

S.O. 21

two Icelandic whaling ships in Reykjavik harbour, Iceland. It is imperative that we show that Canada does not approve of or support vigilante tactics of this nature. The basis of the northern economy, the fur trade, has suffered from the vigilante action of similar organizations in destroying people's livelihood.

Sealing and trapping of fur-bearing animals used to provide income, however meagre, for at least 50 per cent of the population. Now less than 10 per cent do any trapping at all. This has resulted in chronic unemployment and inactivity, with disastrous social and cultural consequences. With the pull-out of oil and gas exploration from the Beaufort Sea and closings in the mining sector, the North has been economically bombarded from all sides.

I call on the Ministers who are part of the action force on Arctic initiatives to take swift and immediate action to correct this grave injustice which was created in part by these vigilante groups.

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TARIFFS

REMOVAL OF BOOK TARIFF ADVOCATED

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, a high percentage of Canadians are illiterate. They have the right to learn to read in order to be able to participate in the Canadian process and be more effective in the market-place. We are concerned about their right to read and write efficiently and effectively. We are also concerned about their right to read, when they can and if they wish, books of their own choice regardless of the author and regardless of the country of origin. It is for that reason that Canadians are very angry about the improper tax on books put in place by the Government.

The Mulroney Government imposed a 10 per cent tariff on certain types of books. It is the wrong target, it is discriminatory, it has free trade implications, and is going to bring about job losses. It will cost the consumer more to buy books. It is a disincentive to reading, and I encourage the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to remove this repressive tax.

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—WITHDRAWAL BY BATA SHOE COMPANY

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, as reported in today's *Globe and Mail*, one of the world's largest shoe-makers, Canadian-based Bata Shoe Company, has announced that it is selling its entire operations in South Africa to non-Canadian, non-South African buyers. This voluntary action flies in the face of a recent statement in the

House by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) who said: "Voluntary guidelines regarding investment in South Africa are not working".

• (1110)

This action by the Bata Shoe Company is the latest move by a prominent Canadian company to pull out of South Africa in protest against that Government's policy of apartheid. Last month Dominion Textile Incorporated of Montreal announced that it was selling its 50 per cent interest in a South African-based textile company. I congratulate the Bata officials on this decision, and trust that other Canadian companies still doing business in South Africa will follow Bata's example.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

OPPOSITION TO PASSAGE OF AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members in the House will be interested to know that my office and other Members' offices are being deluged by letters from Canadians who are concerned about what the Government is proposing to do to pharmaceutical drugs. To bring the Government into the real world, I am sure it would like to hear what some of these people are saying.

One of them said: "I would like to add my name to the list of supporters against the drug Bill being passed by Conservatives. I have many health problems and I find the regular price of medication is beyond our reach. The arthritic medication is out-priced and at times I have to go without because I can't afford it". Another person writes: "I strongly protest because I know what it costs my husband a year to buy the heart medication he is on, and what it will cost if the medication doubles or triples in price. It takes away a good lump sum of our yearly earnings. It does not serve a purpose to hit the low-income people in the pocketbook through such a vital element to life as health".

I could not agree with these people more. That is why we are in total opposition to what the Government is trying to do to the health care needs of Canadians.

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WELFARE

NEED FOR EXISTENCE OF FOOD BANKS CONDEMNED

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, poverty in Canada is a national tragedy. There are 3.9 million Canadians living below the poverty line. That is almost 16 per cent of our population. There are 1.2 million children in Canada being raised in families which are living below the