

*Treatment of Animals*

view. I for one am glad to be recorded as being in favour of concrete action. It is all right to say that we are in favour of this concept and that generally speaking we are sympathetic towards the aims and objectives of any motion such as this, yet I think we ought to put on record our opinion that something specific should be done. The hon. member for Vancouver East has presented his motion in such a way that the government will be able to take action and indicate its interest in seeing progress made in this very important area.

● (5:40 p.m.)

I am one who sees much of the humane treatment of animals. My wife spends much of her time in connection with animal welfare. I confess that when she started her work about ten years ago I thought she was doing something that was very difficult, although I gave her full marks for effort. As a result of her activities, however, and the educational programs she has sponsored, people all over the world are anxious to assist in every way possible in the sort of work she is doing. When you see that sort of work, you are bound to be influenced by it. I am the first to acknowledge that I have been so influenced and that it has been good for me. I am a better person for having been subjected to that influence.

It seems to me that there is little difference of opinion as to the merit of the motion. I therefore think we should say, perhaps by way of a recorded vote, that we are in favour of it. I think that is important. I know something about vivisection and the way animals are treated in medical research centres. Having spoken to several doctors about the subject, I am convinced—and I think doctors generally speaking share my views—that much of this work is repetitious. Much of it is carried on merely so that some student can say he performed a certain function. I think the whole question needs to be examined. I hope we all agree on this, and I therefore hope we adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Vancouver East and support his motion.

I could talk about steel-jawed traps and implements like that which are extremely cruel in their effect on wild animals. I do not propose to talk about them because I wish the House to express its opinion on this matter before the time has expired. After all, we are only asking for an expression of opinion. The previous speaker talked of difficulties. No

doubt there are difficulties in this area. But as I say, we are only seeking to express an opinion that something concrete ought to be done in this area. That is what the hon. member for Vancouver East is asking us to do.

We view with great alarm the elimination of certain species of birds and wildlife. I think we all consider this elimination to be very bad. In my province the forests are sprayed with chemicals which we are told are most detrimental to wildlife. I will not emphasize these evils; I only say that in my opinion the House should concur in the motion by saying that a study ought to be made of the matter. It will be up to the government and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to decide what is the best procedure for such study.

It seems to me, therefore, that there are no differences between us as to the advisability of voting in favour of the motion, because such vote may ultimately work to the benefit of our animals and other wildlife. Often you can go into a store and see all kinds of birds for sale. I have no great objection to this. So far as I am concerned, nothing is better for a child than a pet: they are wonderful for young people. When a man buys his boy a dog or any other pet he indicates that side of his nature which it is most desirable to display. But pets must be well treated.

I think we ought to express our gratitude to the hon. member for Vancouver East for presenting his motion. I express to him my personal approval and appreciation of what he has done. I think the motion is a step in the right direction and indicates that we have an interest in these matters. But we should be more specific than we have been in the past. We should inscribe on the record something that will be there for all time. I therefore hope that in the not too distant future the government will act upon the suggestion embodied in the motion.

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, may I say a few words about the motion that has been introduced by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch). I think it is an important matter, and it is well that this House should pay attention to motions of this kind. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Groos) presented a private members' bill in the previous session, entitled *The Research Animals Protection Act*. It was designed to institute a system of licensing research institutions and individuals using animals, as a condition of qualification for