

*Animal Treatment Study*

but a few. For example, dogs are being placed in small cages for seven years without being let out in order to study certain reactions. There is sworn evidence and photographs describing dogs that for 24 hours a day for a period of months were given intermittent electric shocks so as to bring them to a state of exhaustion, hysteria and terror in order to study them. Sworn evidence was given before a commission that dogs—400 in one instance—had all their legs smashed in a press and died 24 hours later, no anaesthetic having been administered.

I use those illustrations of what has been going on to indicate not only that we have made no study in Canada in this regard but that we do not have what every civilized country of the world has, namely legislation regulating the licensing of organizations or institutions that require to use animals for medical and scientific research. Such legislation gives the right of entry to such institutions to ascertain what is going on and to ensure there is no unnecessary abuse of or cruelty to animals, with power to enforce regulations.

I am sure all hon. members who have read my motion realize I am not being dogmatic. I have made no recommendations. Because of the importance of the matter I have merely asked that it be referred to a committee, to be designated by the Prime Minister, for study and consideration, for the hearing of representations by all who are interested, in order to decide whether or not to make specific recommendations to the House of Commons and to the government of this country. Surely, such a suggestion is a reasonable one.

That is all I am going to say on this particular phase of the motion, but there is another phase in which I am keenly interested. I refer to the conservation of our wildlife, whether animal, bird or fish. There is no international boundary when it comes to animal, bird and fish conservation on this continent. I have been interested in this subject for many years. I had visited interested organizations in this country, the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom.

• (5:10 p.m.)

I was somewhat amazed to find that until two years ago the government of the United States had no interest in conservation. In the fall of 1967 they introduced the endangered wildlife research program. With the exception of the O.D.A. in Canada, the moves on the prairies and the latest move in British Columbia to set aside thousands of acres, this

country has not shown an interest in the conservation of wild life. This move was brought about in British Columbia because several species of the bighorn sheep were practically extinct.

Scientific organizations interested in this matter have stated that in the past 150 years, 60 species of animals and birds have been completely exterminated on this continent. The latest scientific information I have been able to obtain states that since the turn of this century 23 species of birds have disappeared in this country and the northern part of the United States. They are gone; nothing can be done about that now. There is evidence available to show that birds and animals, not only in my province of British Columbia but other parts of Canada now face extinction unless something is done about the situation.

I have already mentioned two species of the bighorn sheep in British Columbia. Grizzly bears are now becoming very scarce in this country. According to a wildlife survey recently completed, there are approximately 12,000 polar bears left in the world. These are being killed at the rate of 1,200 a year.

I ask hon. members to take an interest in this most vital matter and refer it to a committee for study. This committee should hear representations and bring in recommendations as a result of their accumulated knowledge. The United States has finally established the endangered wildlife research program. It is just as essential that there should no longer be a delay in Canada taking action on this matter.

I was raised by parents who did not believe in killing. I have never shot at a bird or animal in my life, nor at a man. I was taught that one should only kill in self-defence or for food requirements. At the same time, I have never been narrow minded on the question of sportsmanship and killing of birds and animals. How they call it sportsmanship, I do not know, but I am not narrow minded. As a matter of fact, I am an honorary member of a rod and gun club in Vancouver. The reason I am a member is because of their interest in conservation. This organization recognizes that we have the responsibility of seeing that the wonderful wild life in this beautiful country continues to exist. Those who come after us should also be able to enjoy the wildlife in this country.

It is not often that I quote from *Reader's Digest*. However, when reading this magazine last night, I came across a fine article which