

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (*Issues Nos. 12 to 18, 22, and 23 to 28*) is tabled.

(*The Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence accompanying the said Report recorded as Appendix No. 89 to the Journals*).

Mr. Crossman, from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, presented the Sixth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

In its examination of the Estimates 1969-70 of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, your Committee held public hearings concerning the annual Seal Hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence which comes under the supervision of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

Committee hearings took place on March 27, April 15, May 8, May 20 and May 22, 1969.

The Honourable Jack Davis, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry appeared and the following witnesses were heard and evidence adduced:

From the Department of Fisheries and Forestry:

Mr. C. R. Levelton, Director Conservation and Protection Service;
Mr. M. F. Ronayne, Assistant Director, Information and Consumer Service;
Mr. S. Dudka, Field Supervisor;
Mr. P. Beauchesne, District Inspection Officer;
Dr. D. E. Sergeant, Biologist, Fisheries Research Board of Canada;
Mr. A. A. Arseneault, Information Officer, Secretary of State Department.

Also

Mr. Henri Stadt, Film Producer, Montreal, P.Q.;
Mr. Brian D. Davies, Executive Secretary, New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Fredericton, N.B.
Mr. Tom Hughes, Manager, Ontario Humane Society (S.P.C.A.), Toronto, Ontario;
Mr. André Fleury, President, Production 816, Montreal, P.Q.;
Mr. Serge Deyglun, Journalist, Montreal, P.Q.;
Mr. Uwe Koneman, Cameraman, Montreal, P.Q.;
Mr. Ralph Kaye, Photographer, Fredericton, N.B.;
Mr. Barry MacDonald, Director of Secretariat, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Ottawa.

Your Committee reached several conclusions:

1. That grossly misleading information about the hunt was purveyed to the general public at home and abroad and that some misleading information continues to be purveyed—specifically the unjustified claim that seal herds are facing extinction by present harvesting methods.

2. The Committee considers that shocking irresponsibility was shown by producers of an Artek film of 1964 which included scenes of brutality, the legitimacy of which could not be determined from questioning of witnesses. The Committee also finds that Canadian Broadcasting Corporation showed a degree of irresponsibility in accepting the Artek film for Broadcast without adequately checking its fairness and accuracy.

3. The Committee recognizes a legitimate concern about possible cruel practices in seal hunting. Although in the Committee's opinion, much of that protest was based upon misleading films and other misleading information,