

The proposed fur labelling in garments which is being proposed by the British legislature which will say, in effect, that furs may have been caught by leg-hold traps will have devastating effects on the Canadian industry. There is an urgent and pressing need to discuss this issue now because the Order which was postponed on May 20 will certainly be coming forward within the next week or two.

Further to that, Mr. Speaker, in my discussions with the British Trade Minister about this issue he clearly sees it as what he calls a minimal measure in response to the lobby. Those people who followed the seal issue and other Members who were here at that time will know exactly what the effects of such "minimal response" can be on an entire industry.

I feel there is a good case for this matter to be an urgent issue not just for northerners because this issue affects people from all provinces as well as the northern territories and it affects those in the industry, those who trap and farm furs. No one is under any illusion that this is not anti-trapping legislation being discussed here, but anti-fur legislation. I can assure you that in my conversations with British Members of Parliament they are clear on this. It is absolutely essential we now send a very strong message to British parliamentarians about the views of Canadian parliamentarians.

Over the past weekend I had the opportunity to speak to many trappers, aboriginal trappers and others, who are out now that spring is here cutting sections for their trap lines. They are devastated by this proposal and it is causing panic among trappers and those in the industry. They feel that their life-style and economic development will simply be wiped away. This is a particularly important issue to those people in Canada who do not have a number of economic opportunities available to them, especially people in rural areas for whom this is an extremely important activity. It is the harvesting of a renewable resource which should be supported by this House.

Therefore, I urge you, Mr. Speaker, to consider this request so that we may send a strong message to British parliamentarians.

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the Liberal Opposition I want to indicate the support of my Party for these two applications for an emergency debate.

The entire fur industry is threatened. Threats are centred in our markets abroad, Europe and the United Kingdom, and are based mainly on misinformation which is reinforced by misdirected emotions propagated by those who espouse animal rights, that is, equating the rights of animals with the rights of human beings. Some people believe that animals should be protected by a Charter or a Bill of Rights. These people should clearly be differentiated from those who support Humane Societies working to protect animals from cruelty. But humane trapping has been developed and is used more and more in Canada.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

When threats such as those which mostly affect the indigenous or aboriginal peoples of Canada, their livelihood, their well-being, the small degree of economic independence they presently possess and when a part of these threats come from Westminster, the Mother of Parliament which, when our Constitution was being patriated expressed deep and abiding concern for Canadian native people, I believe it is time for this Parliament to express clearly and unequivocally its support of the legitimacy of Canada's fur industry.

Therefore, I and the Liberal Opposition support the application presented to you, Sir, by my two hon. friends and colleagues from Timiskaming and Yukon.

Mr. Speaker: The disposition of the House is, I think, quite clear. Therefore, pursuant to Standing Order 29(8) this matter will be considered this evening at eight o'clock p.m.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

On the Order: Second reading and Reference:

May 24, 1988—Mr. Crosbie—Bill C-130, an Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It was understood when we completed the procedural arguments on the point of order on Monday that if there are other points of order about the acceptability of Bill C-130, to implement the trade agreement with the United States, that these points of order could be raised today. Therefore, I am rising to raise the first of two separate points that I want to bring to your attention.

Mr. Speaker: If the Hon. Member could excuse me, I want to be sure that the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) is here. Could we have the Minister of State back in the Chamber for just a moment?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I very much appreciate the courtesy of the Minister of State. I just want to be absolutely sure for the record that the Hon. Minister of State expects this discussion to take place at this time and is in accord with it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, there was no intended discourtesy to my friend. I was called to the lobby. It is our intention, as my hon. friend said, to complete the debate on the procedural admissibility of Bill C-130. I will naturally be listening to my hon. friend and will be replying.