Growing Power of Humanitarians Evident as Leaders Plan Expanded Programs at HSUS Annual Meeting

The growing power and expansion plans of the American humane movement showed clearly in the speeches, deliberations, and actions of leaders gathered in conference in Hershey, Pa., in early October for the fifteenth annual meeting of The Humane Society of the United States.

The three day meeting brought together the highest quality leadership in the movement, with representation from many of the most influential animal welfare organizations in the country. For the period of the conference, these leaders worked hard at study and analysis of major problems and at formulation of agreements on strategy and tactics to follow in the continuing war against cruelty and exploitation of animals.

The opening of the conference was preceded by the Society's annual membership meeting presided over by Chairman of the Board Coleman Burke. During this meeting the election of new directors was announced and a Resolutions Committee was named to submit for action to the full conference resolutions and recommendations for future humane work.

HSUS President Mel L. Morse reported on the year’s activities. He described HSUS action against dog wardens in Ohio, cruelty to seals in the Pribilof Islands, the attempt to exterminate wild mustangs in Montana and Nevada, and against lax enforcement of the laboratory animal dealer law, Public Law 89-544. Among many programs carried forward by The HSUS, Morse reported specifically on the efforts to clean up cruelty in horse racing, rodeos, and in public pounds and animal shelters. He also expressed satisfaction at the very beneficial work being done through The National Humane Education Center and the Kindness Club program.

The HSUS President called for more unity in the humane movement in pursuit of anti-cruelty objectives. He said that there was a need for the entire movement to focus on specific crusades upon which all humanitarians could agree. What humane society worth the name, he questioned, could fail to support a combined effort to stop use of the cruel bucking strap in rodeos?

HSUS Treasurer William Kerber reported on the Society’s financial position. He said that expanded programs

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Maine Wildlife Refuge Named to Honor Noted Writer, Rachel Carson

The U.S. Department of the Interior has named a national wildlife refuge in honor of the late Rachel Carson. It will be called the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge stretches some forty miles along the Maine coast. Waterfowl and shorebirds use the area heavily during migration. It now consists of 1,305 acres, but will ultimately be expanded to 4,000 acres.

Miss Carson’s most famous book, “Silent Spring,” first drew attention to the dangers of DDT and other pesticides. The HSUS was one of many thousands of organizations and individuals who petitioned the U.S. Government to honor Miss Carson. The petitions were requested in an article by Ann Cottrell Free in the April 13 issue of “This Week” magazine which described Miss Carson’s key role in proper environmental control.

A booklet containing the principal speeches of the 1969 HSUS National Leadership Conference will be published about the end of this year. Free copies will be sent automatically to all humane societies and persons who attended the conference. If you wish to receive a copy, write now to The HSUS Service Department and your name will be added to the list for mailing when the booklet is published.
Humane Representatives Defeat Animal Seizure Clause Attempt

Veterinarians participating in a stormy October 15 meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association Committee on Animal Welfare made a strong bid to incorporate in the proposed Model State Law (to supplement Public Law 89-544) wording that would require the release of unclaimed impounded animals to medical research institutions. Word had apparently been circulated among segments of the scientific community that the attempt would be made and support for it was needed. There were an estimated 75 members of the research community present at the meeting. Voting was limited, of course, to committee members but the presence of so many veterinarians was obviously intended to influence the vote.

HSUS Field Service Director Frank McMahon and Mrs. Christine Stevens, Secretary of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, led the fight to defeat the proposed animal seizure clause. Their arguments were supported by Dr. Frank Matlhorn and Dr. C. O. Finch, both of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

After arguments were heard on both sides, the Committee reached unanimous agreement on the Model State Law which, when introduced at the state level, can certainly be supported in good conscience by every humane organization.

The model state law now strikes at unscrupulous dog dealers by stating flatly that "no dog ward shall give or sell or negotiate for the gift or sale to a pet shop, dealer, or research facility, of any animal which may come into his custody in the course of carrying out his official assignments."

Speakers Spark Great Audience Response at Annual Awards Dinner

Speakers at HSUS’s fifteenth annual awards banquet generated enormous audience enthusiasm and determination to move ahead in the war against cruelty. Principal speakers included noted writer, television personality and conservationist, called upon the humane movement to join the struggle against man’s wanton destruction of the natural environment.

He urged that “humanitarian power” be used effectively against legislators, public officials, government agencies, and private persons that put dollars before an endangered environment.

Mr. Caras received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his remarks. David S. Claffin, President of the Massachusetts SPCA, was toastmaster for the banquet. His sparkling performance contributed hugely to its success. His introductions of other speakers and his smooth handling of the entire proceedings prompted repeated bursts of applause from the enthusiastic audience.

Respected New England AV Society Votes Its Support for R-J Bill

The respected and influential New England Anti-Vivisection Society has come out in support of the Rogers-Javis bill, pending legislation for the protection of animals used in biochemical research activities.

In a letter to their membership, the Society’s President George R. Farnum said that the decision was made after thoughtful study and painstaking consideration. He stated that his society remained committed to its basic objective of absolute abolition of vivisection but recognized its achievement wasn’t going to happen in the next few years.

In the meantime, Farnum said, there is much that can be done to improve the plight of laboratory animals and the Rogers-Javis bill aims to accomplish this.

HSUS Attacks Fashion Whims, Fun Killing in Two New Publications

The HSUS has started distribution of two new publications titled "The Whims of Fashion" and "Killing for Fun." Both publications are from the writings of Deveroux Butler, well known national leader in nature protection and wilderness preservation.

"The Whims of Fashion" discusses the cruelty of the steel trap, the rapid disappearance of valuable wildlife trapped for their pelts, and the enormous vanity and callousness of women who create the problem with their demand for clothing from fur-bearing animals.

"Killing for Fun" attacks the relentless, pitiless war waged by man under the guise of entertainment against the innocent, beautiful creatures of the wild. It condemns sport hunting and calls for a new attitude toward wildlife that does not accept the fanatical idea that there is or can be fun in killing.

The leaflets are available from The HSUS at 25¢ each. Free sample copies will be sent upon request. Humane societies and humanitarians are encouraged to help educate people to two major animal welfare problems by distributing these publications.

Kindness Club Radio Announcements Will Blanket the Country

The HSUS and The National Humane Education Center are jointly distributing over 7,000 spot announcements to radio stations across the country. The announcements are aimed at promoting the Kindness Club program. They will be used as part of radio’s public service program and are expected to produce a flood of mail from children wanting to learn about animals. It is understood that recordings that use the announcements through Certificates of Appreciation awarded by The NHEC.

Existing law of Alabama that allows the intolerable cruelty of fights between raccoons and dogs to exist with impunity (picture above) is expected to be the target of a repeal effort by the State’s Humanitarian.

HSUS Asks Alabama to Stop Cruelty to Coons

Conferences at the HSUS annual meeting in Hershey, Pa., voted unanimously to urge the state government of Alabama to stop the “coon-on-a-log” contests and their variations that are now permitted under state law.

The HSUS mailed copies of this resolution to Governor Albert P. Brewer, stressing the need for a new attitude toward wildlife that does not accept the fanatical idea that there is or can be fun in killing.

Graham owns and operates a public animal shelter in Lodi and his traffic in animals has been under HSUS attack for some time. His operation is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under Public Law 89-544. The HSUS has repeatedly asked USDA to investigate the Graham operation (but without result) because of many complaints received by the Society and its New Jersey Branch.

Graham was released on bond following the recent charges. His trial date had not been set as this “News” went to press.
The annual conference was biggest held by The HSUS. Picture (above) is about one third of the overflow audience in main meeting room.

Foursome in serious talk is (fr. r.) Utah Branch Pres. Hal Gardiner and his wife, Supervisor Frantz Dantzler, and Mrs. E. Sakach, Reno, Nev.

A standing ovation was given to noted naturalist and conservation writer Leon­ard Hall who spoke on the protection of wildlife. Mr. Hall, a director of Defend­ers of Wildlife, described the pernicious threat to the biotic pyramid of life. He warned that the biocides pouring into our lakes and rivers are causing a great reduction in oxygen production by reducing the process of photoynthesis in marine algae. He recommended that humane organizations join with other organizations who have parallel lines of interest in animals and a “clean environ­ment” and work for the common good of sensible and humane conservation.

He suggested, was a continuing effort, with the education of youth, that would also educate adults to a philosophy of kindness and compassion toward all life.

Dr. Kelty’s speech was followed by a talk on crime and juvenile delinquency by Shearer Norman, Director of Youth Correction Services, National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Mr. Hall, a director of the Marin County program is centered. As­istant Superintendent Stanley Frise of the same school system gave a talk and slide presentation.

The second day of the conference was launched with a panel symposium on livestock problems. Moderated by Vice President John C. Macfarlane of the Mass. SPCA Livestock Department, the panel featured Dr. Frank Mulhern of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Mulhern called for increased ac­tivity by animal welfare societies in the field of livestock protection. He de­scribed animal diseases that should be the concern of all humanitarians and urged that humane organizations take a more active part in curbing the sale of diseased animals and thereby help to reduce treatment of livestock that is both cruel and unscientific.

John C. Macfarlane implemented Dr. Mulhern’s remarks and asked that the humane movement take a

(Continued from page 1)
National Leaders Are Chosen as Advisors on Society Programs

Elected as Honorary Directors of The HSUS at the Society’s annual meeting in October were Miss Edith J. Goode, Washington, D. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada; Brigadier Michael Wardell, also of Fredericton; Mrs. Elsa Young Monkton; Mr. Myra Babcock, Pleasant Ridge, Mich.; and Frederick D. Kerr, Ross, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Flemming and Brigadier Wardell are known for their exemplary work in founding and organizing the Kindness Club which has now spread internationally.

Mrs. Monkton’s service in humane work has been so extensive and significant that she won this year the highest humane award of The HSUS, “American Humitarian of the Year.”

Dr. Babcock is a former director of the Federation of Humane Societies held its annual meeting on March 22 and 24 in Baltimore.

The Indiana Federation of Humane Societies held its annual meeting on April 6 and 7 in Indianapolis.

The California Federation of Humane Societies held its annual meeting on April 27 and 28 in Los Angeles.

The Federation also formally renewed its affiliation with the American Humane Association.

With Federation representation from all parts of the United States, the annual conference brought some very interesting reports and resolutions.

The resolutions will guide The HSUS Board of Directors and staff in planning and executing programs during the coming year.

NIEC CLASSES

Courses of instruction in animal shelter operation and elementary humane societv education for inclusion in school curriculums are being planned. These three day seminars are expected to be heavily attended. Persons wishing to take the course are urged therefore to apply now. While the course itself is offered without charge, students should know that the cost of a three day stay in the area of Waterford, Va., approximates $50.

Are you considering a bequest to humane work? Would you like to be certain that your bequest will be used as you would want it to be used? You will find excellent advice on bequests in the HSUS bulletin, “How to Stretch Your Humane Dollar and How to Write a Will.” Request a free copy today from The HSUS.

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Maryland Humanitarian
Recipient of Nation’s
Highest Humane Award

Mrs. Elsa Voss of Monkton, Md., was named “American Humanitarian of the Year” at The HSUS annual conference in Hershey, Pa.

Mrs. Voss is a nationally known figure in the humane movement. She is active in local, state, and national anti-cruelty work. She is a charter member of The HSUS and a former member of its Board of Directors. She is also a founder of the Humane Society of Harford County, Fallston, Md.

She was cited for “a lifetime of dedicated and devoted service to the humane cause to which she has given unstintingly of her time, energy, and physical resources.” She was presented with a beautifully illuminated framed certificate.

Public Abhorrence of Cruelty Shows During Tydings Bill Hearings

Public abhorrence of cruelty to Tennessee walking horses was very apparent in hearings on the Tydings bill, S. 2543, in mid-September.

The HSUS, the American Horse Protection Association, Inc., and other humane organizations and individuals testified against the practice of irritating a Tennessee walking horse’s front feet to make him step lively and win ribbons. The HSUS roundly condemned the “soring” of such horses by blistering the coronet band and otherwise crippling the animal so that it will perform the so-called “sore lick.”

Testimony at the hearings was overwhelmingly in favor of Senator Tydings’ remedial legislation. It is expected that the bill will be reported favorably out of the Committee and will pass both houses of Congress. If so, a major cruelty which The HSUS has been fighting for many years will be ended.

Campaign Against Rodeo Cruelty Intensified by California Branch

The HSUS California Branch has intensified its campaign against cruelty in rodeos held within the state. The main target of the new thrust is education of the public to the deliberate abuse and injury of animals used in such spectacles.

At a two day meeting in late August, Branch officials met with HSUS President Mel L. Morse to finalize plans for production of a series of films for distribution to television stations in the state. Work on the films has been started and at least one of them is now being shown as a public service film on a number of stations.

Technical assistance and all of the work connected with production is being done by volunteers. The cost is expected nevertheless to be high since some stations will not air controversial films of this kind as part of a public service program. This means that air time will have to be purchased and California humanitarians are being asked by The HSUS state branch to provide the necessary funds for this important project.

The films deal with rodeo cruelties well known to humane societies: the “busting” of calves in roping contests, the torturous bucking strap used to make horses buck, the kicking, jabbing, and forcing of bulls and other animals out of the chutes.

The California Branch is also stepping up its distribution of leaflets on the same subject. Thousands have already been mailed throughout the state and public reaction so far has been encouraging.

An interesting development is that, since the campaign has been accelerated, Assemblyman Joe A. Gonsalves from Los Angeles County has introduced a House resolution in the state legislature calling for a study of cruelty to animals at rodeos. The Resolution, No. 228, has been assigned to the Agriculture Committee. The HSUS California Branch is currently preparing material to present to the Committee when Resolution No. 228 is placed on the Agriculture Committee’s Study Area Agenda.

If the television spot announcements developed by the California Branch produce the satisfactory results that are expected, The HSUS expects to distribute the series in quantity. The result would be education of the public to rodeo cruelties on such a massive scale that remedial legislation may be possible in many states.

Roger Caras Will Host New CBS Radio Series About Pets, Wildlife

Roger Caras, well known author, lecturer, television personality, and authority on animals and animal life, will host a new CBS radio show titled “Pets and Wildlife” to be broadcast from 4:30-4:35 PM on Saturday and Sunday beginning in the late fall.

Caras has made radio and television appearances in 34 North American cities. He is a regular guest on the Today Show, the Tonight Show, the Dick Cavett Show, and the David Frost Show. He is working closely with The HSUS in humane conservation projects and other programs aimed at preserving endangered species of wildlife and furthering the doctrine of compassion and consideration for all forms of life.

It is hoped that all HSUS members and friends will listen to the Caras program, urge their friends and relatives to do likewise, and write letters in support of the program to the CBS Radio Network. This is the method by which public programs relating to humane activity are perpetuated and the death of such programs makes it important that all humanitarians promote a favorable response when this kind of program is on the air.