Oral Ouestions

When it suits them members of the New Democrat Party take a stand on issues affecting women. What stand do New Democrats take on their vice-president's letter?

FUR INDUSTRY

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to inform the House and all Canadians that November is fur month.

The fur industry is pivotal to both the aboriginal and northern economy and in preserving a traditional way of life.

Of the 105,000 Canadians employed in the fur industry, over 70,000 are aboriginal. The hunters and trappers of Canada continue to practise true sustainable development in keeping with the intrinsic belief that we are an intricate part of our ecosystem.

Thanks to humane trapping, research and careful management, fur bearing animals are as plentiful in Canada as they have ever been. Considering the importance of the fur trade in the history and future of Canada, it is critical that all members support this environmentally friendly industry.

I call upon all Canadians to recognize the importance to both the economy and lifestyle of the north and support our fur industry. Practise conservation and wear fur.

DARYL BEAN

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, Canadians want to know where the members of the NDP stand. Do they stand for the intimidation of union members by union leaders? Do they believe that workers should be threatened by their union leaders? Do they believe that workers should be threatened by their union leaders if they want to go to work? Do they believe in freedom of speech and action within labour unions? Do they believe in the degradation of grandmothers by union leaders? Do they believe that union leaders should keep their word once they have entered into an agreement?

These are the actions of the vice-president of the New Democratic Party of Canada, Mr. Daryl Bean, as he tries to justify the senseless strike he inflicted upon his members to their financial loss and on the Canadian public to their inconvenience.

I call upon the leader of the NDP to say where her party stands and to repudiate the actions of Mr. Bean.

CULTURE

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, given this government's track record in negotiating trade deals, it is not surprising that most Canadians express concern for their culture.

While we watch Canadian cultural property losing ground at the negotiating table, it is being given away under another table. That table is called the Cultural Property Export and Import Act. It exists to preserve in Canada significant examples of our nation's heritage and movable cultural property, a praiseworthy principle.

However, upon investigation one finds that over 95 per cent of all applications to remove distinctly Canadian works of art are approved. That means 95 per cent of these works of art leave Canada.

One example, *Algonquin October*, a painting by Tom Thomson, probably hangs in an American living room. The art gallery of Algoma lost this valuable piece under the guidelines of this act.

Thousands of Canadians have lost the opportunity of enjoying a truly Canadian work of art.

A new bill, C-18, clearly requires dramatic changes if Canadians are to experience and preserve the fruits of their own rich culture.

DARYL BEAN

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the vice-president of the New Democratic Party, Daryl Bean, who happens to be president of PSAC union had some news for female federal government workers who served the nation during the recent PSAC strike. He would rather drown you or hang you than allow you to go to work. He said so on his own letterhead to three individual government workers.