

*Animal Pedigree Act*

the major architect of this legislation. At this point, I would like to recognize the work Mr. Clemons did in facing this particular challenge and the incredible amount of expertise he brought to bear on the preliminary drafting of this legislation. As a matter of fact, I suspect that it was only because Mr. Clemons visited the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) on June 17 that this Bill was actually tabled. Again, in dealing with this Bill that is so important, we must recognize the role that Mr. Clemons played in the development of this legislation.

There are several changes in the Bill. Highlighting the changes, there will now be two types of associations, those incorporated in respect of distinct breeds of animals, and those incorporated in respect of the evolving breeds. Most of us are aware of the Harry Hays Converter which of course was an evolving breed by definition in that the evolving breed is a group of animals in the process of evolving into a new breed. Ex-Senator Hays, a well known Albertan, has certainly been helpful in developing this new breed in western Canada.

There must be four generations of closed breeding of an animal for it to constitute a new breed and it must be seven-eighths pure. This primarily affects beef cattle, and as my hon. friend from Calgary will know, the movement toward seven-eighths pure has been important to the livestock industry.

There are now three main standards, pure-bred, registered and identified. Before this Bill, the term "registered" only referred to pure-bred animals. Now a pure-bred animal will be one that is seven-eighths pure. An animal 50 per cent pure and up can now be registered, and this will include the NIP animals which before were classified under the identified category. The identified category will now be used only for the evolving breeds to which I referred earlier.

According to the legislation, an association must represent a group on a national basis, not simply on a local basis. This has caused some consternation with some of the newly forming groups in areas of Canada that are regionally oriented and perhaps have a more regional perspective on livestock breeding. Nevertheless, an association will have to represent a group on a Canada-wide basis and I suspect, in considering the importance of developing strong and very productive breeds, that this is probably in the best interest of everyone in the long run.

The Minister, however, has slightly more discretionary powers as to the type of association that can be recognized, and we can only hope that the Minister of Agriculture, whoever he or she may be in the future, will act with a great deal of prudence when it comes to deciding on recognizing an association, particularly one that is not totally national in scope.

We are all well aware that an association cannot impose a monetary penalty but is now authorized to keep semen and embryo records and to issue certificates for both of these. As well, we recognize that an association must apply to the Minister for official recognition of a new breed. Again, I hope

that will provide us as interested parliamentarians, particularly those on the Standing Committee on Agriculture, with an opportunity to be kept abreast of any new developments in new breeds.

A major change in the legislation is the establishment of the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, more commonly referred to as the CLRC, and a central livestock registry, which is the successor to the Canadian National Livestock Records. Before, the Canadian National Livestock Records was not a legal entity. Now it is important that it become a legal entity. The new corporation is the only one authorized to provide registration services to the various associations when an association decides not to provide this service itself. Obviously this is very important, particularly recognizing the significant initiatives being taken by various associations on these matters.

Also, the Minister will now have the authority to perform an inspection or inquiry if there are irregularities in an association's affairs. It has concerned many of us for many years that the Minister did not always have the ability to act when irregularities were alleged. Now the Minister will have that opportunity.

● (1240)

As far as the various livestock groups are concerned, the dairy industry views it as a good piece of legislation, probably because Mr. David Clemons was so involved in the drafting stage. The industry has some concern about some minor drafting errors and omissions, but we can deal with those in committee. It is concerned about being prohibited from punishing members because it would make it difficult to offer better rates for others. That seems to be pretty straightforward.

As far as beef is concerned, Clause 59(g) makes it illegal for an association to sell an animal of a breed that is not registered or eligible to be registered. It is currently common practice to sell a commercial grade Charolais that is not registrable. According to Luc Bégin, chief animal registration officer with Agriculture Canada, this would be allowed on condition that the animal is clearly listed as a commercial grade.

Going back to the comments of my hon. friend from Humboldt—Lake Centre concerning the progeny of Perfection, it is unlikely that they will have their own percentage registry. Most likely, records will be kept for each of the offspring, and if Perfection is reinstated in the U.S., then the central registry will have copies of the records and owners will be able to apply for registration. This whole issue has caused a great deal of concern, particularly in the Canadian Hereford Association. The controversy began when the two Hereford Associations in the U.S. decided that Perfection's pure-bred status was questionable. They in a sense expunged him of all his progeny in the various registries. That included several championship bulls, including two with Canadian owners. As my colleague indicated, nearly \$350 million worth of lawsuits