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Trappers, industry and Governments within Canada support the development and the use of humane trapping systems. Canada is a world leader in the research and development of humane trapping standards as well as in trapper training to ensure conservation of resources, the best use of fur and high quality fur products.

No endangered or threatened fur-bearing species are trapped in Canada. The fur trade today is solidly based on the responsible use of a renewable natural resource. This is true for both farmed and wild furs.

Both for Indians and northern communities generally, trapping represents an integral part of a special way of life. Trapping is a vital element in the tradition and culture of many of Canada's rural and indigenous people. Its roots go back to the days of the early fur traders of the Hudson's Bay Company and the continuity they represent with modern times.

Native groups, territorial and provincial Governments and members of the fur industry have all approached me to express their legitimate concerns. There is an indisputable unanimity here which cannot be ignored. On this basis, and in full appreciation of the strong expressed willingness by the fur industry to adopt even more humane trapping methods, I want to take the opportunity in this debate to emphasize again that there is a constructive and positive alternative to the labelling requirement. Canada has made a very serious proposal that nations work together to establish humane trapping standards.

Therefore tonight I want to reaffirm our early proposal for the creation of an international humane trapping standards committee in which the United Kingdom, as well as Canada, the United States and other countries with pertinent fur interests might participate together. This would allow our friends across the Atlantic to be part of the humane trap development and monitoring process on an international scale while assisting the Canadian fur industry in continuing to ensure the further growth of an industry that is ecologically sound. That is a constructive way to achieve the goal of some members of the British public without disrupting Canadian traditions, without destroying Canadian communities.

● (2110)

We have learned much about morality from Great Britain in the course of the history of this country. Our respect for the integrity and the fair-mindedness of British institutions and British Governments is too great to permit the thought that in the name of morality, they could seek to secure the immoral consequence of destroying an industry of hard working people, an industry conducted in harmony with nature. It is our hope, on the contrary, that British authorities and authorities in other countries will join with us in developing new standards of humanity for the industry which will gain acceptance in all countries that originate furs and that utilize furs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 1979, the former Hon. Member for St. John's East, who is now the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland, moved a motion under Standing Order 43 that this House reaffirm the right of Canadian sealers to go about their legitimate pursuits under the strict supervision of the Government of Canada and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies free from harassment and interference. All Members present in the House at that time agreed to that motion.

A similar motion was agreed to on February 9, 1982. There was all-Party agreement to the continuation of the seal industry in Canada in the face of protests and opposition from the same kind of people who are now pursuing the fur industry with the same vigour. My fear, and the fear of other Hon. Members, is that the same results might ensue.

Today, there is no real commercial seal industry in Canada, and this has been as a result of the actions taken against that industry and against Canada by the immoral vilification of Newfoundlanders and Canadians who go about the legitimate business of working with animals and harvesting animals as a part of the traditional way of life Canadians have had for centuries.

We need more than simply an all-Party agreement to a motion in the House. We need serious action on the part of the Government to do more than just make pious arguments to the British Government which, unfortunately, is about to take action against the Canadian fur industry.

This is not just a response to concerns about the leg-hold trap. It is not only the wild fur industry that will be affected, although that industry will be seriously affected. In Canada, there are large ranching operations. In Newfoundland alone, there are 120 silver fox farms and 15 mink operations. These operations bring in in excess of \$1 million at the farm gate, not counting the spin-offs to feed and other related industries. That part of the industry depends as well on the international market. All fur will be affected by the insidious action being proposed in the United Kingdom.

It is proposed that labels be required to say: "This garment may contain furs caught in a leg-hold trap". That affects the entire fur industry, whether it be the wild fur industry or the ranch fur industry, a very important part of the lives of many communities, individuals and families in Canada.

Very similar to those involved with the seal hunt, these are individuals, families and aboriginal peoples who depend upon this industry for their livelihood and who have very few other alternatives. When the sealing industry was destroyed by international actions and by boycotts in the U.K. and the EEC, many Newfoundlanders suffered a loss of income and a loss of self-respect and pride from not being able to earn an income. In other parts of Canada, there were far more serious consequences.

For example, on Broughton Island, a community in which Inuit hunters harvested more seals per capita than any