

*Treatment of Animals*

action of the Canadian council for the protections of animals. Ill treatment of animals is thus precluded. Appropriate steps will be taken so that they do not suffer from injuries or pain voluntarily caused by the public.

Should the revision of the Criminal Code and the activity of the Canadian council for the protection of animals not effectively prevent flagrant cases of ill-treatment of animals, I believe the Department of Agriculture would certainly be prepared to consider the possibility of adopting new regulations.

In addition, the officials of the Department of Agriculture are certainly very much interested in the problem of the protection of mammals and birds.

They are responsible for keeping informed of what goes on in that field and, more particularly, for seeing that all animals, especially those used for food, for meat or for laboratory experiments should be handled without cruelty.

About the humane treatment of animals, the federal government passed in 1959 the Humane Slaughter of Food Animals Act. The Department of Agriculture enforces the provisions of this act through the Health of Animals Branch and, in my opinion, it succeeds in having all food animals slaughtered in premises operated under the Meat Inspection Act handled without cruelty when slaughtered.

As far as the humane trapping of animals is concerned, we have been told that many experiments have been made in that area. At present, the *Conibear* trap is very efficient. However, the *Mohawk* built in a Caughnawaga plant is even more so. But, on account of the price differential between the *Mohawk* and the *Conibear*, the government should give a grant to trappers who want to buy the *Mohawk*.

From a practical point of view, I think it would be most difficult to force thousands of trappers in Canada to buy traps at a higher price to spare animals suffering; so trappers use classic traps. In this area, progress is profitable. Later on, even without the passage of any legislation to this effect, methods of trapping fur-bearing animals will be improved.

In concluding my comments, I would refer again to my fourth argument which I consider as the most important one. With a view to preserving wildlife we are aiming at improving the human environment, which is becoming more and more important now because of the evolution of civilization.

[Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski)]

The problem of conservation covers such a wide and complex field that it could be the object of a bill such as the omnibus bill. In Canada, wildlife conservation is under the jurisdiction of various departments at the federal as well as at the provincial level.

Presently, the Canadian Wildlife Service is playing an important role throughout Canada. It is getting better and better organized and is responsible, among other things, for the migratory birds and for the Convention signed in that respect by Canada and the United States. Furthermore this Service, which has become a branch, is participating in various ways in research on wildlife and on arrangements to meet the standards and requirements of various agencies.

A very important date in this field is April 6, 1966, when the then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development announced to the House the new national wildlife policy and its terms of application. This program and this policy were prepared after various conferences had been held and after agreements had been reached with different parties among whom were competent provincial ministers, members of conservation associations and of sports associations, directors of wildlife agencies, other experts and—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. I have to inform the hon. member that his time has expired.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Question.

**Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of expressing my complete approval of the aims and objectives of the motion presented so ably to this House by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch). I am also impressed by the information and the study which has been made of the whole matter by the member who has just resumed his seat.

The matter embodied in the motion is not new to this House. In general terms I believe it has met with the approval of hon. members. In his motion the hon. member for Vancouver East expresses his opinion and asks that we express ours in regard to this very important matter, that is, the conservation, humane treatment and general care of animals who are unable to express their own opinions. We are asked to express an opinion relevant to the care that should be exercised with respect to animals, from every point of