

*Research on Treatment of Animals*

and scientific research; that we recognize the fact that, for some reason that I do not understand, Canada is lagging behind the rest of the world in trying to eliminate the inhumane use of animals for medical and scientific research. Even though animals are still used in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, we do find there a recognition of the need for change, that great steps are being taken in the use of tissue cultures, computers and other new methods of research rather than the use of animals.

I was most interested to read the other day that in the United Kingdom there has been established the first research institute that does not use animals at all for research purposes. This institute is the Walter Hadwen Trust for Humane Research and it employs the techniques of tissue culture, cell culture, organ culture, robotics, films and computers. According to the information I read in one scientific magazine, with these advanced techniques this institute may well become one of the leading research centres of the world that does not use animals.

I wish that every adult in Canada, certainly every member of the House of Commons, could visit laboratories that use animals for research. They would not only be horrified but stupefied. I also think people should read truthful and factual publications that give information about some of the types of experiments conducted and give evidence of the suffering undergone by animals used for research.

I realize that there is split jurisdiction in this country in regard to this matter. I know very well that though some provinces have acted, others have not. I am well aware of Bill 194 which recently passed the legislature of Ontario. But there is no guarantee—certainly there is no evidence of this at the present time—that the precedent established in Ontario is going to be followed by other provinces.

It is of interest to note that this particular legislation does not apply to laboratories operated under federal jurisdiction. In addition, I think it is reasonable to hope that the federal government would give leadership in bringing the provinces together in order to establish national standards that would be applied by one inspection branch in Canada instead of 11 inspection branches.

In view of what I have just said, I hope hon. members of the House appreciate why I say that we are late now in studying the treatment, the use, indeed the abuse, of animals for research purposes, and finding out why Canada is not using modern techniques instead of continuing to report to the use of animals for medical and scientific research purposes.

May I just deal very briefly with the trapping of animals. It is my understanding from what I have read that approximately four million animals a year are trapped in Canada for commercial purposes. The majority of these four million animals that are trapped in Canada for commercial purposes are exported and for reasons of expediency and cost of equipment they are caught by devices known as the leg hold or the steel jaw trap.

[Mr. Winch.]

Neither the leg hold trap nor the steel jaw trap kills instantly: it merely traps. The trappers usually visit their traplines every two or three weeks, and during that time animals that have been caught can starve or freeze to death or even chew off their own leg in an endeavour to escape. If we are going to continue to allow trapping, and a lot of people depend on it for their livelihood and a lot of women for their adornment—although I could never quite understand why women do not realize that beauty needs no adornment—surely we can make a study and bring in recommendations to the effect that instead of using the leg hold or steel jaw trap we use devices which kill instantly even though they cost more. They are in existence. There is the Conibear trap, the Northern killer, the Mohawk trap, the Compensator, the Canada trap, the Fisher trap and the CX13 and CX14. They are either in commercial production, or one or two of them I believe, are in the testing stage. In respect of this matter of killing animals for commercial purposes, if we had any warm blood or humanity in our beings at all we should be interested in a committee hearing the experts, listening to the evidence and bringing in a report.

• (5:10 p.m.)

On the other matter of conservation, this is something which is of vital interest to me. One has only to read the newspapers and the magazines to know that there are many species now extinct on the North American continent, and several right here in Canada are in danger of becoming extinct within a few years. It is not right that we should know of the beauties of wild life, animals, birds and fish, but by our ignorance, stupidity or lack of action we should say to those who come after us, sorry but they are no longer here for you to see, although you might be able to find one in a zoo. We have a responsibility.

Unfortunately, detailed and specific information is not available on all areas of Canada, but I do not believe there is a great differentiation between what is taking place in Canada and in the United States. Only last week it was announced in Washington by the United States interior department that three more types of animals, eight of birds and eleven of fish now face extinction in the United States. The list of the Department of the Interior of endangered species now stands at 101, including 14 types of mammals, 50 of birds, 7 of reptiles and amphibians and 30 species of fish. This is the list according to that department of the United States government of wildlife facing extinction on the North American continent.

At least two years ago they started taking action in the United States. When are we going to start taking action in Canada? I suggest that immediate action is required and that is why I hope this motion is carried today so studies can commence by a standing committee of this House. In addition, the committee could also study last week's report of the conference which was held in Canada by conservationists. It was interesting to note in the newspaper only two days ago that a resolution was passed calling on the federal government and the Yukon