

*Animal Treatment Study*

abusing animals, and any persons making a business of raising or catching animals for sale to research individuals or centres and not keeping same in a humane manner—

As I have already said, Mr. Speaker, the bulk of this paragraph is covered in Bill C-150. In fact, Bill C-150 is an improvement on paragraph (b) because although the original draft referred only to domestic animals and birds it has now been broadened to include all types of animals.

Paragraph (c) refers to:

—the most humane method of trapping fur bearing animals—

This raises a very difficult problem.

How can one raise animals and live on the proceeds from the sale of their skin and fur, yet at the same time to be considered by society as a humane person? It seems to me that so long as society lives on animal meat, animal skins and animal products we are faced with a very serious problem. The hon. member for Vancouver East has already referred to the seal hunt, which has been much in the news. Most of us know fur farmers. Indeed, there are some very successful ones in my constituency.

I would go one step further and draw attention to the fact that animals kept for research are really very little different from any type of domestic livestock because they are all maintained in order to realize a profit to their owners. Indeed, livestock and poultry maintenance involved certain practices which are not so much inhumane as they are part of life's realities.

I refer to the need for slaughter houses, if we are to be carnivores, to the need to perform certain procedures on animals which might be deemed by some to be inhumane but which are accepted by the agricultural industry as necessary to good livestock management. For example, dairy cows throughout Canada are tied into stalls in late October or early November and never released until April or May. During that time they are not allowed to take two steps forwards or backwards. Hackney horses have their tails held in special holding devices that eventually distort and bend the backbone upwards at the base of the tail to provide for a so-called more flowing beauty, but certainly with no little agony to the animal at some point along the way.

You, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members who are familiar with the agricultural industry, will be aware that young calves, have caustic soda applied to their horn buds or, if not, are dehorned with saws or large levered

cutters, which is certainly a painful procedure. I have seen this done both ways and it is indeed painful. Lambs' tails are docked. Their tails are simply cut off, as are the tails of many horses, in both instances without benefit of anaesthesia. Boar piglets, bull calves, ram lambs and male colts are castrated without benefit of any type of anaesthetic, and all as a necessary part of livestock management.

I therefore, submit that it is necessary to keep all of this in focus when we discuss a motion such as the one now before us, because it is easy to get into the position of saying that people exist to serve animals. I hope I do not sound too callous when I state very firmly that in my opinion the precise opposite is true, that animals exist to serve people.

Being aware that other hon. members wish to participate in this debate this afternoon I shall sum up my remarks at this point. I conclude by saying that I have great sympathy for animals. We have a dog at our house called Zippy, that is almost a member of the family and sometimes rates much higher than I do. However, Mr. Speaker, let us keep first things first. People are more important than animals. We must protect research animals, that is true; but we must use them to help make people well, not idolize or worship them. Too often, dogs are more protected than refugees and other casualties of war.

I must confess very bluntly that I am more concerned about child brutality, some startling examples of which have recently come to public view, than I am about the agonies of dogs, cats, monkeys, guinea pigs and spruce bud worms, the latter being a subject upon which I was permitted to work for a whole summer one time in Northern Ontario. I feel that no one can quarrel with the final section of this notice of motion. I felt the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch), made a very good point when he listed some of the species of animals about which he was concerned such as bighorns, grizzly bears and so on. I feel all of us must certainly take steps to support the action taken by governments, individuals or voluntary organizations in this regard. Just as we must be against pollution or anything else that diminishes the features of the world in which we live, so also we must be for conservation.

● (5:30 p.m.)

In conclusion, I should like to commend the hon. member for Vancouver East. I think he