

less than two months' work. The average gross income for landmen, for whom 3,048 licences were issued, was \$120. Thus, the total income to sealers was close to \$730,000. These are significant figures when one considers their relative value to the income of the people concerned. Additional earnings went to workers employed in plants where the pelts are processed.

I referred earlier to the participation of representatives of humane and conservation societies in the development of our sealing regulations. The opinions of these groups, which we value, have been based on first hand experience. For the past six years the department has invited representatives of these groups to witness the seal hunt. The observers have included veterinarians, biologists, conservation authorities and other specialists. Their reports, with rare exceptions, have expressed approval of the humane methods employed in harvesting the seals. I quote a few examples. In his report of observations of the 1970 seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Mr. Thomas I. Huges, general manager of the Ontario Humane Society, states:

The Gulf of St Lawrence seal hunt, as it is now conducted, and as far as the young seals are concerned, is without doubt one of the most humane slaughtering operations I have ever witnessed. It is tightly regulated and certainly the regulations were enforced more stringently than in any other slaughtering operations that I know of. It seems reasonable to presume, therefore, that the "ultimate" has been reached so far as a regulated slaughtering operation is concerned. In my opinion there is nothing more to be gained by any further regulations.

Professor Keith Ronald, chairman of the department of zoology of the University of Guelph, has been carrying out studies on the seals for a number of years. Of his experience during the 1970 sealing seasons he states:

As in the past I flew from spot to spot on the ice, the helicopter landing wherever I directed...I examined the skulls of recent and older kills...I met fisheries enforcement officers far away from their ships, sometimes wet and frozen...They are dedicated men directed by an understanding senior officer.

In all of my activities and observations there was no evidence of any inhumane act... All seals were killed quickly and were rendered unconscious with the first blow.

Finally, I should like to quote a letter which Mr. A. L. MacLaurin, president of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) on February 9 this year. The letter reads in part:

The federation wishes to congratulate yourself and your department for your action both in the Gulf and on the Front to eliminate the cruelty inherent in the annual harvest of seals. I wish also at this time to apologize for the actions of some of our members in connection with the hunt as I am well aware that you have been bombarded with a great many completely misinformed and irrelevant letters and petitions on the subject of seals. The federation feels that you have done everything in your power to eliminate the cruel practices and we feel sure that you will continue to do so in the future.

Once again I wish to express our appreciation to yourself and the members of your department for their continued efforts on behalf of the seal herd both national and international.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, during the few minutes that I wish to take this

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afternoon I would like to return to the motion, which is a very clear and simple one. My colleague, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch), who introduced it has been pressing for its adoption for some four years. A number of us during our daily work here have been working very hard with regard to different facets of the motion, which is in four parts although actually it seeks a single purpose: it simply urges that the whole matter of animal welfare be studied by a committee of this House.

There are four matters suggested for study and report. The first is the use of animals for medical research purposes, the second is the possibility under federal jurisdiction of introducing legislation providing penalties for abusing animals, the third is the most humane method of trapping fur-bearing animals, and the fourth is the "entire Canadian picture" in regard to conservation of fish, bird and animal wildlife. These four matters lead to the meshing together of federal and provincial jurisdiction in this respect.

Between members of this House and their constituents, there has been much discussion about animals. All of us at times have been deluged with letters concerning various forms of cruelty to animals or the well-being of animals. I know that a fresh batch of petitions will shortly be on their way to hon. members, urging that Canada take up this matter seriously and do something about it. When you get public opinion reaching such a level in this country, then I am convinced the matter is beyond being partisan in any sense and it is only proper that these matters be studied by a committee of the House. I feel that Canada is a long way behind other countries in this regard. A great deal of protective legislation with respect to animals, and medical experimentation involving their use, is in force in the United States, Great Britain and Scandinavia. We have no such legislation at the federal level in Canada.

I have before me an item taken from the Canadian Research and Development Journal for July-August, 1969, reporting that the tobacco industry was giving a grant of \$300,000 to Dr. Hans Selye to "support investigation of any relationship between smoking and stress," and that the industry was also giving a grant of \$300,000 to McGill University for an "interdisciplinary respiratory research laboratory." Both these grants appear to be for the purpose of investigating the validity of statements linking cigarette smoking with lung cancer. That is all very well, Mr. Speaker, but at the present time no machinery exists to supervise such experiments, and it is reasonable to assume that animals will be used in them. The work of the Canadian Council on Animal Welfare appears to be largely confined to laboratory animal husbandry and care, and the Criminal Code provides no protection for animals used in such research. For this reason I believe that we in Canada should make a preliminary study designed to introduce legislation to protect animals during experimental research.

An hon. Member: What about human beings?