

Animal Treatment Study

was condensed from *National Wildlife*, the title of which is "From the Brink of Extinction". In this article, the director of the National Wildlife Research program makes reference to a letter received from a boy. I quote:

"Not always those you'd expect—"

This refers to people writing letters.

"The majority of support comes not from the birdwatcher, camper, fisherman, hunter, but from people in cities." He handed me a typical letter. It was from Harlem, and the first sentence read: "I may never see a whooping crane, or any wild thing, but I hope you save them. I want to know they are there." So do millions of other people who look with concern as species after species, each a part of the miracle of life on earth, is threatened with extinction.

I ask the support of hon. members to refer these matters of vital concern to a committee of the House of Commons for study, consideration and recommendation.

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark and Renfrew): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member opposite that one of the paramount concerns of all politicians is the possibility of becoming extinct. Although some people might treat this subject in a light way, it deserves to be treated seriously.

I rise to participate in this debate for several reasons. I wish to compliment the hon. member opposite in whose name today's private members' notice of motion stands. He is not the only member who has serious concern about what can, and sometimes does, happen to animals.

This notice of motion, Mr. Speaker, has four parts. I propose to address myself to each in turn. Before doing so, I wish to draw the attention of this house to a bill bearing on this subject which was given first reading December 19 last, Bill C-150 an act to amend the Criminal Code. This motion today stands under the date of September 18, just over three months prior to the introduction of Bill C-150.

• (5:20 p.m.)

By the way, I understand that Bill C-150 has just completed clause by clause study in the Justice Committee of this house. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that Bill C-150 covers many of the very concerns which are paramount in this motion, especially in section (c). Since there exists considerable evidence to suggest to hon. members that Bill C-150 will in fact become the law of the land in the near future I wish to take the liberty to remind

[Mr. Winch.]

the house once more just what clause 23 of Bill C-150 does state. Then, its bearing on this motion may be fully appreciated.

The explanatory note to clause 23 reads:

The proposed subsection (3) would provide that evidence of failure to exercise reasonable care and supervision of an animal or bird resulting in pain, suffering, damage or injury is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof of the commission of an offence—

The amendment would also provide for an order prohibiting a person convicted on two or more occasions under subsection (1) from owning or having custody or control of a domestic animal or bird for a period of up to two years.

I want to draw the attention of the house to the fact that I understand the Justice Committee has made an amendment to the bill, broadening its terms of reference. This provision will no longer be restricted to domestic animals but will cover wildlife and game birds as well.

Mr. Winch: But it does not cover research animals.

Mr. McBride: I will come to that in a moment. Clause 23 refers to:

—evidence that a person failed to exercise reasonable care or supervision of an animal or bird thereby causing it pain, suffering, damage or injury—

Obviously, this means animals that are kept domestically, and does include animals that are kept for research, as the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) has just pointed out.

Now, coming to paragraph (a) in the notice of motion, I wish to point out it is obvious that animals must be used for medical research purposes. This is self-evident to all hon. members. The point is a very simple one, that all reasonable care should be taken to prevent, to as large a degree as possible, unnecessary suffering of research animals. However, it must be noted that the first aim of research is to prevent human suffering. The second aim of research is to realize reliable data for a high quality of research. The third aim of research is to do scientific investigation which does result in high quality and reliable data, with the highest possible degree of efficiency. By efficiency, I mean the least expenditure of moneys and the least possible unnecessary suffering of the animals concerned. I propose to refer to paragraph (a) again in my concluding remarks, so I will now proceed to paragraph (b) which reads:

—the treatment of animals as pets and, as far as federal jurisdiction permits, recommendations regarding legislation providing penalties for those