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BILL WOULD REDUCE CRUELTIES OF SLAUGHTER FOR U. S. MEAT IMPORTS

Report to Humanitarians No. 15 described the extremely inhumane methods of slaughter in some foreign countries, particularly South America, for dealing with this problem was suggested.

Since that Report was published by Humane Information Services, the National Association for Humane Legislation has begun an action program designed to do something about this deplorable situation.

Millions of Animals

In order to show the magnitude of the problem, an attempt was made to convert the figures of the Secretary of Agriculture's Annual Report to Humanitarians No. 15, which few people in the United States could object.

Two Obstacles

The big obstacles to be overcome are:

1) United States meat products from shoes to iron and steel, including meat producers, have been demanding quotas or other restrictions on imports. It is not to be expected that the United States could object. The Secretary of Agriculture, in promulgating regulations to meet the severe competition from imports, members of Congress who have been resisting this pressure because of the general belief in the advantages of free international trade may not take kindly at this time to any measure restricting imports. (2) Some members of Congress are opposed to any action by the United States which might appear to constitute an interference with the domestic actions of other countries. This aversion has increased as a result of public feeling about the Vietnam war and foreign aid tied to domestic action by other countries.

Humane Legislation Digest

Humane Information Services, Inc., is a non-profit, tax-exempt national humane society which under IRS regulations is not permitted to engage in any activity that would restrict its deduction of contributions. The National Association for Humane Legislation is, a non-profit but not tax-exempt organisation which is actively engaged in promoting better legal protection for our animals.

In terms of money spent, if HIS did the legislative work performed by NAHL, it would be easy for them to take an effective part in the campaigns for humane legislation without violating the tax-exempt status of HIS.

Enforcement No Problem

We can assure all concerned that enforcement of such an act would not constitute a Federal or state humane society's neither would be the additional burden, nor should it be the additional burden, nor should it be the additional burden.

Other Support for Legislation

It is probable, also, that the existing voluntary and the proposed humane societies have the right to demand that their overseas competitors, already enjoying the advantages of lower labor and other costs, should not be allowed the additional advantage of freedom from humane slaughter requirements. It seems probable, also, that the packaging workers' unions in this country would support such a measure.

(Continued in second column)
MEAT IMPORTS—From page 1

the requirements for domestic and foreign plants would be fully comparable. We hope that such techniques are not applicable to the passage of this proposed bill, which really cannot hurt any foreign country, its livestock growers or meat packers. In the long run, humane methods of slaughter are less costly than the cruel methods now used in many countries. We have letters from meat packers to this effect.

If, however, this objection continues to be made, it will be possible to change the wording of the proposed bill to remove the basis for the objection.

Congressman Purcell Considering Bill

Congressman Purcell, representing the 13th District of Texas, is very knowledgeable about animal welfare issues, and has recently surveyed livestock production and marketing in some foreign countries. He listened sympathetically, and commented intelligently on Dr. Thomasen's explanation of the proposed bill. NAHL suggests that humanitarian who reside in Texas, and especially in the 13th Congressional District, write to Congressman Graham Purcell, 100 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, thanking him for his consideration of the proposed bill, and requesting that he introduce and support it.

A sufficient number of letters from his constituents in favor of this proposed bill might provide a sufficient basis for Congressman Purcell to introduce the bill. NAHL urges other national and local societies having members in Texas, and especially in the 13th District, to write or wire Congressman Purcell, who certainly would be interested in the views of his constituents on this problem. If you write, be polite, brief and to the point.

Please let NAHL know that you have written about this bill.

If Congressman Purcell does not sponsor the bill, for any reason that might seem valid to you, or if nothing else will work, NAHL will furnish information about this to your organization, Inc., for inclusion in the next Report to Humanitarians. Please send this information to NAHL, and it will be published in the next Report.

NAHL suggests that if you are going to write, you do so promptly. It will be much better if your letter to Congressman Purcell before rather than after he makes up his mind; however, even after that your letter will help, because of his very influential position as chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock.

A Major Humane Project

NAHL knows of no other possible action by humanitarians which has a greater potential for rendering animal suffering in this country, and the amount of effort and funds required than does this bill. It is hoped that all humane societies will put aside differences which may separate them on other matters, and get actively behind this project. It will take such cooperation to get the bill passed.

Many Conservation and Animal Bills Introduced in Congress

Nearly fifty (50) bills relating directly or indirectly to animals have been introduced in the present Congress or are being considered for introduction. Some are companion bills introduced at the same time, but in any event the total is far greater than the number for any other recent Congress.

Most of these bills deal with wildlife, conservation and ecology, indicating how important these issues are to the politicians of both political parties in the country. All have at least the support of the scientists and interest groups. If the news media, the universities and young people would give half as much attention to the important humane problems as they do to such things as protecting endangered species, in-type breeding, and laboratory animal protection.

One of the more important of these bills is introduced by Senator Nelson of Wisconsin, to ban the use of leghold traps. It is doubtful that we now are in a position to pass this bill, partly because we are not development of a practical universal humane trap, now being conducted in Canada and being patented in this country. However, introduction of Senator Nelson's proposed bill, with committee hearings, would at least serve to call public attention to the cruelty of leghold traps, and help to pave the way for future legislation.

Representative Ryan, of New York, and Representative Saylor, of Pennsylvania, are working on possible companion bills for House and Senate, respectively, which would ban certain cruel trapping methods, with the intention of reducing the cruelties involved in these exhibitions and trapping methods. A number of the same humane traps and features of rodeo that make it a popular form of entertainment. If and when this bill is introduced, NAHL should support it in every way possible.

Several bills are designed to ban or restrict the killing of seals on the Pribilof Islands. One of them, copy of which we have not yet received, (S. 685, by Senator Packwood, of Oregon) is said to prohibit the catching of harbor seals in any way, while another, S. 135, introduced by Senator Harris, seems to be a much more comprehensive and careful attempt to protect the welfare of seals, whales and other ocean mammals, and is reported to contain provisions intended to prevent driving the Alaskan seal harvest into the open waters, where the animals would be hunted down by machine guns (see discussion of seal hunting in Report to Humanitarians Nos. 4 and 14).

Representative Whitehurst, of Virginia, always a great friend of the animals, has introduced a new resolution (H. R. 243) calling on the federal government to develop and introduce new research methods so that animals are not subjected to severe pain in their preliminary activity, including your letter. It is designed to protect the welfare of seals, whales and other ocean mammals, and is reported to contain provisions intended to prevent driving the Alaskan seal harvest into the open waters, where the animals would be hunted down by machine guns (see discussion of seal hunting in Reports to Humanitarians Nos. 4 and 14).

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Other Representatives who have introduced one or more bills are: Representative Billingsley, Michigan, on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, which has reintroduced a new resolution (H. R. 243) calling on the federal government to develop and introduce new research methods so that animals are not subjected to severe pain in their preliminary activity, including your letter. It is designed to protect the welfare of seals, whales and other ocean mammals, and is reported to contain provisions intended to prevent driving the Alaskan seal harvest into the open waters, where the animals would be hunted down by machine guns (see discussion of seal hunting in Reports to Humanitarians Nos. 4 and 14).

Bills by Representative Saylor, of Pennsylvania, is another example of this new trend. S. 249 (Senator Cranston, of California) would protect many endangered species and prohibit the purchase of wildlife. Senator Cranston also has a bill (S. R. 84) to establish the Yule Min National Wildlife Refuge.

Other Senators who have introduced one or more bills are: Senator Hatfield, Jackson and Janom. Among Representatives introducing such proposals are: Representative Whitehurst and the following to those mentioned, are: Bering, Dingell, Pelly, Roybal, Waldie and Wolf.
KOSHER SLAUGHTER

Since our Report to Humanitarians No. 15, dealing with the slaughter of food animals, was issued, there have been a number of developments in the kosher slaughter. Dr. Thomas, a member of the Advisory Board of the Council for Livestock Pre-Slaughter Humanization, attended a meeting of the Council in New City, New York, with various humane society officers and individual humanitarians.

Education Comes First

Nearly all of these have agreed with the suggestion in our Report No. 15 that it is fundamental that the kosher slaughtering legislation relating to kosher slaughter until after an intensive campaign of education among the Jewish community. We believe that this campaign must be conducted by someone with unimpeachable credentials as a devout Jew, who is familiar with the Jewish news through their local humane societies, the Jewish community. We describe a general situation, and partly because of Jewish-controlled advertising, which we took from an article written by several veterinarians of the USDA reporting on a number of experiments involving the use of succinylcholine chloride, and, if all information is received by the time our September Report to Humanitarians is prepared, will include a full review of all the facts. Also scheduled to appear in that issue is a progress report prepared by the humane association and president of the Council at least one state, Mississippi, until recently did not have a single genuine operating humane society.

Development of Holding Pen

A few of our Jewish members wrote very nice letters questioning our description of eye gouging as a part of pre-slaughter handling methods. We have always opposed eye gouging as a part of pre-slaughter handling methods. We have always opposed eye gouging for humane reasons and for the pre-slaughter handling methods are inhumane.

Eye Gouging Not Common

In any event, we would not publish the names of the letter-writers, who are in need of volunteer services of retired business executives and professional people who are still "young between the ears" and who could assume responsibility for conducting specific action programs. Residence in St. Petersburg is not essential.

Great Need for Humane Societies and Shelters in Many Communities

Humane Information Services receives many letters requesting information and assistance from communities having many human problems, but no humane society to deal with them. This is so widespread, in fact, that the USDAs estimates for the 3,099 counties in the United States now have an operational humane society. At least one state, Mississippi, until recently did not have a single genuine operating humane society.

The great need for a real humane society in that state and for animal shelters in its principal population centers was recognized by the founders of the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, formed several years ago by a group of animal lovers headed by Mr. James C. O'Gara, the society's president, and headquartered in Jackson. During the interim, efforts have been made to raise funds for an animal ambulance, and the intention of the group is to organize branches in other communities of the state. But progress has been slow.

Mobile Shelters A Possible Solution

Beth Israel has tried to be of assistance in this work for effort. For one thing, they have repeatedly tried to elicit interest in the possibilities of using temporarily a mobile shelter, which some of them have been located in a new location. This is particularly true of the Nits, and the need for funds is the problem that is affecting the needs of many of the new localities. A more suitable shelter is more suitable. We obtained a bid from a commercial trailer manufacturer. This unit, complete with plumbing, heating and air conditioning, cages, work room, etc., would cost $2,500. Everyone knows that this is too high for most communities struggling to provide minimal shelter facilities.

We then looked into the possibilities of rebuilding a used mobile home, and located one that would accommodate the desired structure at a cost of around $5,000. Unfortunately, this man was stricken with an illness which made it impossible for him to do any work. Employment of specialized labor would greatly increase the cost.

The Mississippi Animal Rescue League expressed an interest in using or constructing a mobile shelter, in Jackson if the fund drive could be successful. The fund drive would be of a permanent facility, and in another Mississippi community if the fund drive is successful. The fund drive would be in support of the construction of a used trailer if some more affluent humanitarian would donate the money to assist in the construction of another community, without shelter facilities are interested, we would like to hear from them. Some communities have expressed interest if the prospective demand is sufficiently great.

Other Accomplishments

Although there is no shelter, the Mississippi Animal Rescue League has been engaging in humane education in Jackson, and recently purchased a new mobile home which is placed immediately after the big series of tornadoes which hit Mississippi in the spring of 1973. This is a second-hand mobile home which sold for $1,900. They distributed pet food supplied by the Purina Pet Care Center, of St. Louis, and thoroughly covered every stricken area.
The vacation season is here, creating an important humane problem which calls for action now. But the fate of millions of cats and dogs will suffer if we do not act.

Around 5.5 million students in about 1,500 colleges and universities will be leaving for home in June. Many of them keep pets in their apartments or rooms during the school year. But when they take a vacation or holiday in a university living in a university community says that most of these pets are left to fend for themselves.

The directors of HIS have had in mind for a long time the need to do something about finding homes for these pitiful abandoned animals, the impro­

vity of doing so. There is also the strong desire to give attention to the plight of the hundreds of pets abandoned when the families move away without compensation. It is such a dedicated humanitarian that he is willing to work just for the satisfaction of project of HIS. In addition, Burt uncovered an excellent background in agriculture and science, with a Bachelors of Science degree from Worcester (Massachusetts) Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Education degree from Boston University.

In addition to his work for HIS, Mr. Brainerd has been elected a board member of the SOCA of St. Petersburg and a member of its shelter committee.

In behalf of HIS, Burt last fall visited one of the largest and most successful kill shelters in Maryland, and found that sodium pentobarbital was being used. This is a highly important, continuing project of HIS.

In addition, Burt uncovered significant amounts of dollars and cents relating to the cruel drug succinylcholine chloride, reported elsewhere in this issue.

Like all other humane societies, Humane Information Services, Inc. are interested in major interest and talents are in education and writing. He has been given responsibility for developing the educational program. Directors of HIS have had in mind for a long time, but could not get under way because of the pressures of other activities.

We are indeed fortunate to have found someone with Burt's ability and training who is interested in promotion of animal welfare, both as an individual and as chairman of the Committee for Constructive Laboratory Animal Legislation. Burt (see separate article in this issue) is relatively new to the legislative field, but has the makings of a good persuader.

Miss Emily B. Gleckler, who is also a B.S. from the University of Michigan, is working in the field of stenographic help. However, if you have an answer to a bill that had been introduced in Congress to which no reference has been made in any humane publication we re­ ceive or in the daily newspapers, but which is important, helpful and technical subject, involving an understanding not only of the law but also of humane legislative problems. Neither HIS nor the HSUS wishes those who placed their orders to be disappointed with the results. Meanwhile, do not send in more orders to HIS. Wait for further announcement.

NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE LEGISLATION, INC.

Since the first Humane Legislation Digest appeared last year, there have been some changes in the board of directors of the Na­ tional Association for Humane Legislation. Mrs. Charlotte L. B. Parks, of York, Maine, and Mr. Arthur B. ("Burt") Brainerd, of St. Petersburg, Florida, were elected directors and vice presidents. Hundreds of humanitarians in this country and abroad are familiar with the work of Pauline Ford, chairman and vice presidents. Mrs. Parks in the promotion of animal welfare, both as an individual and as chairman of the Committee for Constructive Laboratory Animal Legislation. Burt (see separate article in this issue) is relatively new to the legislative field, but has the makings of a good persuader.

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HUMAN LAW VOLUMES

Those who sent their checks for copies of the two volumes codifying and analyzing humane and animal welfare laws in the United States have been wondering why they have not received these volumes.

The reason is that Dr. Ford, executive director of the Legislative Bureau of the Humane Society of the United States, who has been preparing the data for the law volumes for the past two years, has been elected a board member of the National Animal Welfare League, Inc. (NAWL), a new organization devoted to the promotion of animal welfare, both as an individual and as chairman of the Committee for Constructive Laboratory Animal Legislation. Burt (see separate article in this issue) is relatively new to the legislative field, but has the makings of a good persuader.

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So far we're okay! ! ! !

Sometimes, when the staff of HIS is trying to solve a problem at one time (as when we are trying to get out this Report), we find it difficult to answer a second letter from a friend, the latter shouted that he would rush to get help. The declining victim replied, "Take your time, so far I'm okay!"

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP DUES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Like all other humane societies, Humane Information Services, Inc. have all along increased their dues. The increase in postage rates, for both first and third class, is especially burdensome. The cost of acknowledging receipt of a member's dues, preparing a mailing label, securing postage stamps, writing a letter, mailing the quarterly Reports to Humanitarians, and other actual out-of-pocket costs of maintaining an active membership list amount to about a dollar for each member.

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