

Animal Pedigree Act

properly addressed when they come before us at the committee level.

The problem the Appaloosa horse people have been presenting to us along with some of the Arabian, the quarterhorse owners, and other recreation type horses, is one of dissatisfaction and uncertainty with the proposals in the Bill. I expect we will be hearing directly from those associations at committee stage. I hope that the Ministry of Agriculture is fully aware of their problems. I know that some of these groups have been in touch with the registrar and others and that the proposed amendments which the Hon. Member for Okanagan—Similkameen (Mr. King) referred to in his opening remarks will deal with their problems. Briefly, the Appaloosa people are worried that they may have to close their books because the Bill does not appear to allow outcrosses. The Appaloosa people are now using quarterhorses and thoroughbreds quite routinely as a means of upgrading the quality of this relatively new breed, relatively new at least in terms of being a registered association, and they have concerns about what the Bill might do for them.

As well, we have information from some of the breed associations that are afraid that the requirements for using registration services might affect them negatively. Some of them have just installed computers on the assumption that they would be able to farm out part of their computer space to other breed associations. A strict reading of Clause 59(g) indicates that that would be rather difficult to do, though there are some second opinions that think there might be a possibility of selling or assigning shares in the computer company, setting up a second company to get involved in the business of providing services to breed associations, but that is still not clear to some of the breed associations. They are hoping that that will be clarified when the amendments come before the Agriculture Committee or, if the House insists, the legislative committee handling this legislation.

We are prepared to have this legislation go through this House relatively quickly in the hope that the committee, whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture, which generally would deal with something as technical as this, or a legislative committee, will have good and adequate time to hear the concerns of the various breed associations and the people who are affected by this Bill.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, we have waited a long time for Bill C-67 which contains amendments to the Animal Pedigree Act.

Let me reiterate what the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) said. We plan to move expeditiously at this stage of the Bill. The Hon. Member for Okanagan—Similkameen (Mr. King) indicated in his opening remarks that the Government has quite a wide range of amendments to put forward. Obviously they will address a number of the concerns which my colleague from Humboldt—Lake Centre articulated. But other points ought to be made.

• (1230)

While we are prepared to move expeditiously with this Bill today, because there was not an earlier agreement, it will be going to a legislative committee. Because of the extreme technicalities involved in this Bill and certainly the advantage inherent in having people with considerable expertise discuss the clauses of this legislation, perhaps the Government ought to give some consideration to sending Bill C-67 to the Standing Committee on Agriculture for it is on that committee that some of the best agricultural expertise in the House of Commons exists. Having looked at Bill C-67 in detail, I think we will need all the expertise we can get to be able to react to it in an intelligent and productive way.

The Animal Pedigree Act is an updated version of an Act that has been around for a long time. It was first introduced in the year 1900. It was virtually unchanged until the major amendments that were made in 1952, and subsequent to that, there have been virtually no changes to it at all.

Obviously things in the livestock business have changed since 1952. There have been significant changes in terms of improving the quality of breeds, and specifically in the use of frozen semen. The influence of that on breed registration is very important, to say nothing of the technology of embryo transplant.

In my own area of central British Columbia, the raising of livestock is a major industry. There has been experimentation in embryo transplants at the federal research station. As well, there has been research in British Columbia on the extended use of frozen semen. This has caused a great deal of concern on the part of those associations interested in specific breeds of cattle because of the impact this will have on other livestock in the future.

In the various associations interested in livestock breeds, there is a recognition that an upgrading of the Animal Pedigree Act is in order and it is a reflection of the tremendous amount of change being experienced by the livestock industry. While this Bill was primarily designed with cattle in mind, it will also include new animals. The Act as it is presently constituted involves cattle, horses, sheep, goats and hogs but now, in the words of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), this Bill will reflect changes requested by the various sectors of the industry and will be expanded to include dogs, chinchillas and foxes.

I regret the fact that the Minister of Agriculture has not decided to deal with cats. The cat lobby has been active lately and has indicated an interest in amendments to include cats. I am very serious when I say that the points the cat lobby raised with us are significant. Perhaps at the legislative committee or at the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the concerns of the cat community could be brought forward.

The fact that this Bill has been designed primarily for cattle is certainly reflected by the fact that Mr. David Clemons, the present Secretary of the Holstein Association of Canada, was