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community in the world before the European ban was imposed, eight of the community's 60 teenagers have taken their own lives in the last two years and a dozen more have tried and failed. This is the effect of such action on communities that are devastated by economic losses suffered because of the destruction of a traditional way of life.

The truth is that Canada trying to take the high moral ground, suggesting that we are humane in our trapping methods, has promoted more than anything else the research and development into proper methods of animal harvesting, but these actions have not worked. We have to recognize that in a sense, it is the tip of the iceberg to suggest a minor labelling program, something the British Government calls a minimal response to the demands of its people. The actions being taken in the U.K. will affect proposed legislation throughout the European economic community.

The EEC's environmental and animal welfare committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss various proposals relating to the fur industry. These include proposals to tag furs from all EEC countries, to ban the use of the leg-hold trap in Europe and to extend the present ban on the import of white coat and blue-back seal products to cover all seals up to one year old.

We have moved from the very emotional issue which was predominant several years ago, the banning of the white coat seal harvested in Atlantic Canada, to another one. That issue dealt with cute, pretty seals who were cute and pretty for three weeks and were easy to use in fund raising efforts and to create emotional responses. The farther one got away from the realities of making a living in Atlantic Canada, in rural Newfoundland and in the far North, the more sympathy was generated for the kind of measures that were being taken.

We require a very serious action on the part of the Government, not merely action to let the international community know that we are good guys when it comes to humane treatment. Those sentiments fall on deaf ears. We have to spend money and resources to ensure that the people in the United Kingdom know that we take seriously their attack on the rural people of Canada, their attack on the relationship our communities have with the natural environment around them, their attack on the opportunities available for the people of rural Canada to make a living. They are showing incredible hypocrisy in their countries in relation to the use of animals. Every country in the world makes use of animals in the way in which they live and pursue their economic destiny, be it wool in clothing, silk scarves or neckties, or leather shoes or belts. All these items come from animals. One could label a steak as having come from a cow that was shot between the eyes, or a pork chop as having been produced by slitting the throat of a pig. People who live in the cities or far removed from the realities of life do not concern themselves with from where these products come.

• (2120)

The reality is that human beings live with the animal kingdom and make use of the resources of nature. We have to do that in order to maintain our existence on this planet.

We need more than all-Party agreement that this is a serious issue. We know that this is a most serious issue for the aboriginal people of Canada, rural Newfoundlanders, and all people trying to make a living harvesting animals. That message must be put across in a most forceful way, not only through diplomatic channels but through the efforts of the Government and all parliamentarians. We must ensure that the British Parliament is well aware of the serious consequences which their previous actions caused for the sealers of Newfoundland, the aboriginal people of Canada, and the communities of Canada.

I call upon the Government to renew its commitment and to start acting on its commitment to the sealers of Newfoundland to respond to the recommendations of the Malouf Commission, which have yet to be implemented, in terms of support for the rebuilding of the sealing industry in Canada. We need an active demonstration that the Government will fight for the preservation of the culture and way of life in communities which depend on fur farming, trapping, hunting, and on fishing as well.

If we allow these kinds of attacks on the way of life of Canadians to continue, we will see no end to the bans, impositions, and strictures on our way of life. We have to make it clear that there will be consequences for countries which take such actions against Canada. It will require such a tough response from the Government of Canada to hold back the actions being proposed in the United Kingdom, mainly supported by those who themselves make use of animal products at all stages of their daily lives.

They have as their goal not only the attack on a particular type of alleged cruel activity, but in fact wish to ban all use of animals by humans and will ultimately destroy many communities in Canada. The banning of the seal hunt destroyed not only the communities but the lives of those affected by a high suicide rate and increased inactivity, leading to alcoholism, desperation, and no possibility of carrying on in a dignified manner to pursue the way of life they had pursued for many generations.

I call upon the Government to be forceful, to act strongly, and to leave no doubt in the minds of all parliamentarians in the United Kingdom that Canada means business on this issue, that we will not allow this industry to be hurt the way the seal industry was hurt, and that we will take forceful and appropriate action against the U.K. if it goes ahead with this proposal.

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say only a few words on the subject being debated in this emergency debate this evening. It was rather interesting to watch the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) stand in the House a few moments ago and say