

*Scientific Research Animals Protection Act***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale): Air Transport—Manitoba—Restoration of Class A Regional Service; the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Sokberg)—Canadian National Railways—Discontinuance of Dining Car Service—Ottawa-Montreal; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland)—Social Security—Guaranteed Annual Income—Old Age Pension Cost of Living Bonus—Changes in Canada Pension Plan.

It being five o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely public bills, private bills and notices of motions.

I understand the first order standing in the name of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) is to stand. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (5:00 p.m.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT**PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED
IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway) moved that Bill C-19, for the Protection and Humane Treatment of Animals used in Scientific Research, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

She said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill standing in my name is very easily explained. Its purpose is to provide legislative machinery to assure humane treatment for live animals used in scientific research for which grants are provided by the government of Canada. It is the intent of this bill to cover all phases of protection for animals used in such research, including general policy, the conditions in which animals are kept while on the premises, and the sources of supply where such animals are purchased.

Clause 2 of the bill, which is the main operative clause, reads as follows:

No grant for scientific research involving live animals shall be made by or through any department or agency of the Government of Canada unless the applicant has a certificate of registration or a licence issued by the Minister of Agriculture on recommendation of the Canadian Council on Animal Care or an equivalent body so designated.

I would point out that Bill C-140, standing in the name of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Groos), has been on the Order Paper for the last three years, and my bill was

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

intended to be supplementary to his, underlining some of the points covered in Bill C-140. The only reason that mine appears ahead of his is the luck of the draw held to determine the position that a private member's bill will have on the Order Paper.

This afternoon I speak for a great many people across Canada. For years a growing number of Canadians have been deeply concerned about conditions surrounding experimentation on animals for medical and scientific purposes. They are concerned about unnecessary cruelty, and repetitive experiments. Above all, they are concerned because Canada has no legislation to protect animals used for scientific purposes.

For years some hon. members have been trying to get this situation changed. My colleague, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch), has placed innumerable resolutions on the Order Paper trying to have this whole matter referred to committee for study. As I have said, the hon. member for Victoria has had a bill on the Order Paper for three years, and this is the second year for my bill.

Other countries are far ahead of us in the provision of such legislation. For example, in Britain legislation was passed in 1876, and recently that country conducted a far reaching study resulting in the Littlewood Report which it is hoped will be embodied in new legislation before long. Denmark has had legislation governing experimentation on animals since 1953, and the United States has had such legislation since 1965. I ask the question: why not Canada?

People may argue that this is a provincial matter, and I reply that the scope of my bill is not provincial. It is strictly federal. The bulk of medical research grants to Canadian universities comes from the federal government, and virtually all universities, either directly or indirectly through their research staff, receive grants from the federal government for this purpose. Therefore, the federal government has the right and the duty to withhold grants for medical research from the universities until or unless certain standards and conditions are met. I would point out that those sections of the Criminal Code designed to prevent cruelty to animals are ineffective so far as the protection of laboratory animals is concerned because humane inspectors do not have the right to enter research laboratories, and provincial inspectors are not able to carry out the provisions of the Criminal Code. For this reason federal legislation is necessary.

There is a precedent for such federal legislation. The Meat Inspection Act contains a provision that humane slaughtering methods must be used in packing houses that come under federal inspection. I suggest that protection in what amounts to the scientific slaughtering of laboratory animals is equally necessary. What has been done to investigate the situation respecting laboratory animals? The Council for Laboratory Animals, based in Vancouver, made a submission to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) as late as January of this year regarding the use of animals in scientific research. All hon. members have received copies of this submission, but I