

*Oral Questions*

signatures, the signatures required to petition the European Parliament to pass a similar regulation to label furs. This obviously has much more devastating consequences in that it involves 12 European countries.

My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. What has the Government done to inform Members of the European Parliament about the unanimous position of this House regarding such fur labelling?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for her question. I can assure her and all Canadians, especially those people who are involved in that industry, that we will make as vigorous a representation to the European Community as we have to Britain. In no uncertain terms, the European Community will know our position here in Canada. This can be done in many ways, but as the Hon. Member knows, the European Community has a representative here in Ottawa and representations will be made to that representative initially, informing the representative of this Parliament's, not just this Government's, feeling on this particular situation. We will fight it in every avenue open to us.

## DIPLOMATIC ACTION—POSITION OF U.S.A. AND U.S.S.R.

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, what is important to recognize is that this is a serious situation. When I talked to the Canadian Ambassador last night in Brussels, he confirmed that this is an extremely serious situation. This is an emergency situation which we cannot simply leave to discussions over a long period of time. We have to do something now.

What specific steps are we prepared to take? I understand that we will make our views known. We in the House have done so in the past. The Minister of Indian Affairs said that he would boycott some stores. I am sure that will terrify the Europeans, but we must have some plan for specific diplomatic measures with respect to the European Parliament.

• (1130)

Can whoever is responding to this question tell the House what we have done to combine our efforts with the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., the other two major fur producers? Will the Government enter into discussions with those two countries so we can present a united front to the European Parliament?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member tries to make it sound like this Government does not take this matter seriously. We do not minimize the seriousness at all. It is a very important issue. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Timiskaming, led the charge on this matter here in the House, together with the Hon. Member. We had a debate and Parliament unanimously supported our position.

In my answer to the first question I referred to the action this Government is prepared to take at present. The NDP would like to blow the whole wad right off the bat. There are diplomatic ways to handle this initially. If they do not work, there are other measures we can examine. Let us go the proper route first and not just throw everything out at once.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CONTACT ALLIES ON ISSUE

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency and we need a timetable for what the Government is going to do. The European Parliamentary Commission has the ability to make a decision about this regulation which will then become law in twelve countries.

Is the Government prepared at least to contact some of our allies, and why has it not done so already? Denmark, for example, is one of our allies in this matter. Is the Government prepared to say it will contact that country about this situation now?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the actions of this Government in the past on this matter show that we have been very successful in the measures we have taken. We will take all measures necessary to get our point across to the European Community about the importance of this issue. Our Prime Minister has probably established a better relationship with that Community than any other Prime Minister of this country. He has many colleagues and friends in that Community with whom he can confer. There are all kinds of avenues open to us.

I can guarantee to the Hon. Member and the people of Canada, especially those in this industry, that this Government will stand up for them in every way possible.

## PROPOSAL HOUSE FORWARD RESOLUTION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Parliamentary Secretary on the same issue. Would he be prepared to work with the other two Parties in the House to come up with a resolution by this House directed to the European Parliament, in addition to the one passed in June, stating firmly this Parliament's commitment in support of the fur industry and the thousands of workers involved?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Hon. Member for Timiskaming led the charge on this issue in the House, together with other Hon. Members. I give full credit to everyone. I appreciate the question. I think it is an excellent idea. I am prepared to discuss the matter with my House Leader with that view in mind.