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My third point would be that threats to the fur industry from the animal rights movement and what it stands for, and now supported in part by the United Kingdom Parliament at Westminster in its labelling legislation, should be vigorously and effectively counteracted.

Let me begin then on the question of legitimacy. I believe, Sir, that trapping has always been and should remain an essential part of the cultural and economic life of Canada. The Canadian fur industry is worth a great deal to this country. It is probably worth approximately \$600 million annually, and then one could add perhaps \$200 million more to that figure if one takes into account the other industries it supports. This country earns \$350 million from the export of fur products. Our main market for those exports is Europe.

In Europe there are problems which are looming and lurking. European buyers of fur products are becoming hesitant. Part of the reason for this hesitancy is the successful efforts of the animal rights movement in influencing consumers in the attitude that there is something wrong in purchasing, wearing, and using a fur product. We are beginning to feel the effects of this in Canada. For example, fur prices this year dropped by approximately one-third over last year. Some trappers are abandoning their activity, just simply giving it up. But I emphasize to you, Mr. Speaker, that the fur industry is a legitimate one.

Trapping is another name for wild life harvesting. Here we are harvesting a renewable resource. An essential aspect of this harvesting activity must be that of conservation. Countries such as Canada which harvest wild fur simply cannot afford to be derelict in the protection of those animals. Fur bearers are harvested under sustainable yields in order that wildlife populations are in fact growing steadily.

When the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs conducted its hearings which led to the issuance of the document known as *The Fur Issue*, we learned that fur bearing populations in Canada are at least as high, if not higher, than they were when Europeans first came to this continent. No Canadian fur bearers are now being trapped which belong to any catalogue of endangered species. The trapping of all other species not on the endangered list is carefully and closely monitored by provincial wildlife biologists.

It is not the wise harvesting of fur-bearing animals which is a threat to their existence, but rather it is the loss of their habitat which is the threat. The loss of habitat is as a result of many other of man's activities. For example, the development and expansion of cities, the building of super highways and airports. That is far more a threat to wildlife than is harvesting or trapping of animals.

It is tragically unfair to select trapping and the use of fur as being illegitimate when so many other of our activities are deemed to be acceptable. We use the earth and its resources in so many ways, all deemed to be acceptable ways. Sometimes in the process we pollute and we destroy. The trapper must live in

harmony with nature. By definition he or she must be a strong environmentalist. They must be a conservationist. After all, if the environment in which they function and earn their living is destroyed, if all of the species that they trap were to be killed off, then it is the trapper who suffers the consequences and becomes poorer as a result. It is accepted in Canadian society that we use but do not abuse animals. We use animals in a great variety of ways for food, for clothing, for recreation, for medical research, for pampered pets, and sometimes, not as often now as in the past, for work.

Just listen, Mr. Speaker, to Chief Georges Erasmus, head of the Assembly of First Nations, testifying at the Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. He said: "I see everyone here is wearing shoes. We are all wearing leather. We may not be wearing fur as the Inuit wear it, or as the Dene and other fur-wearing original cultures use them, but we use them in a more sophisticated fashion. Most of us will eat steak sometime this week. It might be beef, it might be lamb. Most of us will eat fish sometime this week. We are not all living on vegetables and called vegetarians".

In our use of animals, it is always recognized, as the Hon. Member from the Yukon pointed out, that we are not allowed to be cruel to animals. In fact, the Canadian Criminal Code makes it an offence to wilfully cause unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal. Regarding the method by which animals are trapped, more and more in Canada, acceptable, humane, trapping methods are being developed and utilized.

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Listen, for example, to Mr. Art Lalonde, Executive Manager of the Canadian Trappers Federation. He said before the committee:

I believe Canadian trappers have developed the most efficient and humane trapping methods in the world today. We are genuinely concerned with wildlife conservation. We have a good record and should be proud of it. This does not prevent us from trying to improve and we are constantly working at it. We must remember that the sealers were not defeated because they lacked any of this. They were defeated by public opinion, manipulated by the same people who were out to get us.

The key to our survival is making it known to the general public that we use humane methods and that we are concerned about the way trapping is done. The person buying a fur coat must be convinced of that. It can only be achieved by public information through communication.

The lurid scenes presented by animal rights activists are, as a rule, a long way from reality. Some of the advertising that can be seen on British television borders on the obscene and ridiculous, scenes such as those which depict blood oozing from a fur coat worn by an attractive model. I would like to share with you, Sir, the view of one trapper who saw one of these films depicting the cruelty of trapping. This is how he testified before the committee. He said:

I watched that tape and I looked at it and the person on the tape set a trap. He had on brand new pants—still creases on them—brand new snowshoes, a brand new shirt; and he set the trap with his bare hands in the warm weather, sun shining, the tree with no frost on it.