was pointed out to me that last year when the Committee on Human Rights was holding hearings on the issue of human rights in South Africa the Hon. Member was the only one who voted against sanctions against South Africa. That, too, is a kind of silence which speaks very eloquently of support for the perpetrators of human rights violations in South Africa.

Mr. Witer: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If the Hon. Member will check the record he will see that the statement which he has just made about the way I voted in a committee is inaccurate. I am sure he would want to correct his statement.

Mr. Manly: Madam Speaker, I will check the record. If I prove to be inaccurate I would want to apologize to the House.

I support the whole concept of a Human Rights Day on which the spotlight of our concern here in Canada and, we hope, the spotlight of the entire international community will