

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall clause 9 carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall clause 10 carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall clause 11 carry?

Senator Frith: I move that all remaining clauses carry.

The Chairman: Shall all remaining clauses up to and including clause 60 carry?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall the title carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall the short title carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall I report the bill without amendment?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: On behalf of the committee, I should like to thank the witnesses for assisting us today.

HEALTH OF ANIMALS BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman: Honourable senators, the committee will now consider Bill C-66, respecting diseases and toxic substances that may affect animals or that may be transmitted by animals to persons, and respecting the protection of animals.

Dr. Brightwell: Honourable senators, I should like to introduce two witnesses: Dr. W.S. Bulmer, Director, Animal Health Division, and Dr. Brian Peart, Chief, Transportation of Animals, Animal Health Division. Dr. Peart was the chief architect of the bill in the latter stages. Other officials had worked on it at earlier times.

The Chairman: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Pursuant to Order of the Senate, Dr. W.S. Bulmer and Dr. Brian Peart were escorted to seats in the Senate chamber.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, shall the title be postponed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall the short title be postponed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall clause 1 carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

Senator Frith: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask some questions. The sponsor of the bill mentioned a couple of things that I want to ask him about. He mentioned that the first bill

for animal protection was acclaimed in 1869, or something like that. Is that right?

• (1620)

Dr. Brightwell: Dr. Peart, perhaps you could answer. Please speak into the microphone.

Senator Frith: It was a long time ago, anyway.

Dr. B.L. Peart, DVM, Chief, Transportation of Animals, Animal Health Division, Food Production and Inspection Branch, Agriculture Canada: It was one of the first agricultural bills passed after Confederation.

Senator Frith: Right. I imagine that the threats—in particular, they talked about insect vectors—have changed over the years. Can you tell us about any more recent or present-day threats that this sort of legislation is needed to help combat?

Dr. Peart: The most recent disease to spread across the world is a disease called African swine fever. It is a highly contagious disease confined to pigs. It is a virus disease for which there is no vaccine. There is also no antibiotic that is effective against it.

Senator Frith: Is it transmittable to anyone who eats the meat?

Dr. Peart: No; it is confined to swine. In this case it is an economic disease, because up to 90 per cent of the pigs can die. A farmer can literally walk into his barn in the morning and find 25 per cent dead, and within 48 hours can lose the rest of his pigs. It is an extremely virulent disease.

Senator Frith: Good heavens! Do you mean that he can go into the barn the next morning and find that 25 per cent could be dead, but that when he left the barn the night before they would all be fine?

Dr. Peart: It is an extremely quick-acting disease. Except for the temperature and some slowness, he might not see anything the night before. It is extremely quick acting.

Senator Frith: Will this bill help with that?

Dr. Peart: Yes. This bill will give us several things that will help us control it. It will give us added powers to control the importation of meat, which is the prime method by which a disease such as this would be introduced into Canada.

The disease does occur in southern Europe and Africa. It has also twice spread into Cuba through meat, and was also found in Haiti. Agriculture Canada was one of the three countries that moved into Haiti to slaughter all the pigs in an effort to ensure that it would not invade Canada. It could move rapidly with the aid of modern aircraft. One of the provisions this bill proposes is the right to examine passengers' baggage.

Senator Frith: You cannot answer questions about the other bill, but the parliamentary secretary could. Would any other country consider these two bills—that is, Bills C-66 and C-67—to be potential NTBs non-tariff barriers?

Dr. Brightwell: As a whole, anything to do with health areas are respected for their principles. Of course, we have some of